

Clergy urge Congress to come together for civility

by [Nicole Neroulias](#) in the [February 8, 2011](#) issue

A coalition of more than 50 mainline and evangelical Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Muslim leaders have sent an open letter to Congress urging a "time of soul searching" and national dialogue about "violent and vitriolic political rhetoric."

The clergy statement, printed January 13 in a full-page ad in the Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call*, also said: "In our churches, mosques and synagogues, we come together not as members of a certain political ideology or party, but as children of God and citizens called to build a more perfect union," the letter said. "We pray that you do the same."

Among mainline leaders signing the letter were Peg Chamberlin of the National Council of Churches, Presbyterian Gradye Parsons, Geoffrey Black of the United Church of Christ and Wesley Granberg-Michaelson of the Reformed Church in America. —RNS