

Thursday, August 29, 2019

9:00am - 9:30am | Registration and Breakfast

9:30am - 10:00am | Welcome, Introductions and Orientation

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

10:00am - 10:45am | Understanding/Contextualizing Islamophobia

Participants will engage in a 'Teaching for Change'-style Gallery Walk aimed at helping people understand the complexity of Islamophobia in order to begin shaping our responses to it.

[15 minute break]

11:00am - 1:00pm | Allyship: A Deep Dive *(see Appendix 1, page 24 – 25)*

This Allyship session, facilitated by 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.

1:00pm - 2:00 pm | Lunch

Lightly guided table conversations over lunch, with time set aside for Muslim prayers around 1:26 pm

2:00 pm - 4:15pm | Messaging and Communicating to Create Change

This is a core Faith Over Fear workshop block, which includes content from Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons of ReThink Media, Nina Fernando of Shoulder to Shoulder, and Samantha Owens from OverZero. It will begin with a discussion of the psychology of fear and countering dangerous speech, and move into designing values-based communications based on top messaging findings and communications fundamentals & tips for public and private settings. Additionally, this content block will include interactive opportunities to put the messaging and communications strategies into practice.

[15 minute break]

4:30pm - 6:00pm | Obstacle Course

This session is led by Jamil Khoury of Silk Road Rising. Set in Naperville, Illinois, Obstacle Course explores reactions to a proposed Islamic Community Center on the site of a beloved landmark. Allyship, municipal politics, and Islamophobia all intersect in this head-on collision between Not in My Backyard fear mongering, well-intentioned

liberalism, and the peaceful practice of faith. Obstacle Course was adapted from Jamil Khoury's full-length stage play Mosque Alert.

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

Friday, August 30, 2019

9:00am - 9:15am | Breakfast & Review

Led by Nina Fernando

9:15am - 10:30am | 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":

Matthew Kaemingk (Fuller Theological Seminary- Texas)

Rev. Gregory Han (Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston)

Rabbi Marisa James (Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, NYC)

Mustafaa Carroll (Houston Coalition Against Hate/CAIR)

Shariq Ghani (Minaret Foundation)

Naomi Ludeman Smith, D. Min (South Dakota Voices for Peace)

10:30am - 12:00pm | 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.

12:00pm - 1:00pm | Lunch and Closing Conversation

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

Petra Alsoofy is the Outreach & Partnerships Manager at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), where she strengthens our valued partnerships and forges new ones with organizations who share our goal of empowering American Muslims. She joins ISPU after serving more than four years as an educator at the Arab American National Museum, where she worked with educators, students, and professionals. In her role at the museum, Petra educated visitors about the history and the contributions of Arab Americans as well as stereotypes and challenges they face. She also serves as a board member on the Michigan Council for History Education. Petra is a graduate of Grand Valley State University where she earned a BA in political science.

Mustafaa Carroll is the former executive director of the Houston Texas Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations, the United States largest Muslim grassroots civil rights and advocacy group with over 30 offices nationwide. Prior to Carroll's arrival to the Houston office, he served on the CAIR-TX DFW board from and the Executive Committee as Board President. He was appointed executive director at CAIR-TX, Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter and served as immediate past Board President until his arrival at the CAIR-TX, Houston office. He has volunteered regularly for Rotary International's Camp Enterprise, the ExCel Ex-Offenders Feed –the- Homeless program, Citizens for Peace and Justice, and a host of other community activities. Carroll has served on several boards including the Shura of the North Texas Islamic Council (NTIC), Masjid Al-Islam, Dallas, the Dallas ACLU Board; the Islamic Medieval Studies Group (IMSG), the Make-A-Wish foundation of North Texas, the National bone Marrow's Committee entitled African Americans Uniting for Life (AAUL), the advisory committee of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and he was a founding member and Chair of Humanitarian Day-DFW Event for 5 years. Carroll currently serves on the CAIR-Houston Board, the Board of directors for Masjid At-Tawhid, the board of the Coalition Of Community Organizations (COCO), the Board of Directors for New Star Kafala, a Muslim adoption and child advocacy agency based New York (USA), and the board of the Houston, Texas chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Carroll was the recipient of the Houston Peace and Justice Center's "2013 Peace-maker of the Year Award", the 2017 CAIR National Leadership Award, and the AnNisa Hope Center 2018 Civil and Human Rights Leader Award, and the 2019 CAIR National Leadership and Service Award. Under Carroll's leadership, CAIR-TX co-founded and/or joined several coalitions. Sample coalitions include: the Civil Rights Coalition-Houston; Project Harmony – coordinating council working towards ending gender based violence in the South Asian and Middle-Eastern communities in Houston; "Beloved Community" coalition: to actualize Dr. King's vision for America; Partnered with the "Wage Theft Campaign"; the "Justice for Janitors Campaign"; National Muslim Youth Coalition; Greater Houston Coalition for Justice; Interfaith Ministries Women's Committee; the Texas Coalition for Racial Justice; the Healthcare is Human Right Coalition and the C.L.E.A.R Justice interfaith activists campaign for socio-economic justice in the fifth ward.

