



FAITH
OVER
FEAR

Orange City, IA
*Loving our Muslim and
Immigrant Neighbors*

AGENDA

ABOUT FAITH OVER FEAR

Faith Over Fear is a training program developed to equip faith leaders and communities with effective strategies for better advocating against anti-Muslim bigotry.

The approach, which centers on positive, aspirational, and values-based messaging to correct a narrative of fear and divisiveness, was originally developed collaboratively by Shoulder to Shoulder, the Muslim Association of Puget Sound- American Muslim Empowerment Network, Neighbors in Faith, and CAIR-Washington. We are grateful to partner with numerous additional national organizations and experts on the content for this training, which we are bringing to communities around the United States.

The core-curriculum has been developed and shaped by Shoulder to Shoulder, ReThink Media, the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, and OverZero.



Shoulder to Shoulder is a national coalition-based campaign of religious denominations and faith-based organizations and communities that are committed to ending discrimination and violence against Muslims in the United States by equipping, connecting, and mobilizing faith leaders to effectively take action. Visit www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/trainings

FAITH OVER FEAR – Orange City, Iowa



This training, organized by Shoulder to Shoulder in partnership with the Northwestern College Campus Ministries, Reformed Church in America, Resonate Global Mission, Al Amana Centre, and the Christian Reformed Church's Office of Social Justice is designed for people of faith who wish to consider how our commitment to Christ compels us to show hospitality and welcome the stranger. We'll share up-to-date research, resources, tools, and messaging to be stronger, strategic, and more effective actors in shaping our nation toward a greater vision - where all people, no matter their religious or cultural background, are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

TRAINING AGENDA

Northwestern College, Dewitt Learning Commons, Vogel Community Room

Friday, April 1, 2022 | 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Registration & Open Zoom Room for Virtual Participants

Zoom Room Facilitator: Cassandra Lawrence, Shoulder to Shoulder

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Introductions, Welcome & Why We're Here

Why are we here? How can we make a difference? This opening session will feature some words of welcome, an overview of the Faith Over Fear training, a group orientation, and group introductions.

Emma VanDrie, Northwestern College

Nina M. Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

4:30 - 5:30 pm | Who are American Muslims?

Participants will first engage in a live anonymous poll to begin to identify their current understanding of the American Muslim community, and the common perceptions and misperceptions they might hold, followed by a presentation about the broader American Muslim community, based on data and research from the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding.

Meira Neggaz, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (Video)

Live Panel:

Petra Alsoofy, Institute for Social Policy & Understanding

Sara Rahim, Interfaith Youth Core

Salam Al-Marayati, Muslim Public Affairs Council

Uzma Sabir, Shoulder to Shoulder

5:30 - 6:30 pm | What is Islamophobia: Contextualizing Anti-Muslim Discrimination in the United States

We must understand the problem in order to begin to shape our responses to it and become an effective part of the solution. This interactive session will feature a live presentation and an activity for participants to begin to grasp the complexity of anti-Muslim discrimination & violence in the United States. Participants will engage in a 'Teaching for Change' Jigsaw Activity aimed at helping people understand the complexity of anti-Muslim discrimination & violence in order to begin shaping our responses to it. This will be followed by a live discussion with author, Dr. Todd Green.

Alison Kysia, Educator and Art Activist (Video)
Dr. Todd Green (Live Zoom)

6:30pm - 8:00pm | Dinner & Conversation

Dinner Served

Emma VanDrie, Northwestern College

Why We Do This: Faith Leader Perspectives (Videos):

Rabbi Jonah Pesner, a Reform Jewish perspective

Jordan Denari Duffner, A Catholic perspective

Kevin Singer, an Evangelical Christian perspective

Kathryn M. Lohre, a Lutheran perspective

Table Conversations:

- Introductions: Go around the table and each share a story about your name.
- What brings you here this evening? Why do you care about this issue?
- What are your spiritual and intellectual motivations in this work of countering anti-Muslim discrimination? What guides and sustains you?
- What's one thing that is resonating with you from today? What questions are you thinking through?

