

Greater Baltimore Hindu and Jain Temple

2909 Bloom road, Finksburg, Maryland 21048

How to prevent hate crime and terrorism against our community

Due to increased risk of hate crime and terrorism against Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities in North America and across the world, our Temple is vigilant in establishing guide lines to protect our devotees at the Temple and our children in the college campuses and all of us in the community we live in. It is a difficult task but we must rise to the occasion to accomplish our goal peacefully. Here are some thoughts:

1. As someone said bullet to bullet will not solve the problem. The right thing to do is to find alternate ideas that may work.
2. Educate teachers and students in schools and colleges about our religion. Continue such process so that they have deep understanding of Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism.
3. Participate in local social activities and have dialogue with other religious leaders and members of the community to promote friendship and knowledge about our religions and culture.
4. Frequently hold interfaith dialogues and meetings at our Temple and at their places of worship, to improve understanding of each other's faith.
5. Our youth play a major role. They are the key in achieving our goal. We must get them involved.
6. Our priests must teach in English to increase understanding our religions and culture among our children and all devotees.
7. We have to be courteous and respectful to all neighbors and treat them as our family. Please talk to them or say hi when you see them around Temple. Build friendship and respect their property while parking and crossings it.
8. Frequently invite religious leaders of churches, synagogues and mosques to share our mission, and build goodwill and harmony among all religions around us.
9. Create some form of communication, email or phone, of our priests with other religious leaders and invite them for appropriate functions to keep and grow our friendship.
10. Safety of our devotees at the Temple is very important. We must train them how to be vigilant at the Temple and in the community. We must provide Guidelines for safety of our devotees and priests during crises. We have cameras but that recording is helpful for later process of investigation. Security at door is not practical but needs further study. It may not be a bad idea to have metal detector at entrance.

Your thoughts on improving safety are welcome. Please contact me at cnaganna@aol.com.

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Chairman
Greater Baltimore Temple