

STATEMENT OF NETWORK OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES BOARD OF GOVERNORS FEBRUARY 19, 2009

We are shocked and saddened by the murder of Aasiya Zuair, allegedly by her husband, on February 12, 2009. We are deeply troubled by the violence of her killing and with the attempt, by some, to associate the method of her murder with the religion of Aasiya and her husband.

Those who associate Islam with the motive for her brutal killing, do a disservice to all for which the victim, Aasiya Zubair, lived and died. Bridges TV was not the idea of her husband, the alleged killer. Rather, she came up with the idea to start Bridges TV herself so she could portray an accurate image of the faith she loved and respected. She was killed while working at the television station, working hard to portray an accurate image of her faith until the very last moments of her life

Blame for Aasiya's death lies with none other than her killer. The Buffalo News and Marcia Pappas, New York State president of the National Organization for Women, does a great disservice to Aasiya and women in general by associating Aasiya's death with Islam. According to the American Bar Association approximately three women are killed in the US daily by an intimate partner--- and the overwhelming majority of those murders are done by people who are not part of the Islamic faith. Domestic violence is a universal problem and no one who truly practices Islam, Judaism, or Christianity would be guilty of such a heinous crime. We must all unite in condemning anyone, of any faith or culture, who harms the innocent and recognize that the causes of domestic violence are not limited to any religion or culture.