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“When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”—**Psalm 34:17**

“Whoever recommends and helps a good cause becomes a partner therein, and whoever recommends and helps an evil cause shares in its burdens.”—**Al Quran, 4:85**

Faith Communities Supporting Never Again Letter to U.S. Congress

ST. PETERSBURG, FL — Organizations including religious, civic, human rights, and others representing diverse denominations are coming together as a single voice to sign [The Never Again National Interfaith Letter to the U.S. Congress](#). The Letter urges the nation’s top legislatures to first listen attentively to Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) students, parents and school administrators and other victims of mass gun violence, before de facto ruling out possible fixes to the divisive issue.

While the idea for The Never Again National Interfaith Letter emerged from within the American Muslim community, namely, the national nonprofit and faith-based intelligentsia Community Wide Shuraa Conference, Inc. (CWSC), the idea was quickly embraced by others.

CWSC’s executive director Mukhtar Muhammad states, “We all have a role to play, but our nation’s political leaders ultimately have to come together to fix this issue of our children dying from mass shootings including in their classrooms. We asked volunteers across the country to send in ideas and when they responded, we knew we had to ask others to join us in appealing to Congress. Similarly, problem solving at the public policy level requires a respectful mutual consultation or what Islam calls *Shuraa Baynahum* in governance and far too often, it’s what’s missing among our law makers. Hopefully Congress will take note of and be inspired by our interfaith collaboration...CWSC is certainly honored to serve as coordinator for this joint faith project.”

Marlon Aldridge, a physics professor in Dayton, Ohio and host of a national radio show *Talk Unchained* on American Muslim 360 Broadcasting also stresses collaboration. Aldridge, a former U.S. Marine Lieutenant, is a community leader and activist in the Baptist tradition and **founder of Sankofa Federation, Inc.**, a nonprofit focusing on issues affecting historically disadvantaged

communities. He says, “To make change, people and organizations have to understand that knowledge is power, but organization is intelligence! Hopefully this effort can help encourage student leaders to stay the course in what is sure to be a difficult battle.”

Faheem S. Rasool of Organize & Mobilize Dekalb Co. in Georgia poignantly drew on an example from the Civil Rights Era: “We’re working in our neighborhoods and cities in metro Atlanta to get people registered to vote. As Dr. King stated in *Letter From Birmingham Jail* in 1963: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere... Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

And **Gale Muhammed, President of Women Who Never Give Up, Inc.** a New Jersey nonprofit focused on criminal justice reform, social justice & human rights, perhaps captured the frustration felt by so many in just three words, “Enough Is Enough!”

Mark Shahid, CWSC’s Public Affairs Director notes, “Institutions joining the effort are very diverse and range from small local outreach groups to larger signatories and new friends in the **United Methodist Church (USA), LALMA or Latino Muslims of America, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, The World Council of Religious Leaders (WCORL)**, and the North American arm of the international **Focolare Movement** headquartered in Rome Italy. Having signatory partners in the Focolare and WCORL is special for us too and actually it's related to the fact we’re part of a larger association of American Muslims who have long enjoyed international faith fellowship. We’re grateful for the late Imam Dr. W. Deen Mohammed who not only helped connect us to faith brethren in America, but he also opened the doors through which we now walk to find global friends helping to remake the world. The Imam’s friendship and community ties with WCORL Secretary General Bawa Jain and Focolare Movement founder the Blessed Lady Chiara Lubich (may she be granted Paradise), continue to bear fruit for a new generation.”

The Letter is scheduled to be delivered to Capitol Hill on May 7, 2018 by Interfaith Envoy Imam Dr. Talib Shareef of Masjid Muhammad in Washington, D.C. (The Nation’s Mosque). Prospective signatories are asked to act now. Individuals can support the effort by sharing information and the cwsc.us website with their local, national, or international organizations.

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Community Wide Shuraa Conference, Inc. - CWSC is a faith-based national conference bringing together diverse human resources with the desire, knowledge and experience to help achieve the highest level of excellence in community life. Through its programs and intelligentsia components including think tank, speakers bureau, broadcasting center, and volunteer resource network, CWSC is unleashing and harnessing the full capacity inherent in the group intellect. Together we can remake the world.

CWSC is a non-partisan tax-exempt IRS Section 501(c)(3) public charity and does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, religion, ethnic or national origin in its community outreach. For more information, email info@cwsc.us or call (910) 317-0297.

