

NETWORK OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES
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Network of Religious Communities Board of Governors adopts resolution expressing concern over treatment of Muslim American Citizens and Homeland Security Policies

The Board of Governors of the Network of Religious Communities meeting the evening of February 3, 2005 at the Diocese of Buffalo, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, New York adopted a resolution expressing their deep concern over the border treatment of Muslim American citizens returning to the United States from a conference in Toronto immediately following Christmas Day 2004. The resolution further urges the Department of Homeland Security to develop border security policies that address legitimate national security needs without violating the civil rights of American citizens or the basic dignity of all persons, and strongly urges the rejection of racial, ethnic or religious profiling as a tool of national security. Delegates present at the meeting, held at the Catholic Center, included representatives of Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, several Protestant denominations; Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Unitarian Universalist faith communities; and several religious organizations and congregations elected by the General Assembly of the Network of Religious Communities at its meeting.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FEBRUARY 3, 2005

Be it resolved that the Board of Governors of the Network of Religious Communities of Western New York, at its regular meeting on February 3, 2005

1. Expressed deep concern over the border treatment of Muslim American citizens returning to the United States from a conference in Toronto after Christmas, and
2. Urged the Department of Homeland Security to develop border security policies that address legitimate national security needs without violating the civil rights of American citizens or the basic dignity of all persons, and
3. Strongly urged the rejection of racial, ethnic or religious profiling as a tool of national security.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING FOR THE RESOLUTION:

OFFICERS

Imam Fajri Ansari, President of the Network of Religious Communities

Mr. Daniel Kantor, Treasurer of the Network of Religious Communities

Rev. Frances Manly, Secretary of the Network of Religious Communities.

TRUSTEES

Ms. Lana Benatovich

DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES VOTING FOR

Diocese of Buffalo (Roman Catholic)

The Rev. Paul Litwin, Vice Chancellor

The Rev. Roy Herberger

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

Rev. Allen Farabee, Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

Rev. Sara Buxton-Smith

Dr. Dilip Sinha, Hindu Cultural Society of the Niagara Frontier

Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo

Dr Othman Shibly, Islamic Society of the Niagara Frontier

Rev. Joseph Haines, Mennonite Mission Network

Rev. Merle Showers, Niagara Frontier District, United Methodist Church

Rev. Richard Young, Presbytery of Western New York

Dr. Surjit Singh, Sikh Society of the Niagara Frontier

Ms. Sue Tannehill, Religious Society of Friends

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Neal, Western New York Churches in Covenant (Disciples of Christ/UCC)

Dr. Able Fink, Unitarian Universalist Congregations of Western New York

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES VOTING FOR

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Graham, African Methodist Ministers Alliance

Mr. Richard Gordon, American Jewish Committee

The Rev. Marjorie Neal, Bible Society of Western New York

Ms. Judy Metzger, Church Women United

Sr. Karen Allen, Lewiston/Youngstown Clergy Association and Sisters of St. Francis

Sr. Catherine Hunt, Sisters of Mercy, South Buffalo.

Muslim Public Affairs Council Western New York

Dr. Khalid Qazi

Dr. Bayram Arman

CONGREGATIONS ELECTED TO BOARD BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING FOR

Ms. Eula Hooker, Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. Lloyd Noyes, Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Deacon James Anderson, New Hope Baptist Church

Rev. Robert Grimm, Pilgrim St. Luke's United Church of Christ

Rev. Robert Eldred, Trinity United Methodist Church, Grand Island

Rev. Annette Hood, St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church

Mr. Paul Nevergold, St. Philips Episcopal Church

Mr. Ray Herman, Westminster Presbyterian Church

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING IN OPPOSITION

None

THOSE PRESENT AND ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE

Dr. Brydon Grant, Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is