Closing + Next Steps | Nina M Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

Saturday, April 2, 2022 | 9:00am - 2:00pm

8:30 am - 9:00 am | Registration & Open Zoom Room for Virtual Participants

Zoom Room Facilitator: Cassandra Lawrence, Shoulder to Shoulder

Optional Videos: What I want you to know about anti-Muslim discrimination

Simran Jeet Singh, Writer/Professor/The Aspen Institute Religion and Society Program

Margari Hill, Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative

Hussein Rashid, Academic/Speaker/Activist

Madihha Ahussain, Muslim Advocates

Todd Green, Professor/Author

9:00 - 9:30 am | Introductions & Training Recap/Overview

Introductions: Name, Affiliation, How are you or, more generally, how are people of faith, uniquely poised to address anti-Muslim discrimination?

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

9:30 - 10:30 am | Messaging and Communicating to Create Change

In light of what we often hear about Islam and Muslims, including the common myths and tropes, what do we say in response and how do we say it in a way that is true and makes a difference? This interactive session will feature video content, presentations and activities for participants to review the underlying dynamics of why negative speech resonates and how it can lead to group-targeted harm, the psychology of fear, and the trends and patterns of countering dangerous speech. We will then move into designing values-based communications based on the most recent messaging and communications research, and participants will have the opportunity to practice their own messaging and communications with others.

Samantha Owens, OverZero (Video)

Corey Saylor, Rethink Media (Video)

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

10:30 - 10:40 am | Break

10:40 am | What is Ramadan? What's an iftar?

Sara Rahim, Interfaith Youth Core

11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Strategies for Engagement & Change: A Panel Discussion

This interactive session will focus on some key ways people have navigated the challenges of showing up for one another and reaching “beyond the interfaith choir” featuring partners who have been successful in organizing on different fronts and different contexts, including “firefighting” and “tree planting.”

Live Panel Conversation

Sara Rahim, Interfaith Youth Core (Live Zoom)

Rev. Noel Andersen, Church World Service

JJ TenClay, The Reformed Church in America Global Mission

Jason Lief, Northwestern College

Moderated by Emma VanDrie, Northwestern College

12:00 - 12:30 pm | Identifying your Role in the Social Change Ecosystem

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign

12:30 pm | Lunch and Break

1:00 - 1:30pm | Developing Your Strategy Workshop

Participants will continue to unpack and develop their values-based communications messaging work and delve deeper into audience mapping and an attitudes & involvement chart for strategically moving people toward positive & active engagement. Questions we'll explore: What are the specific changes I want to see? Who is my audience? Am I focusing on transforming Hearts, Minds, and/or Actions? How am I moving people along the attitude or involvement scale? What activities, experiences, or encounters could make an impact on my target audience? Who do I need to impact to see the change I want to see and how do I reach them? How do they get their information, how do they make decisions, who do they surround themselves with? What communications channels do I have influence in?

Samantha Owens, OverZero (video)

Nina M Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

1:30pm - 2:00pm | Closing & Next Steps

Interactive closing to share out commitments.

Please fill out a training evaluation.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Arranged in alphabetical order by Last Name

Petra Alsoofy, is the Outreach & Partnerships Manager at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), where she strengthens valued partnerships and forges new ones with organizations who share ISPU's goal of strengthening Muslim communities and building understanding. Petra's work includes working with ISPU's large network of scholars and sharing research with policymakers, community leaders, faith leaders, educators, and the general public to equip them to make informed decisions about American Muslims. Petra is a Detroit Equity Action Lab (DEAL) Racial Equity Fellow and an alum of New Detroit's Multicultural Leadership Series. She also serves as the vice president of the Michigan Center for Civic Engagement's Board of Directors and as a member of the American Association for State and Local History's Religious History Committee. Petra has been a leader in interfaith work and public education for more than 15 years and is a graduate of Grand Valley State University where she earned a BA in political science.

Rev. Noel Andersen is the Director of Grassroots Organizing for Church World Service where he has developed a national network of faith communities taking action in solidarity with immigrants and refugees. He is ordained in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and is the lead organizer and co-founder of the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration, a grassroots network of UCC leaders taking action for immigrants' rights. He has worked for a number of non-profit organizations in Central America and on the U.S.- Mexico border focusing on community development, education and community organizing. He was instrumental in creating a Refugee Leadership Development for Social Change project at CWS helping over a thousand refugees in community organizing.

