



Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

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Interfaith Collaborative Initiative



A program of the
Los Angeles
County
Commission on
Human Relations



Interfaith Collaborative Initiative

The September 11th tragedy brought an upsurge in a record number of hate crimes and bias-related incidents targeting Arab Americans and Muslim Americans. The backlash victimized South Asians and Latinos and every racial group as well. Many county leaders rose to the occasion by calling for calm against hate violence, and county human relations activists mobilized to promote safety for vulnerable communities. For example, Sheriff Lee Baca organized interfaith dialogues between Islamic and Jewish leaders after the September 11th terrorist attacks.

We at the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations became more firmly convinced that communities of faith need to be aware of one another's efforts to create a peaceful environment, and to be a part of a county-wide network of religious organizations and institutions.

We would like to include you in our efforts. We believe as partners, your faith congregation and the Commission will both benefit. You will be able to send us information about your peace generating activities. At the same time, you will receive information about what other faith-based community members are doing through our electronic newsletter and our broad-based e-mail system, as well as receive information on Commission programs that may be helpful to your members.

You will be in the favorable position of being readily informed about current county public safety measures, as well as what is being done through our Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium (HRMAC).

The HRMAC program develops linkages between people living in different communities throughout the county who may be addressing similar



intergroup concerns. HRMAC involves human relations organizations, government and school officials, law enforcement, members of the faith-

based community, and other interested citizens. The Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission recognizes that you and your members, or congregation, as well as the entire faith community, represent a powerful partner in mobilizing our county around the issues of public safety, stronger intergroup relations, and other areas of concern to our communities.

More than ever, our county, nation and world need the healing hands of the faith-based community to bring solace to a troubled planet, struggling to overcome a long history of hate and conflict. Please take the time to read and fill out the mail-back form. We are confident that with your help, and that of other interfaith leaders, we can eradicate hate violence in our county and bring more peace, tolerance, and safety to the nearly ten million people who call Los Angeles County their home.

For more information:

Interfaith Collaborative Initiative

(213) 893-0810 or (213) 974-7611

rregalado@hrc.co.la.ca.us



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Interfaith Collaborative Initiative

The **Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission** first invited the faith community to discuss how an interfaith collaborative might assist our County at a summit of interfaith leaders held in 1996. At that summit, interfaith leaders expressed a desire to work collaboratively around issues of peace, tolerance and community safety. Religious leaders expressed a need to take pro-active stands to help eradicate hate violence in the community. The **Interfaith Collaborative Initiative** mobilizes all facets of the faith community to address pressing Human Relations issues locally and at the county level.

Website: LAhumanrelations.org

Interfaith Collaborative Initiative

Mission

- Unify County residents
- Break the cycle of hate
- Put each groups' faith into action
- Overcome interdenominational faith barriers to address the eradication of hate, discrimination, prejudice, bias and intergroup conflict.
- Provide a vehicle for implementation of strategies and programs directed toward greater multicultural inter-religious understanding and tolerance.

Impact

- Increases community safety and peace
- Enhances local intergroup relations
- Expands hate crime education
- Alerts hate crime victim/community
- Enables faster and more effective community response
- Engages local faith communities in intergroup policy issues
- Incorporates human relations into community interfaith outreach work

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- Help identify local interfaith councils or existing faith-based organizations
- Strengthen your local Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium Regional Cluster by helping your cluster leaders convene and mobilize Faith Leaders in your region of the county.
- Help develop effective programs for religious institutions and faith-based organizations seeking intergroup assistance.



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To receive more information on membership, please fill out the form and fax or send it back to us:

Name

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail

Ray Regalado is the Commission staff professional directing the Interfaith Collaborative Initiative. He can be contacted at **(213) 893-0810**. His e-mail address is **rregalado@hrc.co.la.ca.us**.