

Please join us on Thursday, December 17, at 3pm, as the Network of Religious Communities, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, and PUSH Buffalo, linked with the WNY Peace Center and the Interfaith Peace Network, host a rally at Niagara Square in front of City Hall to support Muslims, refugees, and all. In this city of good neighbors, 40 groups (eight of which are groups of organizations) and others will come together to appreciate and stand in support of our neighbors, our brothers and sisters and to stand together for religious liberty and the welcoming of refugees to our region.

The rally is precipitated by

- absurd and blatant fearmongering by Donald Trump and others, vilifying an entire religion because of the actions of a small minority;
- threats to register Muslims and exclude them from entry into the country;
- scapegoating of refugees – blaming the victim – and ignoring the great contribution they have made to our community ; and
- the danger of continuing down this path.

Other factors include

- Erie County's recent cuts to refugee support services at two local agencies (NOT cuts to resettlement agencies' funding);
- local leaders opposing further resettlement in Buffalo; and
- Erie County Legislature's "information session" re refugees, that apparently will not allow community input (although two resettlement agencies will be included).

All contribute to the need to gather in solidarity. So do

- calls for more war-making, weapons, and violence, which were among the root causes for the current situation.

There are currently 40 co-sponsoring organizations:

- Ba'hai Community
- Buffalo Anti-Racism Coalition
- Buffalo Islamic Community Center
- Building Bridges in WNY
- Burning Books

- Catholic Diocese of WNY
- Citizen Action of New York
- Coalition for Economic Justice
- Community Health Workers Network of Buffalo
- Congregation Havurah
- HEAL International
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- International Action Center
- Interfaith Peace Network
- Islamic Cultural Association of WNY
- Islamic Society of Niagara Frontier
- Lafayette Presbyterian Church
- Lackawanna Islamic Mosque
- Lincoln Memorial Niagara Methodist Church
- Muslim Public Affairs Council

- Network of Religious Communities
- National Federation of Just Communities of WNY
- New Yorkers Against Gun Violence
- Open Buffalo
- Partnership for the Public Good
- Peace Action New York State
- Peace Education Fund
- Peace Education Project
- PeaceJam Buffalo
- PUSH Buffalo
- Riverside-Salem UCC/DC
- Save The Kids Buffalo
- SSJ Sr. Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence
- Stop The Violence Coalition
- 21st Century Park
- Veterans for Peace Ch #128
- Voice Buffalo
- West Side Soccer Club

- WNY Coalition of Peace and Nonviolence Advocates
- WNY Peace Center

These organizations, in cooperation with other agencies, groups, and the public at large, are collaborating to support