

PARTNERING »» AGAINST HATE

ROADMAP TO PARTNERSHIP



»» 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

Roadmap to Partnership: Partnering Against Hate

» GRASSROOTS EFFORTS ARE ESSENTIAL IN confronting bias and bigotry. Religious leaders and people of faith are uniquely positioned to push back against hateful rhetoric by providing an alternative message of love, inclusion, and mutual respect. Reflection and self-education are important in equipping ourselves with the tools to create safer, more inclusive communities. But equally important is putting those tools to use through action and involvement in community-led efforts to combat hate.

Below are actions that you can take to continue to grow as a partner against hate. Now more than ever, we must all come together to actively

root out hate where it exists. If we do, those who seek to build power through fear and division will fail. We call on you to join us in challenging extremism, so that we can live in communities that are safe and welcoming.



Dig Deeper.

- Putting in the work to answer your own questions helps lift the burden from other groups who are targeted. This work requires us to reflect on our own biases and identify the areas in which we need to strengthen our knowledge and skills. There is an abundance of valuable resources that can help you broaden your base of knowledge.
- Partnering against hate requires each of us to dig deep to understand the root causes of hate and bias. While hate incidents can often feel like isolated events, it is important to acknowledge the structural inequality and injustice that contributes to these events. Understanding the underlying dynamics of how hate escalates into violence is essential in knowing how to fight it. Listening to impacted groups and seeking out diverse perspectives helps create an environment of reflection, curiosity, and openness.

Suggested Action Items

- Attend community or educational events hosted by racial, religious, and ethnic groups other than your own.
- Read books written by authors that speak to the challenges faced by racial, religious, and ethnic groups other than your own. Book clubs are a great way to dive into the self-education process with others who may be on the same path as you are.
- Follow academics or activists on social media who can speak to the experiences of racial, religious, and ethnic groups other than your own.

Reach Out.

- Building diverse coalitions is an essential part of combating hate in your community. There is strength in numbers, but it takes time and ongoing effort to build the trust needed. Strong coalitions help reduce personal fear and vulnerability, spread the workload, and increase impact. By reaching together across differences, faith communities can help dismantle the machinery that generates fear and divides people against one another.
- While hate incidents are often the catalysts for community dialogues on hate and bias, these conversations must be proactive rather than reactive. Building strong coalitions before a hate incident occurs will provide a strong foundation of support for individuals and communities targeted by hate-based violence. By coming together, diverse communities can send an alternative message of love and acceptance.

Suggested Action Items

- Work with leaders in your faith community to organize dialogues with other groups in your community, with the intention of building relationships and understanding how you can better support one another.
- Set up regular meetings, collaborative events, or volunteer opportunities that bring people together from different racial, religious, and ethnic groups.
- In partnership with other groups in your community, develop a document that states your shared values, and sets goals for how you want to continue to support one another.

Get Involved.

- In accordance with our most sacred values, each one of us has an obligation to mobilize against hate and collaborate with one another to protect our friends and neighbors. Inaction or neutrality always works in favor of those who espouse hateful rhetoric and perpetrate hate crimes. By taking an active stand against hateful rhetoric and hate crimes, religious leaders and people of faith can send the message that hate speech and hateful violence should never be tolerated or left unchallenged.
- Partnering against hate requires community leaders and members to take an active role. This means showing public support through prayer vigils, rallies, community meetings, and conversations with lawmakers to advocate for policies that address the root causes of intolerance.

Suggested Action Items

- Use whatever skills and means you have to offer support to other partners. This could include everything from lending your musical or graphic design skills to an event or donating as you are able to organizations and initiatives that make a difference in your community.
- Use whatever resources or platform your faith community has to call on local officials to better serve all community members, particularly those who have been marginalized.
- Call out insensitive or harmful language and behavior when you see or hear it, even if it comes from someone you care about or is not ill-intentioned. Holding other people in our circle accountable for their own biases and actions helps take the burden off those who may be directly affected by those actions.



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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