

Handout: Community and Faith Leaders Speak Out in Solidarity

["Our hearts break](#) for everybody who is suffering through the unimaginable trauma and grief in Pittsburgh right now," said Sikh Coalition Executive Director Satjeet Kaur. "As we know, no community should ever feel unsafe in their house of worship, and Sikhs nationwide stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters as we grieve together."

[Bishop David Zubik of the Catholic Diocese](#) of Pittsburgh told reporters "there is no explanation" for the hate and violence involved. "It's something that's getting worse, and we certainly have to look for ways to say, 'never again,'" he said. "We keep on saying that, and things continue to get worse."

"[This barbaric attack](#) on our neighbors, with whom we share our city and have visited and dialogued multiple times, is deeply disturbing and horrifying," CAIR-Pittsburgh Chapter President Safdar Khwaja said. "Such an act of terror affects all of us. We offer our full support and assistance in the aftermath of this tragedy, and our doors are open at all times to our neighbors." CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, is a Muslim civil rights organization.

The President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, sent this message: "[To our brothers](#) and sisters of the Jewish community, we stand with you. We condemn all acts of violence and hate and yet again, call on our nation and public officials to confront the plague of gun violence. Violence as a response to political, racial, or religious differences must be confronted with all possible effort. God asks nothing less of us. He begs us back to our common humanity as His sons and daughters."

[Shaykh Waleed Basyouni](#), imam and director of Clear Lake Islamic Center in Houston released the following statement: "The senseless act of violence ... is mourned by all people of conscience including ourselves. We condemn such violence and pray that incidents like this may cease. Too many innocent lives have been taken and too many tears have been shed. "Hate crimes are steadily on the rise, particularly against the American Jewish community.... "One remedy to this violence is to love and care for our neighbors. We stand with you in friendship and peace and offer our assistance in whatever way your community needs. Our hearts are broken over your loss."

Faith leaders from both the Christian and Jewish communities met for a unity service in Detroit the day after the attack in Pittsburgh. "[We want Detroit to know](#), we want America to know, that African Americans around this country, who have been victims of hate crimes, stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters," said Pastor Kenneth James Flowers.

Mark Jacobs of the Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity, said: "Our hearts are broken beyond words... I know many members of my community believe that what happened yesterday was an attack on America. It's not just the Jewish community."

[Pastor Brandon Capuano](#) of Rochester, NY, said: "My heart breaks for the Jewish community and really, there's no reason any man, woman, or child should feel threatened in their house of worship... Our response ought to be the same thing that it would be if it happened to Christians, if it happened to Jews, if it happened to Muslims, of any faith that it happens to, our response ought to be the same: What do you need? How can we serve you? How can we love you? How we can stand beside you?"