

# A PETITION FOR PEACE

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*We have a right to free speech but harassment is a deviation from this right. The democratic government is secular and the freedom of speech does not condemn or condone any religious belief however there are limits to this right when it comes to the safety of the individual. In America, yelling “fire” in a movie theater is a violation of this right and is a classic case of the extent to which we can uphold the first amendment. Harassment is another limit that is placed on this right as it has the potential to harm the individual(s).*

*Individuals can be harassed racially, sexually, and religiously and through various forms of media. We all have come to an understanding that child pornography is illegal and should be banned because it is compromising the safety of the children involved. No one can publicly get away with saying that child pornography is legal due to the right to free speech. Child pornography is not free speech, it is harassment. Similarly, racial attacks are also not free speech, but harassment. Hence, legal jurisdiction is used to protect the safety of such individuals involved. The nature of law is to protect the minority not the majority as the rights of the minorities are most vulnerable to being taking away or limited....*

*Today, racial and sexual harassment is not tolerated, however religious harassment is. Religious slurs are akin to racial slurs. Religious beliefs are a part of ones identity just as the color of our skin is. Attacking someone based on his/her religious beliefs is a form of harassment. Religious slurs are not tolerated in the work place, schools, and other public spaces. So why are religious attacks allowed and even encouraged in journals, magazines, television, and online forums? Why do we condemn such religious harassment in one aspect of our lives, but not the others? Why do we condemn certain kinds of harassment (i.e. sexual and racial) but not other kinds of harassment? Harassment should be subject to legal jurisdiction irrelevant of the subject matter. All actions having the potential to harm an individual should be subject to law. We strongly condemn all kinds of violence in the name of religion. We strongly condemn all kind of religious bigotry..*

*Long Live Humankind...*

*TEAM APPNA-AZ*