

## **Statement Regarding Incident at**

### **Al-Aqsa Islamic Society**

**December 13, 2015**

The recent act of throwing a pig's head at the Al-Aqsa Islamic Society building in Philadelphia was clearly an act of Islamophobia signifying grave disrespect toward Muslims. But it is much more than that. The act also symbolizes and reflects a growing climate in this country of intolerance aimed at practitioners of Islam. As such, it represents an attack on the religious tolerance and diversity that are crucial elements of a just and democratic society. We also note with alarm the anti-Muslim rhetoric and behavior that have been unleashed through the current presidential campaign, which can only fuel further hostile acts.

Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends condemns the recent hateful act aimed at the Al-Aqsa Islamic Society. In the wake of the act and its broader significance, we express our solidarity to the Society and seek to join with our Muslim brothers and sisters, along with others, in mutual ways to counter the broader racist hostility and xenophobia that we now face.

As part of a religious community that has historically confronted suspicion and intolerant hostility, we of Germantown Meeting will explore collective and individual ways to speak and move effectively in this moment of crisis. We cannot be silent in the face of hatred directed against Muslims. And, we know, based on our experience, that the most effective actions to counter the hatred will be done in the spirit of hope and love.

**Members of Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

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