



## UMA Interfaith Alliance

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July 13, 2020

### UMA Interfaith Alliance Opposes the Conversion of Hagia Sophia into a Mosque by the Turkish Government

San Francisco, CA: UMA Interfaith Alliance and its supporters unanimously deplore the decision of the Turkish Government of turning the Hagia Sophia, once a cathedral but now a museum, into a mosque.

The Turkish Government has taken a political decision to appease its conservative politicians. Islamic teachings clearly admonish Muslims against converting holy places of other religions into mosques.

The Muslim Holy book, The Quran in 22:40 states: "Had God not checked one set of people against the other, there would surely have been pulled down monasteries, churches, synagogues and mosques, where God's name is celebrated in abundance."

UMA Interfaith Alliance urges the Turkish Government to reconsider its decision and maintain the status of the Hagia Sophia as a museum, which is open to the people of faiths. We implore President Erdogan, in the name of global interfaith peace and harmony, to follow the teaching of Islam rather than short term political gains to appease his followers.

Very truly,

Iftekhar A. Hai, President  
UMA Interfaith Alliance

*United Muslims of America interfaith alliance promotes understanding and cooperation among world religions through interfaith dialogue, thereby creating racial and religious harmony and encouraging faith-based communities to get involved locally, nationally and globally for the good of all people and help bring healing and spiritual reconstruction.*