

Interfaith prayer service in New Orleans: Dr. Ngawang Legshe's message of compassion

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In the wake of the New Year's Day attack on New Orleans, an interfaith prayer service was held to unite the community in healing and solidarity. Assistant Director of the Doctor of Social Work (DSW) Program [Dr. Ngawang Legshe](#) represented the Samten Choling Dharma Center to [offer a profound prayer](#) that echoed the themes of compassion and unity. The prayer service was held Monday, Jan. 6, at St. Louis Cathedral, to honor the lives of the 14 killed and 35 injured in the Jan. 1 terror attack. The service was attended by President Joe Biden.

The prayer, blessed by the Dalai Lama during his 2013 visit to Tulane School of Social Work, carried a deep message of commitment to peace. Dr. Legshe recited the prayer, emphasizing a pledge to live with compassion and mindfulness. "I choose to make a commitment to compassion," the prayer began. "Motivated by the wish to promote happiness and reduce suffering of all beings, may my actions of body, speech, and mind reflect justice, respect, and equality. May I work to reduce

violence, exploitation and prejudice at personal, local, and global levels. May I connect with all humanity in protecting our planet and the diversity of life it supports.”

In a time of uncertainty and tension, Dr. Legshe’s words offered a moment of reflection, urging those in attendance to align their actions with the values of justice, compassion, and respect for all beings. The service was a reminder that through unity, understanding, and a shared commitment to peace, communities can overcome adversity and work toward a brighter, more harmonious future.

If you were impacted by the terror attack, we urge you to explore our [self-care resources](#).