



The Needham Human Rights Committee mourns the loss of the 50 lives taken and dozens critically wounded at the Al Noor and Linwood Mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, at the hands of another white supremacist. They were children, mothers, fathers, grandparents, students, people who sought refuge, all united in their house of worship at a time of prayer. We know that these hate-filled acts at the mosques in Christchurch, at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, have had far reaching impacts in these communities, and even in our own.

We stand brokenhearted at the cruelty inflicted.
We stand in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors.
We stand committed to the teaching of our common humanity in Needham.

This tragedy, like all the ones before it, offers each of us another opportunity to consider what real change requires of us. It requires us to examine the context that grew a person capable of such hate. In the absence of opportunities to know and share in our oneness as a people, there is a vacuum of fear and distrust.

The Needham Human Rights Committee hopes to further understanding by providing spaces for us to listen, learn and connect with each other. We proudly support the following important community events and hope that you will join us in building a community that nourishes love and understanding amongst all people.

At My Neighbor's Table Series: Community conversation potluck. It Happened Here: Slavery in Needham, How do we reckon with, seek renewal, and reconcile the remnants of a town's past? [Sunday, March 24, 2019](#), 5:30-7:30 pm at the Temple Beth Shalom.

Growing Up Other in Suburbia: A Different Kind of Forum. Learn from experiences of young adults from diverse backgrounds and the events that shaped their lives. [Sunday, April 7, 2019](#), 4:00-6:00 pm at First Parish Needham Unitarian Universalist.

Diversity and Discussion Book Club, a project of the Needham Human Rights Committee, Needham Diversity Initiative, and the Trustees of the Needham Public Library. Evicted: Poverty and Profit in an American City, by Matthew Desmond, 8 families struggling to keep their homes. [Thursday, May 16, 2019](#), 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the Needham Public Library.

Race Amity Day. An opportunity to celebrate the power of cross-racial friendship and learn more about the METCO program in Needham and Wellesley. Needham's History Center School House, [Sunday, June 9, 2019](#), 5:30-7:30 pm (light dinner provided).