



Jews and Partners Gather on Chanukah/Hanouka/Januka* to Challenge Islamophobia and Fight Against Racism

Jews, together with partners from Muslim and other communities, rekindle our commitment to justice in different cities across the country to mark this Chanukah/Hanouka/Januka season.

Our Commitments Include:

- We will not be silent about anti-Muslim and racist hate speech and hate crimes**
- We condemn state surveillance of the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities.**
- We challenge, through our words and actions, institutionalized racism and state-sanctioned anti-Black violence.**
- We protest the use of Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism to justify Israel's repressive policies against Palestinians.**
- We stand against U.S. policies driven by the "war on terror" that demonize Islam and devalue, target, and kill Muslims.**
- We welcome Syrian refugees and stand strong for immigrants' rights and refugee rights.**
- We honor and support indigenous rights and the resistance led by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to protect their land and water.**
- We fully stand with the Vision for Black Lives platform.**

Sponsored by Jews Against Islamophobia (JAI), a coalition of Jewish Voice for Peace-New Haven and Jews Say No! For more information please contact jvnh.org, jewssayno@gmail.com, and jvp.org/againstislamophobia.org.

(over)

Muslim communities and those perceived to be Muslim are enduring vitriolic, frightening levels of anti-Muslim hate and violence throughout the country--being spit on, shoved, verbally harassed and abused, physically assaulted, and more. This hate and violence do not exist in a vacuum and are intensifying in dangerous ways. As we pledge to stand against all forms of violence and hate directed at the Muslim community or those perceived to be Muslim, we rekindle our commitment to speaking out about, and taking action against, the many forms of Islamophobia and racism that are pervasive and deep within our society.

We stand here this evening, in this season of Chanukah/Hanouka/Januka, the festival of lights, to rekindle our commitment to challenging Islamophobia, fighting against racism, and being partners in the broader struggle for justice and dignity for all peoples. This is a critically important moment to be as visible and strong as we can in our resistance to the intensification of violence and to all forms of injustice.

Racist and Islamophobic violence must stop in all its forms. This evening, we - and those in 25 cities and towns across the country - hold nine signs. Each sign represents an injustice we recommit ourselves to challenging. Together, our signs take the shape of a Chanukah/Hanouka/Januka menorah. As we read from each sign, we rekindle our commitments from city to city, from community to community, and from strength to strength.

*We have chosen three different spellings for the holiday rather than just one so that we may honor the rich multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual nature of Jewish life. While there are many more spellings than these three, we proclaim proudly that we don't have to choose between spellings or cultures - we can embrace them all as part of our collective liberation!

'Januka' = A standard transliteration used by Ladino and Spanish speaking Jews.

'Hanouka' = A standard transliteration used by Arabic speaking as well as Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews.

'Chanukah' = A standard transliteration used by Ashkenazic Jews.