

**MESSAGE FROM SGI-USA GENERAL DIRECTOR  
DANIEL NAGASHIMA, WOMEN'S LEADER MATILDA BUCK AND MEN'S  
LEADER TARIQ HASAN  
WE CAN CREATE PROFOUND CHANGE**

**‘Now is not the time to be intimidated. The darkest moment offers the opportunity for the most profound change.’**

We share with our fellow Americans the sense of shock and horror that goes beyond words in response to the apparent terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. We offer our prayers for the victims, and support to those who have lost loved ones and friends and to those injured as a result of these tragedies.

SGI President Ikeda immediately responded with the following message: “I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the people of the United States. Let us work for kosen-rufu in order to create peace in the United States and in the world.”

The great evil of terrorism is intended to threaten and intimidate. It creates a feeling of helplessness and attempts to splinter society. Now is not the time to be intimidated. The darkest moment offers the opportunity for the most profound change. In “On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land,” Nichiren Daishonin states: “If you care anything about your personal security, you should first of all pray for order and tranquility throughout the four quarters of the land” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 24). As Bodhisattvas of the Earth, let’s arouse great confidence in the power of our united prayer and action for peace.

This tragedy awakens us to the stark reality that our movement for world peace is crucial. Our district activities and Victory Over Violence campaign are exactly the kind of engaged Buddhist actions that are making a difference. As President Ikeda writes in *For the Sake of Peace*, “Peace is not something to be left to others in distant places. It is something we create day to day in our efforts to cultivate care and consideration for others, forging bonds of friendship and trust in our respective communities through our own actions and example” (p. 212).

At this time, let us give our fellow members and citizens hope, courage and confidence, inspired by the conviction that our efforts for kosen-rufu are clearly the antidote to all suffering.

Please use your best judgment in canceling or scheduling activities in your respective areas. We continue to pray for the health and safety of every SGI-USA member, their families and all humanity.