

Thursday, April 11th 2019

9:00am - 9:45am | Introductions & Welcome

Why are we here? How can we make a difference? Led by Shoulder to Shoulder's Executive Director, Catherine Orsborn and Erum Ikramullah, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, participants will begin to answer these questions for themselves. Presenters will offer a brief introduction into the problem of Islamophobia in the United States and how faith communities are rising to the challenging of countering anti-Muslim discrimination and violence. We'll share facts and research about the diversity of the American Muslim community and begin to explore our values and how they can help anchor our action on this issue.

9:45am - 11:00am | The Underlying Dynamics

Samantha Owens from OverZero will lead a presentation on communications & conflict, psychological underpinnings such as the psychology of fear, and share a number of trends and examples of how bias and group violence are formed, what strategies are used in these situations.

11:15am - 1:00pm | Understanding/Contextualizing Islamophobia

Participants will engage in a 'Teaching for Change' Jigsaw Activity aimed at helping people understand the complexity of Islamophobia in order to begin shaping our responses to it, followed by panel moderated by Alison Kysia, Teaching for Change and featuring Manar Waheed, ACLU; Erum Ikramullah, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding; Namira Islam, Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative

1:00pm - 2:00pm | Faith Collaboration for Change: A Lunch Conversation

How do we effectively make change, and in doing so, do no harm? Catherine Orsborn, Rev. Terrance McKinley of Sojourners, and Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, will share from their experiences on how faith communities are uniquely situated to make social change, particularly on the issue of Islamophobia.

We will include time for prayer and a brief break toward the close of the lunch session.

2:15pm - 3:30pm | Communicating to Create Change

A presentation with content from Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons of ReThink Media, Catherine Orsborn & Nina Fernando of Shoulder to Shoulder, Samantha Owens from OverZero, and Erum Ikramullah, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding who will begin with sharing the psychology of countering dangerous speech, and move into designing values-based communications based on top messaging findings and communications fundamentals & tips for public and private settings

3:30 - 3:45PM | General Fishbowl Exercise - Tips in Practice

A quick interactive exercise to practice what we learned through performing “successful” and “unsuccessful” values-based messaging

3:45pm - 4:15pm | Addressing Common Tropes

This will be an in-depth session exploring the themes of women and violence, media portrayals and coverage, pointing out trends across the board, and offering data, facts, and figures, followed by a fishbowl exercise to model what we just learned and how you might begin these conversations in your own contexts.

4:15pm - 4:45pm | Table Learning Groups

Take three minutes to write down what resonates with you and start working with values based messaging. All are encouraged to share with table and ask for feedback and guidance as they prepare their homework.

4:45pm - 5:00pm | Closing Reflections & HOMEWORK

Prayer/Break

6:00pm - 8:00pm | Dinner & Evening Session: The Role of the **Story in Creating Social Change** - Remarks by Farhan Latif of El Hibri Foundation followed by guided table conversations.

Friday, April 12th, 2019

8:30am - 9:30am | Breakfast & Introductions

9:00am - 10:00am | Strategies for Engagement and Change: A Panel Discussion

This panel will focus on some key ways people have navigated the challenges of showing up for one another and reaching beyond the interfaith choir. Usra Ghazi from America Indivisible will moderate a conversation with a few partners who have been successful in organizing on different fronts and different contexts, including “firefighting” and “tree planting”: Martin Brooks from Louisville, KY; Emily Baird-Chrisohon from Nashville, TN; Doug Kindschi from Grand Rapids, MI; David Kurtzmann from the JCRC, and Melissa Alkassir from ING Midwest.

10:00am - 11:50am | Transforming Hearts, Minds, & Actions: A 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. We’ll share out and commit to continue developing ongoing relationships and networks for future collaboration.

11:50am - 12:00pm | Closing & Next Steps: Conclusion of the Training

A closing moment to share reflections, key takeaways, next steps, and commitments. All are invited to stay for Muslim Friday Prayers with The Muslim Unity Center community.

Speaker Biographies

Arranged in alphabetical order by First Name

Alison Kysia is the project director of “Islamophobia: a people’s history teaching guide” at Teaching for Change. Previously, she designed Islamic studies and anti-Islamophobia teaching modules for adult education audiences, including religious leaders, social justice activists, and teachers. She taught U.S., world, and Islamic history in an urban community college and English language to adult immigrants. Alison holds a B.A. in Race, Class, and Gender Studies and an M.A. in History. In addition to being an educator and curriculum developer, she is also an avid potter who is creating a three-part public art installation called “Islamophobia: A dhikr in clay.”

Catherine Orsborn, Ph.D. has served as the Director of Shoulder to Shoulder since 2014. Previously, Catherine co-led the Social Justice Community at the University of Denver while working on her doctoral studies in religion, conflict and peace. She also worked as a researcher at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, examining the interactions between religion and peacebuilding in deeply divided societies. Catherine received her undergraduate degree from Asbury University in Kentucky, holds a master’s degree in Religious Studies from the University of Denver and recently earned her PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Denver. She lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and toddler, who keeps life interesting!

