



## CHICO AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL

[www.chicointerfaith.org](http://www.chicointerfaith.org)

### An Open Call for Compassion and Equality

We, the undersigned members of the Chico Area Interfaith Council (CAIC), write to express deep concern about the recent upsurge in hateful actions against minorities of color, gender, religions and ethnicity.

Although there have been no reported incidents to local law enforcement, there have been a number of incidents reported and shared within our community, including local accounts of *Nazi graffiti and people of color being assaulted by rocks, eggs and verbal slurs*. These incidents are shocking to say the least, and should not be tolerated in our beautiful city of Chico.

As an organization defined by religious diversity committed to the American value of unity in pluralism, we call on all members of our community to resist and confront divisive rhetoric and actions, from the seemingly harmless joke to the criminal act of violence. We encourage everyone to seek opportunities for reconciliation with those with whom we disagree and to renew our commitment to defend the most vulnerable among us. We pledge to resist policies that threaten the full and free participation in our society of any one group of American citizens. Togetherness in diversity and oneness of humankind are values that our faith communities and our nation hold dear and are vital to being a united people.

The CAIC's purpose and mission is to provide for cooperation of faith groups in education and social action, to study and respond to the religious and spiritual needs of the Chico area, to provide a forum for understanding and building relationships, to promote interfaith worship, dialogue and cooperation. We invite all members of the community to join in our work. Some simple and effective ways to build bonds and undo the division is to:

- Be kind, supportive and encourage those who maybe at risk
- Spend time with and listen to others that may need a friend or reassurance of their value to our community
- Recognize good deeds when they appear and assume nothing based on biases and misconceptions
- Join in volunteer work or in organizations that seek to treat all with compassion and equality; being of service helps those you serve and heals and opens hearts and minds
- Pray with others for the unity and healing of our nation
- Never turn a blind eye. Lend a hand to others and be joyful and kind, when you see an injustice come to the rescue of a another; not with confrontation but with love and kindness
- Find common-ground such as love of our nation and our community; focus on commonalities rather than controversy and difference.
- Challenge your own biases and misconceptions to grow and learn about others who are different from yourself.

Our community is very special place and together we can bring about a world that works for all.

Respectfully and thankfully,  
Kristina L Carter, President  
Representing the CAIC Members