

Supporting Alternatives to “Islamofascism Awareness Week:” A Response from Faith Leaders

As people of faith, it is our responsibility to courageously address the horrors of terrorism, violence and oppression throughout the world. Because the road to peace and justice begins with an affirmation of the inherent dignity and worth of people of all faiths, we cannot support “Islamofascism Awareness Week.”

By encouraging screenings of a film which claims to expose the “violent, expansionary ideology of the so-called ‘religion of peace’,” calling the Muslim Student Association a “front for Hamas²,” and inviting speakers who have compared Muslims to the Ku Klux Klan,³ the organizers of “Islamofascism Awareness Week” have squandered an opportunity for real dialogue on this serious issue. These kind of activities insult the faith of millions of devout Muslims and ignore the hard work so many Muslims have done to build real peace.

To the student leaders who are organizing teach-ins, forums and other respectful, pro-active responses: you have our support and gratitude for the moral courage you demonstrate to our nation. During the week of October 22, we encourage all communities to take part in activities that foster greater trust, respect, and understanding among people of all faiths.

¹ The film is *Islam: What the West Needs to Know*. The quotation is taken from the description on the official “Islamofascism Awareness Week” [guide for students](#)

² <http://www.terrorismawareness.org/news/67/islamo-fascism-week/>

³ Ann Coulter is scheduled to speak at Tulane and USC; the KKK reference was in a November 30, 2006 [column](#)

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