



NEWS ADVISORY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2016

Attack on the Sikh Temple of Spokane Denounced

Stand United With Us Against This Kind Of Hatred.

“It is with deep sadness that we share that the sacred space of the Sikh Temple of Spokane was attacked early this morning. We stand with YWCA board and temple member, Subarna Nagra during this painful time.”

– Regina Malveaux, YWCA of Spokane CEO

The YWCA of Spokane is an organization whose mission is to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. As such, the YWCA of Spokane is outraged about today’s shameful attack of the Sikh Temple of Spokane.

“The Spokane community will not tolerate the kind of hateful violence perpetrated early this morning on the Sikh community’s house of worship,” said Susan Ashe, YWCA Spokane Board Chair. “We embrace all people and faiths and welcome them as part of the rich diversity of this community, and we sincerely encourage citizens to ignore and find fault with the hateful vitriol spewed by certain presidential candidates in this year’s campaign. Hate begets hate. On a personal note, we express our support and love for Subarna, a member of our board whose family and friends have long-time ties to Spokane. We stand up with and for them.”

“No faith community should have their sacred space violated,” YWCA of Spokane CEO, Regina Malveaux shares, “or have their congregants made to feel unsafe in their place of worship.”

Actions like this are indicative of growing Islamophobic sentiment across our nation where there has been a steady increase in backlash and hate crimes targeting Muslim, Sikh, South Asian and Arab communities. The YWCA is committed to eliminating racism in all of its forms, wherever it exists and supports the equal rights of all citizens to live free of racial, ethnic and religious discrimination.

“The Sikh articles of faith, which include the turban and beard, show their commitment to equality, justice and freedom for all. These are not just Sikh values, they are American values,” said YWCA Board Member, Suburna Floura Nagra.

STAND UNITED WITH US

We call upon our community to stand with our neighbors against this kind of hatred. A press conference will be held at the Sikh temple, 1420 N Barker Road, Green Acres, WA 99016, at 4p.m. today.

Members of the community are also encouraged to turn this negative act of vandalism into a positive opportunity for the community to learn more about the Sikh community by attending their open house or by joining the Spokane Interfaith Council. For more information please visit: <http://www.spokaneifc.org/>.

About the YWCA of Spokane

The YWCA of Spokane is a multi-service non-profit organization whose mission is eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. For over 113 years the YWCA has been committed to empowering women in the Spokane community.

The YWCA’s three umbrella programs include the Alternatives to Domestic Violence Program, Spokane County’s only state-recognized program for domestic violence; the Women’s Opportunity Center, an established Workforce Connection Site; and Child Services which includes four sites implementing the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. The YWCA is also home to the uniquely collaborative Spokane Family Justice Center which includes YWCA legal advocates, and City and County law enforcement and prosecutors. These programs benefit more than 16,000 women and children annually.

The YWCA of Spokane is the go-to place in the region for services that empower women and children, support for victims of domestic violence, work readiness resources, and early childhood education. The organization is also a key partner in coalitions in the community working on issues of racial and social justice.

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