



Speaking out at local city councils and interfaith meetings is crucial to raising awareness issues that are important to us, like honoring the victims of the horrific attack in Pahalgam. These forums amplify our voices and raise awareness about issues that they may not even know about, or worse yet, be misinformation about. across communities. Do YOUR part and speak out at your next local meeting. Depending on time allotted, here are sample testimonies to get you started.

Remember to:

- Be respectful and courteous
- Speak from personal experience, if appropriate, for authenticity
- Stick to the facts as this helps builds credibility and counter perceptions of personal bias
- Be respectful and courteous and maintain a calm demeanor
- Avoid accusatory language or blanket statements about any group of people
- Stay within the time limit and any other protocols

### **1-Minute Testimony**

Respected members of the \_\_\_\_\_(city name) city council,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, a resident of \_\_\_\_\_(city name), and I stand before you today with a heavy heart.

On April 22, terrorists from The Resistance Front—an offshoot of Pakistan-supported terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba —stormed a meadow in Pahalgam, Kashmir, and murdered 26 innocent Hindus, injuring dozens more. These families were targeted solely for their faith, hunted and killed in cold blood. This was not just an attack on Hindus, but on the very ideals of religious freedom and human dignity that bind us all.

In the wake of this horror, our community here is devastated—struggling to explain to our children why their loved ones are at risk, and why their grief is met with silence. But this pain is not ours alone; it is a wound to all who cherish pluralism and peace.

I urge this council: do not let these lives be forgotten. Stand with us in condemning this massacre. Support fact-based education in our schools, so our children learn about the struggles and resilience of Kashmir's indigenous Hindus.

We need to stand in solidarity, not just for Hindus, but for everyone who believes that no one should be murdered for their faith. If we are to champion peace, we must speak out—together, in unwavering solidarity—against hatred and terror, wherever it strikes.



## 2-Minute Testimony

Respected members of the \_\_\_\_\_(city name) city council,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_(city name). I come before you today, my heart burdened by the recent massacre in Kashmir. On April 22, terrorists from The Resistance Front, an offshoot of Pakistan supported terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, ambushed a meadow in Pahalgam, murdering 26 innocent Hindus and injuring dozens more. These men, women, and children—some newly married, some young parents—were targeted with chilling precision for the sole “offense” of being Hindu.

Since this attack, Hindus in our city have been distraught, angry, and deeply anxious for the safety of loved ones abroad. We struggle to maintain our well-being, to explain to our children why our community is grieving yet again, and why the world seems silent. But this despair is not just ours to bear. The outpouring of support from neighbors and friends of all backgrounds reminds us: this is a tragedy for all humanity. Terrorism rooted in hate threatens the very foundation of pluralism and peace that we hold dear.

Yet, this is not an isolated event. Such violence has plagued the region for decades, often overlooked by the media and ignored by elected officials. Why is there so little outrage, so little action, when innocent people are murdered just for being Hindu?

I urge this council: condemn the Pahalgam massacre and honor the victims. Support fact-based education in our schools, so our children learn about the struggles and resilience of Kashmir’s indigenous Hindus.

We cannot afford to look away. Let us stand together, not just as Hindus or Americans, but as champions of pluralism and peace. If we truly value solidarity, let us prove it—by raising our voices, demanding justice, and ensuring that terror and hate find no refuge in our world. Will we stand by, or will we stand up? The choice is ours.