Nina M. Fernando has served at Shoulder to Shoulder since 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. Nina received her BA in "Social Change through Music and Religious Studies" from the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies at the University of Redlands, and her MA in "Interdisciplinary Interreligious and Cultural Studies" from Claremont School of Theology. In addition to her work at Shoulder to Shoulder, Nina performs as a vocalist and songwriter in Washington, D.C.

Shariq Abdul Ghani is the Director of Minaret Foundation, an organization focused on building relationships through interfaith, policy, and media engagement. For the past 10 years, Shariq has regularly spoken at faith centers, conferences, and educational institutions on topics ranging from American Muslim identity to faith-based activism and spirituality. Previously, he co-founded Houston Leadership Academy, an organization geared towards the development of young Muslims into leadership and activist roles. Shariq's passion is finding intersections between communities for collaboration and mutual growth.

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.

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.

The Rev. Gregory Han is a “half-Asian, Midwestern-raised, Jesuit-educated, Harvard-trained, Texas-residing, Presbyterian Minister.” For the past 20 years, Rev. Han has built a career at the intersection of religion, education, culture, and dialogue. Since moving to Houston in 1998, Greg worked for a year as a hospital chaplain before spending eight years pastoring Presbyterian congregations. For six years he was on the faculty at St. John’s School where he taught electives in the study of religion, English courses at the 9th and 12th level, and directed the chapel program. Since summer 2014 he has directed the interfaith and interreligious dialogue, education, and engagement efforts at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston as Director of Interfaith Relations. He speaks and teaches regularly across the greater Houston area. He holds degrees from Georgetown University and Harvard Divinity School.

Rabbi Marisa Elana James is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and a long-time member of the CBST community. Before rabbinical school, Marisa was a college English teacher, competitive ballroom dancer, insurance broker, student pilot, bookstore manager, and professional Torah reader. As a teenager growing up in Connecticut, she was a co-founder of her high school’s GSA, the second to be founded in the state. While living in Jerusalem for more than five years, Marisa worked for Encounter Programs, taught Introduction to Judaism classes in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, studied at a wide variety of schools (including Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, secular, and non-Jewish settings), and helped create and lead the rabbinical student program for T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, where she most recently worked. Marisa has also taught English at the University of Connecticut and Rutgers, and acted as cantor for communities in Israel and America. Marisa and her wife, contrabassoonist and translator Barbara Ann Schmutzler, live in New York City.

Matthew Kaemingk is assistant professor of Christian ethics at Fuller Seminary, associate dean for Fuller Texas, and a scholar-in-residence for the Max De Pree Center for Christian Leadership. Matthew also serves as a fellow for the Center for Public Justice. His research and teaching focus on Islam and political ethics, faith and the workplace, theology and culture, and Reformed public theology. His book on Christian political ethics entitled *Christian Hospitality and Muslim Immigration in an Age of Fear* was published by Eerdmans in 2018. From 2013 to 2017 Dr. Kaemingk served as executive director of the Fuller Institute for Theology and Northwest Culture in Seattle, Washington. Founding the institute in 2013, he helped to launch three innovative theological initiatives with the help of two major grants from the Murdock Charitable Trust. These new initiatives were designed to equip regional churches to engage the arts, marketplace, and culture of the Pacific Northwest. Kaemingk earned his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and holds doctoral degrees in Systematic Theology from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam and in Christian Ethics from Fuller Theological Seminary. In 2011 he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to go to Amsterdam to study political theology and the European conflict over Muslim immigration. An ordained minister in the Christian Reformed Church, Kaemingk lives in Houston with his wife, Heather, and their three sons, Calvin, Kees, and Caedmon.