Nina M. Fernando serves as Executive Director at The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, a multifaith coalition of religious denominations and faith-based organizations committed to countering and preventing anti-Muslim discrimination and violence in the United States by building a society where all are treated with dignity and respect. She first joined the Shoulder to Shoulder team in 2017. Nina holds a Master of Arts in Interreligious and Cultural Studies from Claremont School of Theology and a Bachelor of Arts in "Social Change through Music and Religious Studies" from the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies at the University of Redlands. Previously, she's worked as a LankaCorps Fellow through The Asia Foundation in Sri Lanka supporting research on interreligious and intercultural conflict and coexistence at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, and prior to that, as a Faith-Rooted Organizer, educating, organizing, and mobilizing faith leaders to stand in solidarity with workers and immigrants at Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice in Southern California. Nina's intersectional identities have informed her work as a multifaith community organizer, activist, vocalist, and songwriter. Nina lives in Southern California with her husband, Rev. Noel Andersen and their toddler, Aiyan.

Dr. Todd Green is Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College. A nationally recognized expert on Islamophobia, Green served as a Franklin Fellow at the U.S. State Department in 2016-17, where he analyzed and assessed the impact of anti-Muslim prejudice in Europe on countering violent extremism initiatives, refugee and migrant policies, and human rights. He has given lectures on Islamophobia to other federal agencies, including the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, along with media interviews to outlets such as CNN, NPR, and The

Washington Post. Green is the author of two books on Islamophobia: *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West - 2nd Edition* (Fortress Press, 2019); and *Presumed Guilty: Why We Shouldn't Ask Muslims to Condemn Terrorism* (Fortress Press, 2018).

Cassandra Lawrence works with the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign on communications and community engagement to equip and engage faith communities and people of goodwill to end Anti-Muslim bigotry. Cassandra worked with the diplomatic and mediation community identifying training gaps and designing training processes for better engagement with religious and traditional peacemakers for more sustainable peace processes. She worked with the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs on the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge International Program. She is a trained mediator, dialogue facilitator, and interfaith and racial justice community organizer. She also teaches negotiation and conflict transformation primarily to faith communities. She has a BA in Religious Studies from the University of British Columbia and a master's degree in comparative ethnic conflict from Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. In 2021 she completed a master of divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary with honors, specializing in Public Theology, and received the Excellence in Public Theology Award.

Jason Lief is Professor of Practical Theology at Northwestern College. He also works part time for the National Immigration Forum and the Evangelical Immigration Table as a Bibles, Badges, and Business mobilizer.

Salam Al-Marayati, Nationally recognized for his commitment to improving the public understanding of Islam and policies impacting American Muslims, Salam is president and co-founder of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. He oversees MPAC's groundbreaking civic engagement, public policy, and advocacy work. He is an expert on Islam in the West, Muslim reform movements, human rights, democracy, national security, and Middle East politics. He has spoken at the White House, Capitol Hill and represented the U.S. at international human rights and religious freedom conferences. His writings have appeared in every major national news publication (including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times). His interviews have been featured on national and international news outlets (including CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and C-SPAN). Because he believes that community development is essential to fully integrating Muslims within America's pluralism, Salam has facilitated hundreds of civic engagement workshops around the country—from rooms of five people to conference halls of hundreds. Salam is an adjunct faculty member at Bayan Claremont, a board member of the Muslim Reform Institute, and an advisor to several political, civic, and academic institutions seeking to understand the role of Islam and Muslims in America and throughout the world. Deeply involved in interfaith activities, Salam was co-chair of the Interfaith Coalition to Heal Los Angeles, which formed in the wake of the 1992 Los Angeles uprisings.

Meira Neggaz is the Executive Director at ISPU, where she is responsible for the institution's overall leadership, strategy, and growth. Meira works to build and strengthen ISPU, to cultivate relationships with community leaders, policymakers, scholars, partner institutions, and stakeholders, and to broaden the reach and impact of ISPU's research. Before joining ISPU, Meira served as Senior Program Officer for Marie Stopes International (MSI), a leading, UK-based organization working in 42 countries. There, she led and managed programs in multiple countries, developed partnerships with key stakeholders and partner institutions, provided technical advice, and managed key grants and donor relationships. Formerly, Meira

was the first Executive Director of WINGS in Guatemala, where she grew the organization from its infancy to become a national leader in the health sector, and the Guatemala Country Representative for Curamericas, establishing country presence and leading a USAID funded child survival project. She holds a BA from Huron University in London and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Samantha Owens is a regional director (U.S.) at Over Zero, which supports societies to resist division and create long-term resilience to identity-based conflict through trainings, strategy advising, piloting and testing new approaches, and supporting interdisciplinary research. She has extensive experience leveraging strategic communication for social change. Her experience includes developing trainings and strategic communication campaigns to prevent extremism among youth in Bosnia, art-based initiatives for conflict transformation and human rights, and communication campaigns to prevent youth homelessness in the U.S. She holds an MA in Human Rights.

