

**Sunday, November 10, 2019 | 5:30pm - 9:00pm**

**5:30 - 6:00pm | Welcome & Introductions**

Brian Gerard, Senior Pastor of First Christian Church  
 Martin Brooks, Peace Catalyst International  
 Dr. M. Babar Cheema, Muslim Americans for Compassion  
 Rhoden Streeter, Interfaith Paths to Peace

**6:00 - 6:30pm | Why We're Here: Big Picture Overview & Live Poll**

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder  
 Hind Makki, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

*Dinner Served*

**6:45 - 8:45pm | The People's Supper: A Workshop**

This session will engage participants in an active demonstration of The People's Supper, one highly effective model for getting people to engage in deep conversation across difference. The workshop will also share different approaches The People's Supper team has taken in using this model to affect local community change.

K Scarry, The People's Supper

**8:45 - 9:00pm | Closing & Next Steps**

**Monday, November 11, 2019 | 9:00 - 5:00pm**

**9:00 - 9:15am | Welcome & Orientation**

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

**9:15 - 10:30am | Understanding & Contextualizing Islamophobia Jigsaw + Panel Discussion**

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 a discussion featuring:

Kristin Sekerci and Imrul Islam, Bridge Initiative at Georgetown (*joined live by video conference*)

**10:30 - 12:30pm | Messaging & Communicating to Create Change**

This core Faith Over Fear workshop block features content from the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) ReThink Media, OverZero, and Shoulder to Shoulder. It will begin with a discussion of the underlying dynamics, the psychology of fear, and trends and patterns of countering dangerous speech, then move into designing values-based communications based on top messaging findings and communications fundamentals & tips for public and private settings.

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder  
 Hind Makki, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding  
 Samantha Owens, OverZero  
 Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, ReThink Media

### **12:30 - 1:00pm | News Values & Media Communications Tips**

ReThink Media enables leaders to better engage in the public square around issues related to religious diversity and pluralism and with messages that counter religious discrimination, including anti-Muslim bias and Islamophobia. Greater media competency is necessary to move divisive and hateful rhetoric towards conversations fostering justice and peace.

Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, ReThink Media

### **1:00 - 2:15pm | Lunch & Learning Groups**

This is a moment to put the messaging and communications strategies into practice. 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.

### **2:15 - 3:30pm | Strategies for Engagement & Change 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”:

Bethy Butler, Faith and Culture Center, Nashville, TN

Michelle Koch, Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee

John Morehead, Evangelical Chapter of the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy

Dr. M. Babar Cheema, Muslim Americans for Compassion

Martin Brooks, Peace Catalyst International

moderated by Usra Ghazi of America Indivisible

### **3:30 - 3:35pm | Break**

### **3:35 - 4:30pm | Translating Allyship into Civic Action**

According to the National Conference on Citizenship, "civic health" is the manner in which communities organize to define and address public problems; and according to the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, Muslims were reported to be in the least amount of direct contact with local officials than any other faith community. In the last year, only 20% of Muslims contacted their locally elected representatives while Protestants were the highest-ranked at 39%. How can faith leaders help? "Translating Allyship into Civic Action" aims to show how interfaith allies can work alongside their Muslim neighbors to improve the civic health of those impacted by Islamophobia and anti-Muslim discrimination.

Lida Asim & Usra Ghazi, America Indivisible

### **4:30pm - 5:00pm | Developing your Strategy & Next Steps**

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. We will close and reflect on the training, while engaging in conversation with other partners active in this field of work in various ways.

## **Speaker Biographies**

*Arranged in alphabetical order by Last Name*

**Lida Azim** is a product of the Bay Area in Northern California and received a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History from San Jose State University. In 2016, Lida co-founded the Afghan Diaspora for Equality and Progress (ADEP), an all-volunteer grassroots non-profit with the mission of organizing and empowering the next generation of Afghan-Americans. Lida recently received her master's degree in Intercultural and International Communications from American University's School of International Service. She currently serves as the Communication Chair of the Afghan-American Conference and Program Coordinator at America Indivisible.

**Bethy Butler** is the Director of Community Engagement at the Faith and Culture Center in Nashville, Tennessee. FCC's mission is to cultivate and foster relationships across lines that typically divide us: faith, race, culture, and ethnicity. Bethy oversees FCC's A Seat at the Table program, which works to build communities by helping people get to know their Muslim neighbors. Outside of FCC, Bethy is a professor of writing and rhetoric at Lipscomb University and President of the Board for Emmaus House Haiti.

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."

**Muhammad Babar** is a physician who practice internal medicine and geriatric medicine. He is a local interfaith and peace advocate who strives to bring people together by breaking down man made barriers. He is also president of the Muslim Americans for Compassion and a board member of the Center for Interfaith Relations, Fund for the Arts, Louisville Public Media, Louisville Downtown Rotary Club, Metro united way and member of board of governors Speed Art Museum

**Nina M. Fernando** serves as Program Director at The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, a multifaith coalition of religious denominations and faith-based organizations committed to countering 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 with The Asia Foundation 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 comes from a Sri Lankan family and was raised in the Catholic tradition. Nina also regularly performs as a vocalist and songwriter, and lives with her husband in Washington, D.C. 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.