David Kurzmann joined the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit (JCRC) as its executive director in October 2015 after spending nearly a decade as a professional in the Chicago Jewish community. The following July, JCRC formed an innovative partnership with American Jewish Committee (AJC) to better serve the Detroit community. David now directs JCRC/AJC: A Partnership for Community Relations and Jewish Advocacy. Prior to joining JCRC/AJC, Kurzmann worked as assistant regional director of the Anti-Defamation League’s Greater Chicago/Upper Midwest Regional Office. At ADL, he coordinated and facilitated the agency’s Confronting Anti-Semitism and Words to Action programs, which empower Jewish students to address bias in their communities.

Dr. Douglas Kindschi is the founding director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute. He is also a Professor of Mathematics and Philosophy at Grand Valley State University, and was previously Dean of Sciences at GVSU for 28 years. With a unique path of starting in science and ending up in religion, Kindschi is particularly interested in the relationship between the two fields. After spending 7 months at the Cambridge Interfaith Programme in Cambridge, England, Kindschi has returned to Grand Rapids with new interfaith initiatives in the community as well as internationally.

Emily Baird-Chrisohon is originally from Alabama, and after graduating from Berry College, Emily became the Managing Director of a team building company in Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to joining the TIRRC staff in April 2018, Emily was the Regional Organizer with Religions for Peace USA and the Director of A Seat At The Table Knoxville. She holds a Master of Divinity with a certificate in Religion in the Arts and Contemporary Culture at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Emily was a 2017 New Leaders Council (NLC) Fellow and now serves on the NCL Nashville board. As the Welcoming Tennessee Coordinator, she works to foster a more positive narrative around immigration and create opportunities for local communities to better welcome their immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Erum Ikramullah is the Research Project Manager at ISPU. Previously, she worked at Child Trends as a Research Analyst on both quantitative and qualitative research studies on topics related to reproductive health, risky adolescent behavior, and fatherhood. Erum has co-authored

several academic journal articles and has presented research at the Society for Research on Adolescents and the Population Association of America. She has a BA in Sociology from the University of Maryland.

Farhan Latif - A philanthropic leader, social entrepreneur and cross sector mobilizer on minority inclusion. His work is inspired by democratic values and universal norms shared by faith traditions and his leadership has challenged global extremism and ideologically motivated hate. He is the President of the El-Hibri Foundation, focused on cross sector approaches to foster inclusion across religious and political divides. His work focuses on investing in Muslim leaders in partnership with allies to build capacity and resilience. Prior to joining the Foundation, he led the think tank Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, where his work included advising White House officials, Homeland Security and other agencies on issues around national security, enhancing religious pluralism and equity. He spent over a decade in higher education focused on inclusion of underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation students. As a social entrepreneur, he founded Strategic Inspirations, a social impact consulting firm. Farhan serves as an advisory member on the Council on Foundations Public Policy Committee and the Executive Committee of the MGP Fund that was launched at Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (d.school). As an interfaith leader, Mr. Latif worked with national and local civic organizations to promote religious understanding and inclusion.

He is also a fellow of the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute. He serves as an advisory member on both the Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council and the Leadership Committee of the ACCESS Campaign to Take on Hate. Authors Genieve Abdo and Akbar Ahmad have chronicled Farhan's journey in combating extremism and working towards inclusion in their books *Mecca and Mainstreet: Muslim Life in America After 9/11* and *Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam*. Farhan has appeared on numerous media outlets, including ABC, FOX, BBC, LA Times, New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Voice of America, Gulf Times and USA Today. Mr. Latif received an MA from Harvard University, where he completed a specialized interdisciplinary program on Social Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy and Education through graduate coursework at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Business School and Harvard Graduate School of Education. He also holds a degree in Business Management and Marketing, and completed graduate work in nonprofit management at the University of Michigan Dearborn.

Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons is the Rights and Inclusion Collaborative's Senior Media Associate at ReThink Media. He works to broaden the movement of allies speaking out against anti-Muslim bigotry, including the religious, veteran, and business communities as well as local elected officials. He's based in Louisville, Kentucky but can often be found in ReThink's Washington and Berkeley offices. Prior to joining ReThink, Guthrie worked at the National Immigration Forum from 2011 to 2015 to mobilize conservative and moderate faith, business, and law enforcement officials in support of comprehensive immigration reform. He holds a BA in International Studies from American University and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary.

