

# The Dallas Morning News

## New D-FW Muslim coalition ‘horrified, sickened’ by Orlando massacre



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Published: June 14, 2016 6:34 pm



Members of a newly formed coalition representing D-FW Muslims deliver their remarks about Orlando’s mass shooting at Dallas City Hall. (Marc Ramirez/Staff)

A newly formed coalition representing Dallas-Fort Worth Muslims of all sects on Tuesday condemned the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando. The group also expressed its solidarity with America’s LGBT community.

“We are here grieving their loss,” said Moazam Syed, secretary of the fledgling Institute of Quranic Knowledge and Inter/Intrafaith Religious Acceptance,

which goes by the acronym IQRA. “We consider an attack on them an attack on us.”

Group leaders delivered their remarks at a news conference in Dallas City Hall’s Flag Room.

“The Muslim community of D-FW is shocked, saddened, horrified and indeed sickened by the horrible tragedy of the Orlando shooting,” said attorney Tausif Kamal. “We stand in complete solidarity and support for the LGBT community in Florida and across America.”

In a prepared statement, the group praised the LGBT community for defending the rights of all minorities, including Muslim Americans.

“There must be no room in America for hate and intolerance toward any community,” the group’s statement read. “What makes America great is the tolerance and understanding between communities – a virtue that this great nation offers for the rest of the world to emulate.”

Asked about remarks regarding the slaughter by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, which many have criticized as incendiary, the IQRA’s Syed responded: “He’s testing, challenging the intelligence of this nation, and he will not succeed. This nation has a bigger heart and is much more intelligent, as it will show on Election Day.”

IQRA president Basheer Ahmed said the group is in talks with Frisco officials to hold a major multicultural event this summer for the Fourth of July and the Islamic holiday Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan and this year falls on July 6.

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