

**Statement**  
**The Calgary Interfaith Council and the Jewish-Muslim Council**  
**January 30, 2017**

We deplore the violent attack against the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec and mourn the loss of innocent lives. When such brutal and hateful acts threaten to envelope us in darkness, we stand with the Muslim community throughout Canada to proclaim our commitment to promoting religious freedom and respect for diversity. An attack against any house of worship is a threat to all Canadians who seek safety in our homes, religious institutions, and in the public sphere.

We condemn such terrorism in the strongest terms and instead encourage our fellow citizens to work together in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors, establishing friendship and partnership between our religious communities and engaging in dialogue to break down the stereotypes that lead to hatred and bigotry.

On the eve of the first celebration in Calgary of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, we call upon our political leaders to affirm and actively express our values as Canadians about religious freedom, diversity and mutual respect and we encourage all Calgarians to join us in solidarity on February 1, 2017 at 6pm at the City Hall Atrium to affirm our appreciation of religious and cultural diversity and to shine the light of gratitude for the religious freedoms and respect for diversity we enjoy in Canada.

For further information, contact:

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