



August 11, 2020

Philadelphia Religious Leaders Respond to the Rodney Muhammad Posting

We join in denouncing racial bigotry, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, and any ideology that violates the sacredness of life. The meme posted by Rodney Muhammad has stirred generational pain. It is a reminder that actions, beliefs, and words that have roots in maligning and dehumanizing people are too often perpetuated. This time, the concern surrounds anti-Semitism. Regardless of the racial, cultural, gender, or religious group, such imagery is unacceptable.

Now is the time for restraint and judgment that resists the use of images that depict hurtful stereotypes of any cultural/ racial groups. Now is the time to draw attention to structural forces, policies, and cultural practices that keep people divided. Hate should have no home in our communities. Organizations like the NAACP are called to their highest values as we share a lifetime of partnering to dismantle oppression and bigotry.

We stand with any other organization purposed to build bridges of understanding, embrace diversity, and encourage encounters with people from various backgrounds and faiths. We welcome the opportunity to work within our region to continue the work of dismantling racism, anti-Semitism, and any form of bigotry or hatred.

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Dare to understand.

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