Sara Rahim is Manager of National Workforce Solutions at Cara Collective, an organization that helps overlooked talent obtain, retain, and advance in 1,000 jobs each year. With field and travel experience in over 40 countries, Sara has zigzagged her way through the social sector for over eight years. She has designed and implemented social inclusion and human rights projects spanning global health, refugee/migration issues, and interfaith action. Sara is an active community builder who has addressed global platforms including the White House, the United Nations, and she has trained hundreds of young people around the world to be interfaith and intercultural leaders of social change. She is an active alumna and partner of Interfaith Youth Core (Interfaith America), having served as a Better Together Coach and Interfaith Innovation Fellow. She is an ACWAY International Program Manager and formerly VP of Open Society Foundations Executive Committee for Rights and Governance. Sara holds a Master's of Public Policy from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.

Uzma Sabir is a Washington DC native and dynamo for advocacy and activism in the DMV region. For over a decade she has helped organizations and campaigns exceed their development and outreach goals. In addition to her work in Development and Outreach for Shoulder to Shoulder, she is also the Outreach Director for the Campus Election Engagement Project, a national nonpartisan effort to engage US college populations with federal, state, and local elections. Previously, Uzma has worked on a variety of high-level event planning, political and marketing efforts domestically and internationally. In each of her roles, whether as an organizer, development consultant, educator, or engagement strategist, Uzma has drawn on her passion for mobilizing America's diverse communities in service of the greater public good. Inspired by the work of other bridge-builders in the face of new and evolving challenges, she looks forward to continuing her work at the intersection of public service and community engagement. Uzma has a Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies, with a specialization in Marketing and Advertising from George Mason University.

Corey Saylor is the Deputy Director of Strategy at ReThink Media. Corey Saylor is the Deputy Director of Strategy at ReThink. He has spent over 20 years in non-profit advocacy working on political communications, media relations and combatting anti-Islam prejudice in the United States. He has appeared on news outlets ranging from Fox News to CNN, the BBC, the New York Times and Al Jazeera. He has run successful advocacy campaigns holding major companies such as Burger King, American Express and Bell Helicopter-Boeing accountable for their corporate policies as well as combatting anti-Islam legislation nationwide and removing

biased and inaccurate materials from law enforcement counterterrorism trainings. Corey has also authored a number of reports documenting anti-Islam sentiment and civil rights issues in the United States. For instance, *Confronting Fear*, produced in partnership with staff at the University of California, Berkeley, explores the funding and impact of U.S. anti-Muslim groups. Corey has also conducted dozens of leadership, advocacy and media trainings across the United States, including speaking to audiences at NASA, Yale, Princeton, and the U.S. National War College. Saylor is an avid DC United fan. He reads entirely too many history books and often bores his family with long walks on Civil War battlefields. He is convinced one of his daughters will become President of the United States and the other will win a Nobel Prize. He just cannot decide which one and in what order.

JJ TenClay serves as the Refugee Ministries Coordinator for The Reformed Church in America Global Mission. She works with national and global partners to provide compassionate care for refugees and other people on the move or living in diaspora, and also works with individuals, congregations, communities and beyond to help them discern how God is calling them to care for the stranger, the foreigner, the sojourner, and to love our foreign born neighbors as ourselves.

Emma VanDrie works at Northwestern College and has volunteered with Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign and Al Amana Centre since 2020. While studying in the Middle East, she was introduced to interfaith dialogue. She witnessed how religion is not only a means to communicate with God but a powerful tool for connection, forgiveness and peace between human kind, drawing people together in areas of conflict. She hopes to respond to the problem of anti-Muslim bigotry and work toward understanding by encouraging dialogue and relationship with Muslim neighbors.