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**MICHIGAN  
ROUNDTABLE**  
FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



## **Stand up to Ignorance, Fear and Hate**

This weekend we mourned the Philando Castile verdict and felt the continued pain of the Chaldean community as hundreds of loved ones were swept up for deportation. This morning we learned of deaths of Muslims at the hands of haters in Virginia and London, along with a death threat to the CAIR (Council of American Islamic Relations) Office in Chicago. How we think and speak about the other, be they black or Muslim, influences how we treat them. We must interrupt the narrative that there is anything wrong with these neighbors as the consequence of this wrong-mindedness leads to fear, hate and, far too often, to death. To learn more about the vexing history of race/racism in our region, which was at play in the shooting death of Mr. Castile and countless unarmed black men seen as a threat, please attend our July 7th First Friday Forum at the Detroit Historical Society at 6 p.m., when we will discuss the past 50 years of unreconciled racism in our region. You might also encourage your local police chief to participate in ALPACT (Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust) which the Roundtable has facilitated for the past 25 years.

If you know someone from the Chaldean community, give them a call and simply sit with their pain, listening for how you might be helpful. For more information contact the Arab American and Chaldean Council at (248) 559-1990 or visit their website at [www.myacc.org](http://www.myacc.org)

For those of us who have a Muslim colleague, neighbor or service provider, now would be a valuable time to simply call to check-in and certainly offer well-wishes for this final week of the Holy Month of Ramadan. If you are like 62% of Americans who do not know a Muslim, you are encouraged to reach out to CAIR-MI, the Council of American Islamic Relations at (248) 59-2247 or <https://cairmichigan.org/> and the Michigan Muslim Community Council at (248) 268- 2766 or <https://www.mimuslimcouncil.org/>

The Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, NC has photographs of the martyrs of the Civil Rights movement, with many faces of young white allies who went to stand for racial justice and ended up giving their lives. With the two allies martyred in Portland earlier this month standing up to a knife-wielding person verbally assaulting two young Muslim girls, our call to stand with our Muslim neighbor's pits us against ignorance and hate. The path to being an ally begins with relationships and an invitation. The journey to unity takes work, let's do it together.

To learn more about the Michigan Roundtable, visit [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org).

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*The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion has been a human relations and racial justice organization located in Detroit working to overcome discrimination and racism by crossing racial, religious, ethnic and cultural*

*boundaries for the past 76 years. The Roundtable brings together interested citizens and community leaders to understand different points of view and then act to overcome structural impediments to inclusion and equity.*