

PARTNERING »» AGAINST HATE

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION



»» A Grassroots Toolkit from Interfaith Alliance

All people deserve to feel safe in our communities. Learn more about how you can challenge extremism and help realize an inclusive vision of religious freedom.



**INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE**

PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

Reflection and Discussion: Partnering Against Hate

» PARTNERSHIP IS AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT requires self-awareness and a willingness to take action. Strong coalitions are founded on trust and mutual respect. Through curiosity and reflection, we can become more aware of the needs of our communities and do the hard work of challenging our own assumptions.

Now that you have set a baseline from which you can move forward, we invite you to explore the following resources and consider the accompanying questions. These questions are intended to be a jumping off point for individual reflection or group discussion.



RESOURCE 1:

[I grew up in the Westboro Baptist Church. Here's Why I left](#)

By Megan Phelps-Roper



PRE-VIEWING QUESTION

What do you think a religious extremist in the United States looks and acts like? How would you approach a discussion with them?

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

1. What do you think was the most significant factor that enabled Phelps-Roper's to leave the Westboro Baptist church? Do you think other members would have reacted the same way if they encountered the same situation?
2. Have you, like Phelps-Roper, challenged an idea or assumption that you were raised with and believed? If so, how did it happen and how did you change?

3. Do you have people in your life with whom you have significant religious, political, or other disagreements? If not, why do you suppose that is? If so, how do you handle areas of disagreement?
4. In her TED talk, Phelps-Roper suggests four actions that make real conversation possible: Don't assume bad intent, stay calm, ask questions, and make the argument. Which of these suggestions seem especially useful to you? Do any seem more challenging than others?
5. What lessons can be learned from Phelps-Roper's experience? How do they apply to our own personal struggles to become better partners in combating hate?



RESOURCE 2:

What we can do about the Culture of Hate

By Sally Kohn, Ted Talk



PRE-VIEWING QUESTION

What does it mean to be a “nice” person? What is the role of “niceness” in combating hate?

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

1. Why do we not see ourselves as people who have biases, particularly biases that could negatively impact others?
2. Kohn makes the distinction that not all hate is equal, but all hate is hate. Do you agree? Is it beneficial or detrimental to create a hierarchy, treating some forms of hate as worse or less acceptable than others?
3. Kohn tells the story of Bassam Aramin, a former terrorist who now works to find common ground between Israelis and Palestinians. What can we learn from Aramin's story? How is it relevant to the struggles we encounter in our own lives?

4. Kohn talks about the role of systems in perpetuating hate. Do you think hate is a systemic issue and/or an individual issue? How do the two interact and intersect?

5. Where can we start as we repair our habits around how we treat one another?



RESOURCE 3:

A Grassroots Approach to Combating Hate

By Interfaith Alliance

PRE-VIEWING QUESTION

What efforts are currently underway in your community to combat hate, if any?

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

1. In grassroots efforts to combat hate, what is the value in distinguishing a hate crime from a bias incident? In what ways is it helpful and in what ways, if any, can it be harmful to emphasize this difference?
2. Law enforcement plays a complicated role in working with targeted communities to combat hate. How do you think grassroots efforts can help bridge the gap between law enforcement and targeted communities?
3. In the webinar, Sim Singh, senior manager of policy and advocacy at the Sikh Coalition, suggests that in interfaith spaces, we should help identify who is missing from the table of stakeholders. Who in your community do you think is underrepresented in convenings and interfaith spaces?





INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

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INTERFAITH ALLIANCE FOUNDATION IS THE only national interfaith organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of both religion and democracy in the United States. With tens of thousands of members across the country, including more than 75 different faith traditions as well as those of no faith, Interfaith Alliance represents a diverse network of Americans united by our commitment to the Constitution's promise of religious freedom.

Based in Washington, DC, with state and local affiliates across the country, our work includes public education, grassroots activism, policy advocacy, the weekly State of Belief Radio program, and resources to assist faith leaders and politicians in navigating the boundaries between faith and politics.

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