



OPERATION UNDERSTANDING - CALL TO ACTION

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Today's headlines—ranging from calls to ban a religious group from the United States of America to the ongoing actions that birthed the #BlackLivesMatter movement—remind us how relevant the work of our organization, founded 30 years ago in the birthplace of our nation, continues to be.

Operation Understanding's mission is to develop young African-American and Jewish leaders, knowledgeable about each other's histories and cultures, to effectively lead the communities of Philadelphia to a greater understanding of diversity and acceptance. The program plants the seeds for building bridges and forging deep relationships across cultural, racial, and religious borders.

For 30 years, Operation Understanding has challenged our young people, alumni, supporters and friends to engage in the hard work of fostering tolerance, diversity and acceptance across racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological lines. This mission continues today and will for many years to come.

As we reflect upon the troubling events that dominate the headlines, we realize now more than ever that we must recommit to the work of advancing the values of fairness, justice and empathy on which our country was built. We call upon our fellow citizens to draw upon our nation's best traditions to counter fear, close-mindedness and bigotry; to resist the instinct to scapegoat those we do not know or understand; to embrace the positive values of every faith, culture and community, even in times of tension and conflict; and to take active steps at all times to treat others with thoughtfulness and respect.

Muslims are not the enemy – fear and extremism are.

To learn more about Operation Understanding as we celebrate our 30th anniversary, visit our website at www.operationunderstanding.org.