

IRT Statement following Charlottesville – Summer, 2017

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County (IRT) stands firmly with the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and all those who are responding with justice and love to the “blatant display of hatred and violence in Charlottesville, VA this past Saturday. With white supremacy rearing its head, we must continue to come together, across bridges, to support each other and stand against bigotry and hatred. “ (ICPJ statement, Saturday, August 13, 2017.

The IRT also calls us to reflect on the wisdom of Nelson Mandela when he said “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion...” ... “People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

These words are a call to all of us across the faith traditions to look deeply and see everyone, regardless of race, gender, orientation, creed, or religion. It calls out for our collective wisdom to help us discern how to see and hear each other’s fears, anger and embedded beliefs in order to unearth the seeds of truth we are each trying to protect. We propose a new question to ask each other in these times. “How can I help reflect your sacredness in ways that can help each of us see each other’s beauty and heart’s desire to thrive and live a blessed life?”

The IRT stands with justice and truth, and supports our search for meaningful conversations that matter for all. It is time for us to sit down with those who hold radically different views and listen, inquire and reflect. This is the pathway that leads us back toward recognition and celebration of our differences as opposed to choosing the path of ‘othering’ in order to feel like we have a firm grasp on what is the only correct perspective on life’s truths.