



Schedule Overview

December 2, 2019 | Faith Over Fear - Charleston

8:00am - 9:00am | Registration & Welcome Breakfast

Rabbi Victor Urecki, Marilyn Urecki, and Rabbi Joe Blair

9:00am - 9:30am | Introduction & Live Poll

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

Afraz Khan, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

9:30am - 10:30am | Understanding/Contextualizing Islamophobia Jigsaw

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.

10:30am - 10:40am | Break

10:40am - 12:40pm | 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.

Samantha Owens, OverZero

Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, ReThink Media

12:40pm - 1:00pm | Applying the Guidelines

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.

1:00pm - 2:15pm | Lunch & Continued Discussion

2:15pm - 3:15pm | Allyship: A Deep Dive

This Allyship session, led by Whitney Parnell of Service Never Sleeps, will help equip participants with the tools 1) to be an active ally for social justice and marginalized communities, particularly to those impacted by racism, anti-Muslim discrimination, and Islamophobia, 2) to actively influence and educate others, and 3) to constantly work on oneself to be a part of the solution in a climate of hate, injustice, and division. Participants will leave this intensive fast-paced training feeling committed to the Allyship lifestyle and prepared to join the movement of working tirelessly towards a socially just world.

Whitney Parnell, Service Never Sleeps

3:15pm - 4:00pm | 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 Azim, America Indivisible

4:00pm - 5:00pm | 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. Lida Azim 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, Peace Catalyst International

Joseph Cohen, American Civil Liberties Union - West Virginia (ACLU-WV)

Greg Davis, Interfaith March for Peace & Justice

Afraz Khan, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)

Sara Trumm, Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (CCME-LSTC)

5:00pm - 5:05pm | Break

5:05pm - 5:30pm | 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

5:30pm - 6:00pm | 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.

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 5,500 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."

Joseph Cohen is the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union - West Virginia (ACLU-WV). Prior to joining the ACLU, Joseph was the General Counsel of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), where he coordinated the union's legal activities nationwide and advised the union's leadership and staff on organizing, negotiation and representation strategy. Before working for UE, Joseph represented public housing tenants associations and individuals facing housing crises as an Equal Justice Works Fellow and Staff Attorney at Florida Rural Legal Services. Joseph graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and summa cum laude from Washington and Jefferson College, where he was valedictorian. Joseph lives in Charleston with his wife, two young sons and a moody cat.

Greg Davis teaches middle school English in Columbus, OH where he is also actively involved with interfaith organizing. In spring of 2017 he initiated an event called the Interfaith March for Peace & Justice to publicly re-assert the basic principles of religious liberty and equal justice for all. In 2018 and 2019 this event spread to other locations around the country and the world. Greg is concerned about recent increases in hate crimes and hate speech; he is also inspired by individuals and communities who take positive action to promote diversity and the dignity of every human being.

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. Prior to this, she worked as a LankaCorps Fellow with The Asia Foundation at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka, a Faith-Rooted Organizer with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice in Southern California, and most recently, a 2018 OneBeat Fellow. In addition to her work at Shoulder to Shoulder, Nina regularly performs as a vocalist and songwriter. She 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.

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.

Afraz Khan works for the American Civil Liberties Union in the Racial Justice Program as a member of their legal support staff. Previously, Afraz served as a community liaison at the Manhattan Borough President's Office, where he worked alongside elected officials and community boards to develop reforms on local issues, such as affordable housing and access to mental health resources. Afraz currently serves part-time as a Religious Life Adviser at Columbia University, where he works with university staff to build out programming and resources for the Muslim community. He also travels across the tri-state area delivering speeches and facilitating workshops for various organizations and schools on topics such as institutionalized racism, Islamophobia, and the American Muslim experience.

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.

Whitney Parnell is a Black millennial activist, singer, and the Founder and CEO of Service Never Sleeps, a nonprofit that empowers individuals and communities to catalyze social justice through service and Allyship. Her movement work involves equipping effective allies through truth-telling, bridgebuilding, empathy, and action. She grew up between Latin America and West Africa as a Foreign Service child. At Washington University in St. Louis, Whitney doubled majored in English and Spanish, and minored in Communications and Journalism, during which she also embraced her calling as an

activist. Whitney's passion for service and social justice brought her to Washington, DC after college to serve with City Year, and then work in homeless services, before founding Service Never Sleeps in 2015. Whitney is also a musician, and is releasing a social justice album called "What Will You Do," with the goal of using empathy through song to ignite action.

Sara Trumm was appointed director of A Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice (CCME) earlier this year. CCME, located at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, fosters and deepens relations between Christians and Muslims as a significant part of its larger purpose of building bridges of mutual understanding, respect and cooperation among people of all faiths. She has served as the center's program coordinator since 2008. Before joining CCME, Sara served at the Henry Martyn Institute in Hyderabad, India, and at the Global Mission Institute at Luther Seminary. She has traveled and studied in Egypt, East and West Africa, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In 2010, Sara became a Community Ambassador through Interfaith Youth Core, and in 2015 started her work as a Qualified Administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory.

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 – CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Special thanks to the Rabbi Victor Urecki, Marilyn Urecki, and Rabbi Joe Blair for hosting this training at **Temple Israel** and to leaders and partners (in order of appearance) from **Teaching for Change**, **The Institute for Social Policy & Understanding**, **ReThink Media**, **OverZero**, **Service Never Sleeps**, **America Indivisible**, the **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU-WV)**, the **Center of Christian Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice** at the **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago**, **Peace Catalyst International**, and **Interfaith Unity Walk** for their involvement in this training.