

Interfaith Collaboration for Election Season Peace

For Immediate Release

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COLUMBIA-- The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Columbia Jewish Federation and Interfaith Partners of South Carolina (IPSC) today announced a joint project called [Action Plan for Election Season Peace](#).

Leadership of the effort released this position statement:

While open elections in many countries engender fear, conflict and even violence, here in America we are accustomed to an orderly and civil process. During this season of polarization and tension, we are called to proactively build peace to support democracy. Our goal is to help ensure a peaceful election season, understanding that:

- If we want to continue to live in the America we love, we must remember who we are – a group of individuals with differing ideas, and a democracy that provides us with a way to live together in peace.
- America is not perfect, but we should always strive to achieve our ideals of peace, harmony, opportunity and respect for all.
- Disruptive and/or violent actions against our fellow Americans will not accomplish our shared values and goals.
- Interfaith conversations have taught us that we can show compassion to each other even when we have sharp differences. We have learned that we can respect others with whom we disagree.
- We call on all of our interfaith partners across South Carolina to uphold our vision of peace and respect.
- We call on everyone in America to come together to support the democratic process which allows us to speak, think, live and enjoy freedom.

Dr. Adrian Bird, IPSC Chair, said, “When the fabric of a community frays amidst the ongoing fear of violence, prejudice and hate, Interfaith Partners of South Carolina strives to implement strategies that build solidarity, trust, and community strength. The litmus test of a community’s strength lies in the commitment of its people to respect and uphold the dignities of all people. As a network of statewide interfaith leaders working with civil, religious, spiritual and secular groups, IPSC continues to model constructive and peaceable alternatives to intolerance and community division.”

JCRC Director, Cheryl Nail, added, “We have worked closely with IPSC for years to dispel misinformation, support faith groups both in times of tragedy and in times of celebration, and to fight hate through positive interfaith relations and meaningful dialogue. We are proud to partner with IPSC once again in our support of democracy and to help ensure that this election season remains calm, safe, and civil.”

The mission of Interfaith Partners of South Carolina, including several regional chapters, is to bring together people of diverse religious, spiritual, and secular paths throughout our state to cultivate a more harmonious community. Representatives come from many religious, spiritual and secular paths, including Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Native American, New Thought, Sikh, and Unitarian Universalist.

The Columbia Jewish Federation and its Jewish Community Relations Council actively work to build a welcoming, inclusive, informed, educated and engaged community. The JCRC pursues *tikkun olam*, the repair of our world, by combatting hate and extremism, advocating for racial justice and promoting equality for all.

Those interested in learning more about how to maintain calm and civility in the coming weeks may visit IPSC’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/InterfaithPartnersOfSC. For more information, call 1-888-849-1513 or email PIO@interfaithpartnersofsc.org.