

'More than tolerance is required'

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Syed told *PAN* Thursday the Muslim association has been receiving an outpouring of support since both the shooting and U.S. policy changes. He said flowers, cards and letters have been dropped off at the White Rock Masjid in South Surrey. He said the association is also "very appreciative" of online messages.

"It's very important for us and the Muslim community here. Because when an incident happens, like what happened in Quebec City or the travel ban on Muslims, we feel very safe in the community and (it) gives us comfort... when we see their support. It's very comfortable."

Now is an important time to stand with the Muslim community, Swanson said.

"A word that's been going around in the media a lot lately is tolerance. I don't disagree with tolerance at all, but I think that something more than tolerance is required. Tolerance to me, there's an insinuation that we don't really like you, agree with you, but we'll tolerate you," Swanson said.

"I think words like solidarity, I think words like partnership. I think we need to be more than just tolerant with each other."

McAndless-Davis left an online comment on the *PAN* website saying he will stand with his



Gord Goble photo

Sunday's rally at the Peace Arch.

Muslim neighbours, "both in grief and in working for peace and justice for all people."

"The United Church community on the Peninsula is in full support of our Muslim friends, with whom we have shared several gatherings, meals and a joint sponsorship of a family from Syria," McAndless-Davis wrote.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement on the day of the shooting condemning the "terrorist attack."

Bassionette is charged with six counts of murder and five counts of attempted murder but not charged with terrorism-related charges.

The attack happened on the same day of a U.S. rally in Peace Arch Park by Trump opponents and a few days before World Interfaith Harmony Week, which

started Wednesday and is being celebrated around the world. A series of interfaith harmony events are taking place in Surrey until Feb. 7 (www.surreyinterfaith.ca).

Earlier last month, Surrey Interfaith Council member Gordon Leslie told *PAN* the harmony week is to "try to show how we can all work together to achieve world peace and harmony."

One of the anchor events of the week is the Surrey Interfaith Pilgrimage on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Members from different faith groups will meet at Their Ton Buddhist Temple and tour to several places of worship, including the Surrey Jamea Muslim Masjid.

McAndless-Davis said the United Church community will join a vigil planned for tonight (Friday), 5-7 p.m. at Surrey's Holland Park and will urge the faith community to attend Sunday's "No Ban, No Wall" rally at Peace Arch Park, starting at 10 a.m.

Information on the rally's Facebook event page says its intention is to show "our Iraqi, Syrian, Iranian, Libyan, Somali, Sudanese and Yemenite friends that they are welcome."

Syed said he's grateful for the churches' willingness to participate.

South Surrey-White Rock MP Dianne Watts, who's currently in Ottawa, was not available for comment by *PAN* press time Thursday.