

The Color of Terror and the Psychology of Hate



Ways to Take Action

- From *Lecia Brooks, Southern Poverty Law Center*:
"The world changes according to the way people see it, and if you can alter, even by a millimeter, the way people look at reality, then you can change it." ~James Baldwin
 - Acknowledge and challenge extremist and hate-filled rhetoric from public officials, those seeking public office and in the mainstream media.
 - Make principled decisions about when and how to take a stand against bias and injustice in your everyday life in spite of pressure from family and friends.
 - Introduce SPLC's Intelligence Project resources to your local law enforcement agency and demand they monitor and report hate and extremist group activity in your community and state.
- From *Talat Hamdani*:
 - Salman transcended the barriers of race, faith and ethnicity to rescue fellow Americans. We need to do the same. The best manner to fight Islamophobia is to befriend a Muslim and attend interfaith events.
 - Support the Salman Hamdani Award at Queens College.
 - Support September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows.
- From *Mona Siddiqui*:
 - You don't need to be a civil rights lawyer to stand up to terror and hate.
"The legal system can force open doors and sometimes even knock down walls, but it cannot build bridges. That job belongs to you and me." ~Thurgood Marshall
This important lesson from the Civil Rights movement has become the call to action for American Muslims today. Our constitutional principles and civil rights laws are the foundation to fight injustice, but not enough to stop hate and fear. We need to work on building bridges to better understand what we don't know: get out of our comfort zone and make the effort to know people and communities different from our own life experiences! The more we get to know others, the less we fear the unknown. It's hard to hate what you no longer fear.
 - Actively integrate ... We live in a time of divisive rhetoric that we cannot afford to be quiet integrators or remain neutral and stand on the sidelines, unless something bad happens to us. To change the racial narrative of "terror" we must speak up not just when we are marginalized, but when we see marginalization happening around us to other minority groups. Standing up against injustice happening to our neighbors is a key to successful integration into the fabric of our society.
- Categorically reject the conflation of Islam with terrorism.
- Take a stance of courage and resilience in defense of core values of democracy and inclusion. Remember that since 9/11, foreign-inspired terrorism has claimed fewer than 100 lives in the United States. Comparatively, gun violence has claimed 100,000 lives, and motor-vehicle accidents, 400,000.
- Join the Richmond Peace Education Center's program and advocacy efforts for a more peaceful and just community. Sign up at the RPEC table or email rpec@rpec.org.
- Join the ACLU of Virginia's email list at <https://acluva.org> to stay up to date about actions you can take in your community and during the General Assembly session to defend religious liberty and advance racial justice.

This list of actions is a compilation of ideas suggested by our speakers and organizations. Thank you for taking action!