

**FRIENDSHIP NOT FEAR
STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIMS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
AND THE NATION**

Co-sponsors:

Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center
National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms

Endorsed by: Decorah Human Rights Commission, Northeast Iowa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Ryumonji Zen Monastery, Good Shepherd Congregation Council, First United Methodist Church, Grace Episcopal Church

Endorsed by Decorah City Council majority 3-6-17

Throughout its history, the City of Decorah has been built on the strength of its ethnic, racial and religious acceptance.

Many Muslim students attend Luther College and contribute to the cultural diversity of Decorah; and Postville is home to a thriving Somali Muslim community, many of whom visit Decorah on a regular basis.

Inflammatory comments by public figures have increased, including calls to shut down mosques, to ban Muslims from entering the United States and to institute a Muslim Registry.

Incidents of violence and hatred against Muslims have also increased, with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) documenting more than 300 incidents that targeted immigrants or Muslims in the first 10 days after the recent election.

We declare that fear will not divide us. We recognize the threats posed by fear of Islam to our American values of religious freedom and cultural diversity are threats against our very way of life in Decorah and the United States; and we as a community stand firmly with our Muslim neighbors against Islamophobia in all its manifestations.

SPLC Southern Poverty Law Center, February 15, 2017. *The Year in Hate and Extremism*. <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2017/02/15/hate-groups-increase-second-consecutive-year-trump-electrifies-radical-right>

USA Today, June 29, 2016. *2016 already marred by nearly daily terror attacks*. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/06/29/major-terrorist-attacks-year/86492692/>

The Bridge Initiative, A Georgetown University Research Project, May 2, 2016. *When Islamophobia Turns Violent: The 2016 U.S. Presidential Elections*. <http://bridge.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/When-Islamophobia-Turns-Violent.pdf>

Global Research, January 28, 2017, *Non-Muslims Carried Out More than 90% of All Terrorist Attacks in America*. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/non-muslims-carried-out-more-than-90-of-all-terrorist-attacks-in-america/5333619>