

Schedule Overview

February 18-19, 2020 | Faith Over Fear – Hickory, NC
Lenoir-Rhyne University, Cromer Banquet Room

Tuesday, February 18 | 9:00am - 12:00pm **Understanding Anti-Muslim Bigotry**

What is Anti-Muslim bigotry and who does it impact? Why does this matter and whose responsibility is it anyway? During this interactive Faith Over Fear training session, which will include an anonymous live poll, 'Teaching for Change' Jigsaw Activity, along with presentations and reflections from Shoulder to Shoulder, the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), and other key partners, participants will begin to explore the complexity of the issue in order to begin shaping effective responses to it.

9:00 - 9:45 am | Introduction & Brief Orientation

Dr. Mindy Makant, Lenoir Rhyne University Living Well Center for Vocation and Purpose
Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

Why We're Here: A Christian, Jewish & Muslim Perspective

Aneelah Afzali, Muslim Association of Puget Sound - American Muslim Empowerment Network; Rev. Terrance McKinley, Sojourners; and Rabbi Alana Suskin, Pomegranate Initiative

9:45 - 10:15 am | Live Poll & Who are American Muslims?

Meira Neggaz, ISPU

10:15 - 11:45 am | What is Islamophobia & Anti-Muslim Discrimination?

Alison Kysia, Teaching for Change

11:45 am - 12:00 pm | Wrap up and Preview Next Steps

Tuesday, Feb 18 | 1:00pm-4:00pm **Communications & Messaging for Change**

This core "Faith Over Fear" training workshop block features content from 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. This will also include opportunities to put the messaging and communications strategies into practice. Throughout, participants will learn how to effectively respond to the most common myths and misperceptions about Islam and Muslims.

1:00 - 3:00pm | Communications & Messaging for Change

Samantha Owens, OverZero
Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

3:00 - 4:00pm | Addressing Common Tropes & Applying the Guidelines

Aneelah Afzali, Muslim Association of Puget Sound - American Muslim Empowerment Network, Pastor Terry Kyлло, Neighbors in Faith

Wednesday, Feb. 19 | 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Strategies for Engagement & Change

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. This session will also feature a panel presentation that will focus on some key ways people have navigated the challenges of showing up for one another and reaching beyond the interfaith choir. We'll hear how partners have been successful in organizing on different fronts and different contexts, including "firefighting" and "tree planting" approaches. Participants will work together to develop their strategies for addressing anti-Muslim bias and discrimination in their own contexts. Participants will leave with clear next steps on the path to building a society where all people, no matter their faith or background, are treated respectfully, fairly, and with dignity.

1:00 - 1:30pm | Welcome & Review

Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

1:30 - 2:30pm | Strategies for Engagement & Change: A Panel Discussion

Kevin Singer, Neighborly Faith
Rabbi Alana Suskin + Hamza Khan, Pomegranate Initiative
Christy Lohr Sapp, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
Alden Groves, One America
Moderated by Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

2:30 - 3:45 pm | Developing Your Strategy Workshop

Samantha Owens, OverZero
Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

3:45pm - 4:00pm | Closing & Next Steps

Please don't forget to fill out your program evaluations.

Speaker Biographies

Arranged in alphabetical order by Last Name

Aneelah Afzali is the Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS). A leader of MAPS' interfaith outreach, Aneelah has become a dynamic and inspiring spokesperson in local ecumenical networking, and instrumental in changing the narrative and public perceptions concerning Muslim women. In 2017 she was named among the Most Influential Seattleites of 2017 by Seattle Magazine. Aneelah Afzali has been instrumental in changing the narrative about American Muslims and public perceptions around women in Islam. As Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound, she spearheads MAPS' efforts in local ecumenical networking. Aneelah offers a dynamic and inspiring refutation to Islamophobia and the politics of divisiveness. An attorney and graduate of Harvard Law School, she co-founded the Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington and received the Washington State Bar Association's Excellence in Diversity award. In 2017 Aneelah was named among the Most Influential Seattleites of 2017 by Seattle Magazine. In 2018 Aneelah received the CAIR Muslim American of the Year award.

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.

Alden Groves is the Regional Coordinator of Virginia for the One America Movement, an organization that combats toxic polarization by bringing divided groups -- most often faith groups -- together across their divides to take action together in their communities. Before joining One America, Alden worked for an evangelical christian campus ministry in South Carolina for several years. He now lives in Charlottesville, VA and moved there on the weekend of the white supremacist rally of 2017. The events of 8/12/17 helped spur him to get involved with One America's work, and One America Charlottesville has been the flagstaff One America chapter in the state.

