

**SGI-USA JOINS CALL FOR TOLERANCE  
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SGI-USA representatives participated in an interfaith press conference Sept. 26 at the U.S. Capitol with Democratic and Republican senate leaders. SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima and Bill Aiken, director of the SGI-USA Office of Public Affairs, were invited to join representatives of a variety of faiths in the U.S. Senate's call for religious tolerance in the face of hate crimes following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"In the last couple of weeks, hundreds of crimes in dozens of states have been reported against Muslims, Arab Americans, Sikhs and others," Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle stated. "Just as the terrorists betray the peaceful teaching of Islam, the people who committed these hate crimes betray our ideals as a nation."

General Director Naga-shima presented the senator with a copy of SGI President Ikeda's book *For the Sake of Peace* and a statement from the SGI-USA. It reads in part: "It is our deepest hope that the determined efforts of our nation be guided not by the understandable desire for retribution but by the more noble human qualities of wisdom and compassion.... We, the SGI-USA, pledge our efforts to reach out to those in need of comfort and to promote the values of human solidarity and mutual respect for all."