

## **Statement by the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS)**

**December 27, 2019**

Recently, Imam Mohamed Joban gave a lecture that contained offensive commentary and theologically unsound embellishments that do not reflect the views of MAPS or the MAPS community. We sincerely apologize to our Jewish siblings – and the wider community of Muslims, Christians, and people of all/no faith backgrounds – for the inappropriate commentary in this lecture. It violates our norms for religious education and has no place at MAPS. We ask for your forgiveness.

You deserve better from us. Even though we at MAPS strive to only teach religiously sound and culturally appropriate content, we are still always learning and growing. Some of the comments by Imam Joban were neither theologically sound nor culturally aware.

We have spoken to the Imam about these serious concerns and are making this a teachable moment for him, and for our entire leadership/community, to ensure that nothing like this happens again. Imam Joban himself has issued an apology (<https://www.mapsredmond.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Apology-by-Imam-Mohamad-Joban.pdf>). We will further hold a cultural competency training in the coming weeks with all of our religious scholars, teachers and program leaders to reinforce the love, honor and respect for our Jewish (and all other) siblings that Islamic tradition mandates and that we at MAPS seek to uphold. We are further exploring what other internal and external actions we can take, including meetings with our local Jewish leaders, to fully address this situation.

At MAPS, we know it is more important than ever to stand in solidarity with each other -- and firmly against antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of hate and bigotry. We understand we are all one large human family, and we maintain our desire to build relationships of love, honor, unity, compassion and solidarity with all of our siblings, including our Jewish family -- even if we may at times hurt those we love. We hope we will come out of this stronger, and we ask God Almighty to forgive our shortcomings and guide us all to the straight, righteous path, together. Amen.