



SALT LAKE INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE

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2021 – 2022

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January 18, 2022

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Dear Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable Community,

The hostage-taking incident of last Saturday at the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas is yet another painful reminder that faith institutions continue to be potentially targeted in this country for dangerous and invasive activity. We send prayers for all involved in this incident.

As members of the Salt Lake City Interfaith Roundtable, we deplore such acts to any faith institutions as we perceive “an attack on one as an attack on all”. It raises a serious question of what we can, and must do, as both citizens and faithful followers to prevent such activities dulling our senses and seeing them as “just another event”.

We know from experience that ongoing education and reaching out as interfaith organizations and individuals to others in our community delivers a strong message that developing partnership equality also allows for strong connections and life-long understanding. We encourage these activities to the fullest, inclusive of all faiths, all belief systems, all ages, all cultures, all origins, as we believe it is through these means we can learn to pull together and change the corrosive and misunderstood division that makes targeting a place of worship occur. It is asking every one of us to commit to this climate of understanding if we are to create neighborhoods where all can feel safe and protected in the many diverse communities throughout this country.

As we send this message, we pray that we all remember this latest occurrence as not just “inevitable” but a wakeup call to foster positive relationships with all faiths and make room for greater understanding, love, and harmony.

Blessings to all,

Zeynep Kariparduc
Chairwoman

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On Behalf of Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable Board of Directors

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