

Statement Against Anti-Muslim Sentiment

WHEREAS incidents of hate crime and hate speech have increased in recent months, and are likely to continue to increase during an election year,¹ and

WHEREAS these incidents have created a hostile environment for our Muslim students, colleagues, and neighbors,² and

WHEREAS Valparaiso University is committed to diversity of thought, background, and faith,³

We, the Faculty Senate, THEREFORE endorse the following statement:⁴

In recent weeks, anti-Muslim sentiment has increased in the U.S., as seen in attacks on mosques, hate crimes against those perceived to be Muslim, and calls by politicians to ban Muslim immigrants to the U.S. Such fear-mongering is not new. Muslims, like other minority religious communities, have frequently been the target of marginalization and discrimination in America. However, in times of increased hate speech and acts, it is incumbent upon us, as an institution committed to freedom, faith, and service, to reaffirm our dedication to diversity, inclusion, and dialogue. Thus, we, the faculty of Valparaiso University, repudiate any action, statement, or sentiment that undermines the full human dignity of our Muslim neighbors and the diverse talents that they contribute to our community. We pledge to stand in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors and to speak out against anti-Muslim sentiment, in all of its forms. In doing so, we acknowledge that we have not always done our best in building a nation, and university, founded on respect and appreciation for religious pluralism. Yet, we know that our communities, and our lives, will be richer through an enhanced attempt to celebrate our differences, embrace our similarities, and build a unified community grounded in our shared values.

¹ Corky Siemaszko, "Hate Attacks on Muslims in U.S. Spike After Recent Acts of Terrorism," *NBCNEWS.com*, December 20, 2015, <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/hate-attacks-muslims-u-s-spike-after-recent-acts-terrorism-n482456>.

² Council on American–Islamic Relations, <http://www.cair.com/>.

³ President Mark A. Heckler, "Diversity and a Learning Community," <http://www.valpo.edu/diversity/>.

⁴ See Appendix 1 for faculty and staff signatures on this statement.

Appendix 1

Please contact Melanie Trexler (melanie.trexler@valpo.edu) and George Potter (george.potter@valpo.edu), if you would like your name added below. Please also share the link with others in our community.

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Melanie Trexler	Noelia Dominguez-Ramos	Hannah Langhoff
George Potter	Stacy Hoult-Saros	Andrew Richter
Heath Carter	Brian Johnson	Linda Nelson
Ed Gaffney	Cynthia Rutz	George Heider
Doreen Olguin-Flores	Bruce G. Berner	Michele Corazzo
Kari-Anne Innes	Barb Crumpacker Niedner	Sam Simpson
Allison Schuette	Carol Goss	Rachael Muszkiewicz
Paula Katsahnias	Joe Goss	George Pati
Karen Berrier	Ann Kessler	Debra Dew
Dawn Jeglum Bartusch	Joseph Frake	Kevin Ostoyich
Mark Bartusch	Doretta Kurzinski	Gregg Johnson
Chuck Schaefer	Hugh McGuigan	Jon Bull
Rasha Abed	Emily Prough	Shelby Topping
Madeline Sheldon	Timothy Tomasik	Fontaine Lien
Jeni Prough	Simon Mary Aihio Khai	Matthew Becker
Karl Uhrig	John Marchese	
Trisha Mileham	Lynn Grantz	
Liz Wuerffel	Drew Turro	
Mark Robison	Amanda D. Zelechowski	
Ted Armstrong	Naomi Kaloudis	
Amy Atchison	Tim Malchow	
Shannon Howe	Colleen Seguin	
Charlene Cox	Richard DeMaris	
Matthew Ringenberg	Natalia Miller	
Elizabeth Lynn	Dan Saros	
Kathy Rhynard	Fred Niedner	
Nicole Hughes	Elizabeth Burow-Flak	
Melanie Howard	Kathy Groth	
Robert Elder	John Ruff	
Kevin Gary	William Dehoff	
Ruth Connell	Nina Corazzo	