Hamza Khan is the founder of The Pluralism Project, an organization working to empower everyday Americans hailing from diverse narratives in our political process. He has previously consulted with members of Congress & the US Senate on outreach strategies to immigrant populations & minority voters, as well as worked as a field operative, campaign manager and communications consultant to national political organizations & for candidates at the local, state, and federal levels. Hamza was presented with the The Rising Star Award by POLITICO magazine & The Living Classrooms foundation in 2017. He was previously awarded a citation by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley for his decade-long work to improve relations between Muslims & Jews in Maryland. He is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity.

The Rev. Terry Kylo is a Lutheran pastor serving as the director of Neighbors in Faith. He began this work part-time in September of 2016 and full-time in September Of 2017. A graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, he has been a pastor since 1991 and has served in partnership between Episcopalians and Lutherans since 2004. He is the author of two books, Being Human and Apprenticeship. Terry was the recipient of the Faith Action Network Interfaith Leadership Award in 2016, the Interfaith Leadership Award from the Muslim Association of Puget Sound in 2017, the Sultan and Saint Peace award in 2017, and the Muslim Association of Puget Sound 2018 "Inbound

Good” award for a non-Muslim who benefitted the Muslim Community.

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.”

Dr. Mindy Makant serves as an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Youth and Family Ministry for Lenoir-Rhyne’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences. She is also co-chair of the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan committee. Dr. Makant is actively involved with the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and is currently serving on the planning committee for commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. She also serves the ELCA on a national level, sitting on the steering committee for the Association of Teaching Theologians and regularly contributing to the Practice Discipleship curriculum. Dr. Makant holds four degrees including a Doctor of Theology in Theological Ethics from Duke Divinity School in Durham, a Master of Education in Theology from Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, a Master of Education from the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, and a Bachelor of Arts from Mercer University in Macon, GA. Makant resides in Hildebran with her husband, an ELCA pastor. They have two children, a daughter and a son, who are students at LRU.

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.”

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, policy makers, 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.

Catherine Orsborn has served as the Executive 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, son, and daughter.

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.

Christy Lohr Sapp currently serves as the pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Hickory, NC and has been engaged in interfaith dialogue and relationship-building for many years and in many contexts. She has participated in interfaith conversations in the World Council of Churches, the North American Interfaith Network, and various international interfaith organizations where she has served on staff and as a board member. As the Associate Dean for Religious Life at Duke University, she worked to build spaces where non-Christian students could thrive. Her doctoral research focused on articulation of a specifically Lutheran apologetic for building interfaith relationships.

Kevin Singer is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Neighborly Faith, an organization helping evangelical Christians to be good neighbors to people of other faiths. Neighborly Faith runs a fellows program that provides training and funding to college students to bring evangelicals and Muslims together, and they are also hosting conferences at evangelical Christian colleges around the nation. Kevin was born and raised at the intersection of his mother's Evangelical faith and his father's Reformed Jewish roots. He holds degrees from N. Illinois University (BA, Media), Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MA, Theology) and Wheaton College (MA, Theology). Kevin is currently completing a PhD in Higher Education at NC State, where he is a Research Associate for the IDEALS project, a national study of how religious diversity on campus is affecting students.

Rabbi Alana Suskin is an educator, activist, and writer. Ordained as a rabbi by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in California, she also holds BAs in Philosophy and Russian Linguistics, an MA in Philosophy and a graduate certificate in Women's Studies, and is a popular speaker and teacher around the country. She is a senior editor of the progressive blog Jewschool.com, called "The most important thing happening online in the Jewish community today," by noted Jewish sociologists Ari Kelman & Steven M. Cohen. Rabbi Suskin served as Assistant Rabbi at Adas Israel in Washington DC, the first synagogue in the USA to be addressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and as Director of Lifelong Learning at Shaare Torah in Gaithersburg, MD. She then was called to work for peace and justice between Israelis and Palestinians with the two-state policy organization Americans for Peace Now. After nearly ten years at APN, as an outgrowth of her justice, peace-building, and interfaith efforts, she has recently co-founded the Pomegranate Initiative, which sends a pair of Muslim and Jewish religious leaders to churches in areas with small numbers of Jews and/or Muslims, to educate, be in dialogue with, and build relationships across faith traditions to fight Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, and to increase understanding and friendship in the USA. She has served on the boards of T'ruah, Jews United for Justice, and Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and is a founding fellow of Rabbis Without Borders.

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 – HICKORY, NC



Special thanks to the Lenoir-Rhyne University Living Well Center for Vocation and Purpose for co-sponsoring and to leaders and partners (in order of appearance) from **The Institute for Social Policy & Understanding**, **Teaching for Change**, **OverZero**, **ReThink Media**, **Neighbors in Faith**, **The American Muslim Empowerment Network at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound**, **The Pomegranate Initiative**, **Neighborly Faith**, **St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**, **One America**, and **the Lenoir Rhyne University Living Well Center for Vocation and Purpose** for their involvement in this training.