**Brian Gerard** started his ministry at First Christian Church of Louisville in September of 2002. He has previously served churches in Oklahoma, Connecticut, and Alabama. Brian graduated from Yale University Divinity School in 1997 where he met his wife Carrie, who is also an ordained Disciple minister. While at Yale, Brian was awarded prizes recognizing his promise for church leadership and outstanding preaching. Shortly after his arrival in Louisville, he was chosen as a Lewis Fellow, which recognizes the nation's leading young pastors. Brian has published one book

entitled, *Common Passages: Devotions for Seminarians by Seminarians*, and has written curriculum for our denomination and at Louisville's First Christian.

**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.

**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.

**Imrul Islam** is the Digital Communications & Multimedia Manager at The Bridge Initiative. Imrul graduated from Vassar College with degrees in Political Science and Psychology, and comes to Bridge with a deep commitment to social and racial justice. He has previously led communications efforts at Teach For Bangladesh (TFB), and more recently at SAALT, D.C. An avid photographer, Imrul's photos have been published and exhibited widely, and he is a recipient of the Burnam Fellowship, June Ross Marks Grant, and College Photographer of the Year, among others. His research focuses on refugee crises and minority rights in South Asia.

**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.

**Hind Makki** is an interfaith and anti-racism educator who holds a degree in International Relations from Brown University. She is an Educator with the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) and is the founder and curator of Side Entrance, an award-winning website documenting women's prayer experiences in mosques around the world. In 2018, Hind was recognized as one of CNN's 25 Influential American Muslims and her work has been featured in a variety of national and international media. She has served on the Islamic Society of North America's Mosque Inclusion Taskforce and is a former Fellow of the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute. Hind is an advisor to the ISPU project Reimagining Muslim Spaces, and currently offers consultations, lectures, and workshops on building inclusive Muslim spaces in Western Europe and the United States. Locally, Hind serves on the advisory boards of the Br.

Jeffrey Gros, FSC Institute for Dialogue, Justice, and Social Action at Lewis University and the Chicago History Museum's exhibit "American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago."

**John W. Morehead** is the Director of the Evangelical Chapter of the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy ([www.EvangelicalFRD.org](http://www.EvangelicalFRD.org)). He is pursuing a supplemental grant from the Louisville Institute as a part of the Multi-faith Matters team (<https://multifaithmatters.org>) looking at strategic storytelling and social psychology as tools for creating a new narrative in evangelicalism regarding multi-faith engagement. Along with Brandon Benziger, he is the co-editor and contributor to a volume on the significance of emotion and orthopathy in multi-faith engagement (Pickwick forthcoming).

**Michelle Koch** is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee. She studied music theory and audio engineering at Hunter College, the Aaron Copland School of Music, and the Institute of Audio Research. After more than a decade as a music teacher, she co-founded the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee and co-led the organization's exponential growth. Michelle focuses her efforts on expanding programs and community outreach, creating volunteer opportunities, and speaking at events throughout NYC. She is a passionate believer in the power of active listening, dialogue, and personal relationship building to bring massive sustainable social change. Her current work focuses on the MJSC initiatives Love Your Neighbor, Compassionate Conversations, and Interfaith Space. Michelle is a We Are All New York fellowship alumni, and serves on the board of International Human Rights Arts festival.

**K Scarry** has always been enamored with the life that can be shared around the table, and the way those spaces invite us to be fully human together. Driven by a conviction that people should have consistent space where they are welcomed in, K launched an open community meal in her hometown a few years ago that continues today. Before joining our team, she worked in a number of non-profit organizations exploring different manifestations of community: with women coming out of sex trafficking, in a fraternity house, as an associate pastor, and as a chaplain in a maximum security women's prison. She's currently finishing up her Masters of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary. As you read this, she's likely either journaling or doing the Cupid Shuffle — her two all-time favorite things.

**Kristin Garrity Şekerçi** (she/hers) received her Master's degree from American University in Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs. Kristin's current research centers on Islamophobia in the U.S. with a focus on Islamophobia as a product of foundational white supremacy; the expansion of countering violent extremism (CVE) programs and their impact on marginalized communities; and the Islamophobia "network" or "industry." Her research and analysis on Islamophobia has been published or featured in Al Jazeera, Middle East Eye, London School of Economics Blog, Huffington Post, and on Baltimore's WYPR.

**Rhoden Streeter** created Human-Kind Productions in 2008 to further his commitment to make the world a better place. Rhody has an eclectic but extensive media background. "Imported" to Louisville in the late 1970's to do television documentaries, he is one of Kentucky's few Peabody award winners. Over a sixty year span (he worked as a gopher on his first film at the ripe age of ten), he has taught film at MIT, shot for the BBC, played a monster in a horror film, was a child actor on television and Broadway and worked on documentaries in all capacities from electrician to director. He is presently sharing his energy and insight with the Peace Education Program, Sowers of Justice Network, Interfaith Paths to Peace and Compassionate Louisville so you can see why he says if the organization has "peace" or "justice" in the title he is "all in."

## 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](http://www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/trainings)*

## FAITH OVER FEAR - LOUISVILLE



Special thanks to the **First Christian Church of Louisville**, **Peace Catalyst International**, **Muslim Americans for Compassion**, and **Interfaith Paths to Peace** for co-sponsoring and to leaders and partners (in order of appearance) from **The Institute for Social Policy & Understanding**, **The People's Supper**, **Teaching for Change**, **The Bridge Initiative at Georgetown**, **ReThink Media**, **OverZero**, **The Faith & Culture Center in Nashville**, **Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee**, **Peace Catalyst**, **Muslim Americans for Compassion** and **America Indivisible** for their involvement in this training.