Jamil Khoury is the Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Rising. Promoting playwrights of Silk Road backgrounds (Asian and Middle Eastern) is a passion that dovetails well with Khoury’s experiences living in the Middle East and his eleven years as a cross-cultural trainer and international relocations consultant. A theatre producer, playwright, essayist, and filmmaker, Khoury’s work focuses on Middle Eastern themes and questions of Diaspora. He is particularly interested in the intersections of culture, national identity,

and citizenship, as well as our nation's ever-evolving notions of Americanness.

Rev. Dr. Naomi Ludeman Smith's personal vision statement is to have an impact for peace and to be a champion for human dignity of all people. She serves as board of directors chair for South Dakota Voices for Peace and South Dakota Voices for Justice. The two are sister organizations working together on grassroots empowerment to building strategic allyship as well as countering top down legislated hate and fear-mongering against Muslims, immigrants and refugees in South Dakota. Ludeman Smith's career focus has been as a professor of Intercultural Studies, director of culture and language institutes and conferences, and designing cross-cultural experiential programs for transformative intercultural development. Currently she is the principal of Impact Leadership Consulting Group, designing and delivering intercultural training and coaching to a range of organizations. She also serves as an Avera Health System chaplain to people of all faiths who are in a health crisis.

Jenan Mohajir, Senior Director of Leadership, oversees the overall strategy, development and implementation of the Interfaith Leadership Institutes (ILIs). Jenan received her B.S. from DePaul University in elementary education and Islamic studies. Over the last decade, she has led skills-based trainings on interfaith service and cooperation here in the United States and around the world. Jenan spends her time designing IFYC's interfaith leadership curriculum and managing the 'look and feel' of the ILIs, spearheading what has become a truly holistic interfaith leadership experience at the institutes. In her personal life, Jenan also serves on the steering committee for the Hyde Park Muslim Family Circle, which fosters the social and spiritual growth of Muslim families and individuals within the robust cultural setting of Hyde Park, Chicago. On weekends, Jenan enjoys spending time with her family and playing 'chef' with her rambunctious toddler. Jenan is a committed Muslim, and is deeply inspired by the Quran and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad to build a world where we can live together in equal dignity and mutual harmony.

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.

Kevin Singer 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 has extensive teaching and leadership experience in both churches and colleges. He planted two churches with the Southern Baptist Convention (2009-2014) and teaches world religion at two community colleges in Illinois (2012-present). 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.

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.

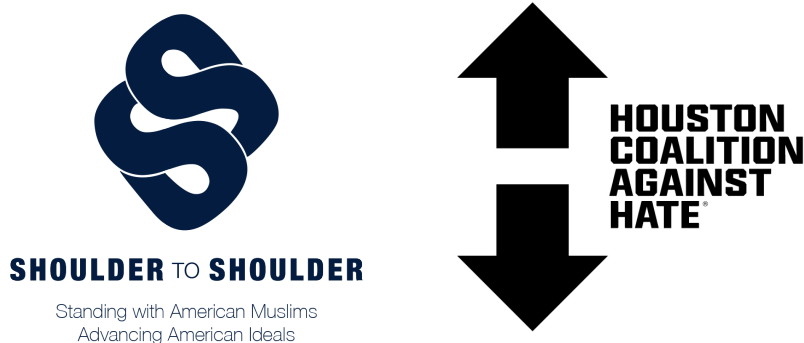
The approach, which centers on positive, aspirational, and values-based messaging to correct a narrative of fear and divisiveness, was originally developed collaboratively by Shoulder to Shoulder, the Muslim Association of Puget Sound- American Muslim Empowerment Network, Neighbors in Faith, and CAIR-Washington. 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 - HOUSTON



Special thanks to the **Houston Coalition Against Hate** for co-sponsoring and to partners (in order of appearance) from **Teaching for Change**, **Service Never Sleeps**, **Silk Road Rising**, **Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston**, **Minaret Foundation**, **Fuller Theological Seminary – Houston**, **CAIR**, **South Dakota Voices for Peace**, **Congregation Beit Simchat Torah**, **Neighborly Faith**, **Interfaith Youth Core**, and **America Indivisible** for their involvement in this training.