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INTERSECTIONS INTERNATIONAL OFFERS SUPPORT TO THE CORDOBA HOUSE

New York, August 2, 2010 – Intersections supports the efforts of its partner organizations, The Cordoba Initiative and the American Society for Muslim Advancement, to develop a Community Center and Muslim prayer space, called “The Cordoba House,” at 47-51 Park Place in Manhattan. The vision is to create a place where individuals—regardless of race, faith or ethnicity—will find a center for learning, art, cultural expression and athletics; and most importantly, a center guided by the universal values of all religions—compassion, generosity, peace and human dignity.

The controversy surrounding this project stems from the fact that the proposed building location lies in close proximity to the former World Trade Center, the site of the horrific terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001. Intersections grieves along with those who suffered losses in that tragedy. Intersections acknowledges that any association between that event and this project is a fabrication. Further, Intersections applauds the work of Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf and Daisy Khan, principals in The Cordoba House, for their long-term and steadfast commitment to interfaith relations. While acknowledging the real pain that 9/11 continues to evoke, Intersections deplores those who would use this project to promote fear and vitriol for personal gain or partisan politics.

Over the past decade, many have clamored for peace-loving Muslim voices to cry out against terrorism and to offer constructive solutions for healing as we move forward as one society, united for peace with justice. The Cordoba House has been proposed by Muslim leaders from the community in which it will be located and who have been working in lower Manhattan for decades. It is just such an effort. Intersections adds its voice to those who cherish religious freedom, embrace diversity and seek reconciliation throughout this city and beyond by supporting The Cordoba House at its proposed location on Park Place.