Manar Waheed joined the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in March 2017. As Senior Legislative and Advocacy Counsel, she works on the intersection of issues impacting Muslim, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities, including immigration, national security and counterterrorism, and hate violence and bullying. Manar works to ensure that policies affecting these communities are consistent with the Constitution, civil liberties, and human rights. She also plays a role in developing and implementing strategic campaigns and programming within the National Political Advocacy Department with an eye towards engaging Muslim, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities. Prior to the ACLU, Manar was the Deputy Policy Director for Immigration at the White House Domestic Policy Council in the Obama Administration where

she assisted with the development of the President's strategy for building a 21st century immigration system. In addition to immigration policy, this work included addressing anti-immigrant and -refugee sentiment and protecting the rights of all people against discrimination, harassment, and hate attacks. Manar previously served as Policy Director at South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) and led their work on immigration, profiling, hate violence, and gender equity. She also worked with domestic violence survivors at Legal Services of New York City as a Senior Staff Attorney, where she provided direct services and legal representation to survivors who were primarily from immigrant communities, and the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, where she provided technical assistance on cases in which battered women were charged with crimes. Manar has co-taught a seminar on domestic violence and legal intervention, which included the impact of media on violence at Wagner College. From 2009 to 2012, she served on the board of the Muslim Bar Association of New York. Manar received her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in June of 2004 and her B.A. from Wellesley College in 1999.

Martin Brooks works as the Midwest Regional Director for Peace Catalyst International, creating safe spaces for Muslims and Christians/Westerners to become friends. He also works for Campbellsville University in Louisville, Kentucky, as an advocate for 5500 international students through immigration services and finding jobs for the students. Martin has lived in Turkish Cyprus, Mozambique, Ghana and Portugal, but has always called Louisville, Kentucky, "home."

Melissa Alkassir is a certified speaker and administrative assistant to ING Midwest. She has served ING (Islamic Network Group) since 2009 in both, Colorado and now Michigan. She has served as a full-time Islamic Studies teacher in Aurora, Colorado for many years. She holds a certificate in the Islamic Sciences from Tayseer Seminary in Knoxville, TN. Melissa is also currently a part of the Train the Trainer program at the Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim and Christian Understanding (ACMCU) which is conducted through Georgetown University. Her aim is to help improve relations between the Muslim world and the West through various educational outreach programs.

Namira Islam is a lawyer and graphic designer. She is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC), an organization which provides racial justice education and training. Namira previously practiced in poverty law in Flint, Michigan; worked in prisoners' rights litigation; and interned in international criminal law and war crimes for the United Nations in The Hague, The Netherlands. Her legal background includes research on racism, global education standards, and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

Nina M. Fernando serves as Program Director at The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, a multifaith coalition of denominations and faith-based organizations committed to dismantling anti-Muslim discrimination and violence in the United States and building a society where all are treated with dignity and respect. She joined the Shoulder to Shoulder team in August of 2017. Previously, she worked as a LankaCorps Fellow in Sri Lanka supporting research on interreligious and intercultural conflict and coexistence at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, and 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. Most recently, as a 2018 OneBeat Fellow, she joined a global network of emerging civically engaged musical leaders from around the world. Nina is the daughter of Sri Lankan immigrants which has informed her work as a activist, community organizer, vocalist, and songwriter. Nina graduated with BA in "Social Change through Music and Religious Studies" from

the University of Redlands, Johnston Center for Integrative Studies, and a MA in "Interdisciplinary Interreligious and Cultural Studies" at Claremont School of Theology.

Samantha Owens is the Trainer 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. Samantha's work has focused on using strategic communications, in particular creative multimedia, to educate and foster social change. This work has spanned the globe and included projects such as National Runaway Prevention Month, a national awareness campaign about changing narratives around youth homelessness in the United States; The Prosecutors, a full-length documentary about the prosecution of sexual violence in conflict as a war crime; and On the Margins, a photo exhibition documenting the widespread discrimination faced by Bosnia and Herzegovina's Roma community. Samantha holds a B.A. in International Studies and Religious Studies from Northwestern University and an M.A. in Human Rights from University College London, where her studies focused on the economic, social and cultural rights of ethnic and religious minorities.

Rev. Terrance M. McKinley serves as Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Director of Campaigns and Mobilizing at Sojourners. He also leads their Matthew 25 work, which is dedicated to racialized policing, immigration, and religious freedom. Rev. McKinley has a demonstrated commitment to matters related to faith and justice. He currently serves on the ministerial staff at Reid Temple AME Church where he launched the Moral Agenda Summit hosted at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and he helped design and launch the congregation's Commission on Social Action. Rev. McKinley served for 10 years as a member of the Ministerial Staff of The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York, where former congressman Rev. Dr. Floyd H. Flake serves as senior pastor and Rev. Dr. Elaine M. Flake serves as co-pastor. He was ordained in the A.M.E. Church at age 23. He is an Alum of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he earned his Bachelors Degree and holds Honors. He is also an alum of Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J., where he earned his Master of Divinity Degree. Essence Magazine recognized Rev. McKinley as a "Do Right Man" because of his work in the community beyond the walls of the church. The African American Pulpit Journal honored him alongside professors, pastors, and preachers from across the country as one of "The 20 to Watch Leaders Under 40."

Usra Ghazi has worked on religious literacy training and religion in foreign policy for over three years at the U.S. Department of State, and now serves as the director of policy and programs at America Indivisible, a social change startup. In her new capacity as director, she will be working with local, municipal, state and federal agencies to strengthen connections between them and religious minorities in the U.S. As a senior fellow at the Religious Freedom Center, she hopes to incubate and strengthen research and new initiatives related to America Indivisible with like-minded colleagues.

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 - MICHIGAN



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