



Interfaith Response to Islamophobia

Wardah Khalid

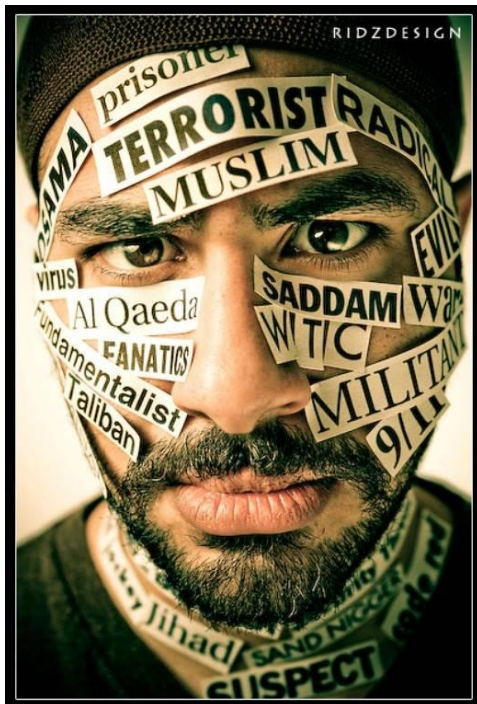
Church World Service, IRP

Catherine Orsborn

Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign

What is Islamophobia?

- A dislike or prejudice against Islam or Muslims, especially as a political force



TruthAboutQuran.org

**Soon shall We cast
terror into the hearts
of the Unbelievers.**

(Quran 3:151)

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The Islamophobia megaphone

How a tight network of anti-Muslim, anti-Islam foundations, misinformation experts, validators, grass roots organizations, religious right groups, and their allies in the media and in politics profoundly misrepresent Islam and American Muslims in the United States



The Islamophobia echo chamber

The religious right

Pat Robertson
John Hagee
Ralph Reed
Franklin Graham

The media

Fox News Channel
David Horowitz
Freedom Center
Pamela Geller and Atlas Shrugs
Washington Times
The National Review
Christian Broadcast Network
Clarion Fund
Rush Limbaugh
Sean Hannity
Mike Savage
Glenn Beck
Mark Levin
Bryan Fischer

The political players

Rep. Peter King
Rep. Sue Myrick
Rep. Allen West
Rep. Renee Elmers
Rep. Paul Broun
Rep. Michele Bachmann

The grassroots organizations

Brigitte Gabriel's
ACT! For America
Pamela Geller's
Stop Islamization of America
Eagle Forum
Tennessee Freedom Coalition
State Tea Party movements
American Family Association



Amplifying
fear and
misinformation
in this
Islamophobia
echo chamber

Misleading
the public

The public

Policy Impact

- Rep. Peter King Hearings on “Homegrown Islamic Terrorism”
- NYPD surveillance of Muslim businesses, mosques, and restaurants
- Anti-shariah or anti-foreign law legislation
- Designating Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization
- Muslim, refugee travel ban



The Islamic Center of Eastside in Bellevue, Washington. AP

Four Mosques Have Burned In Seven Weeks — Leaving Many Muslims and Advocates Stunned

“The short answer is we haven’t seen anything like this in the past.”

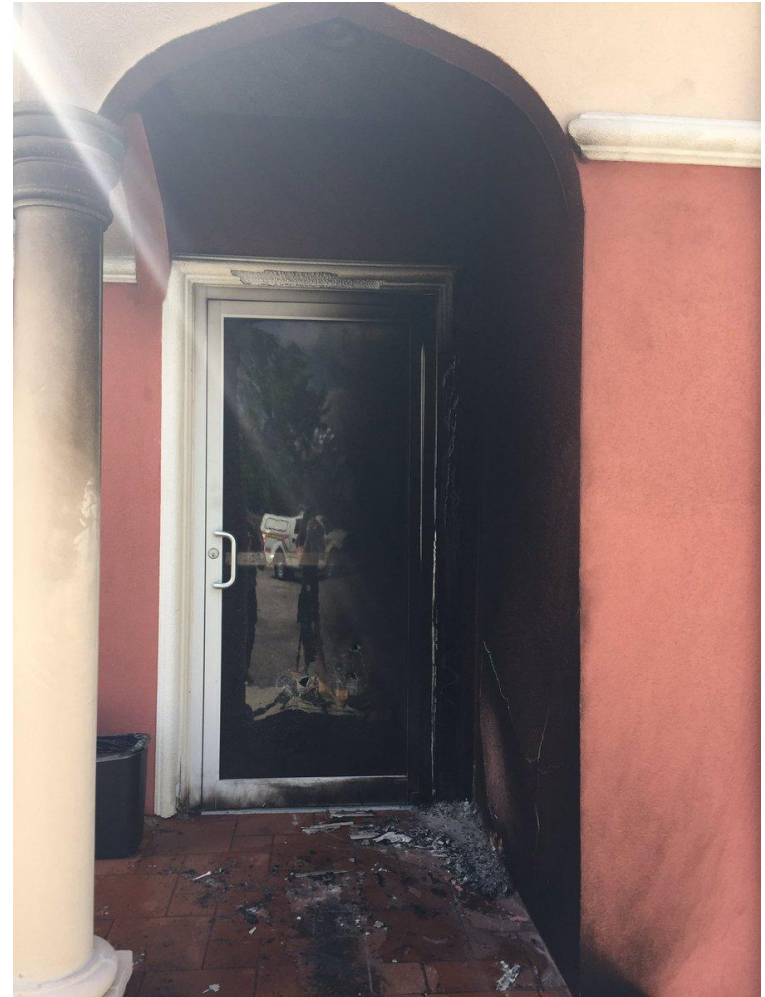
posted on Feb. 28, 2017, at 5:23 p.m.



Albert Samaha
BuzzFeed News Reporter



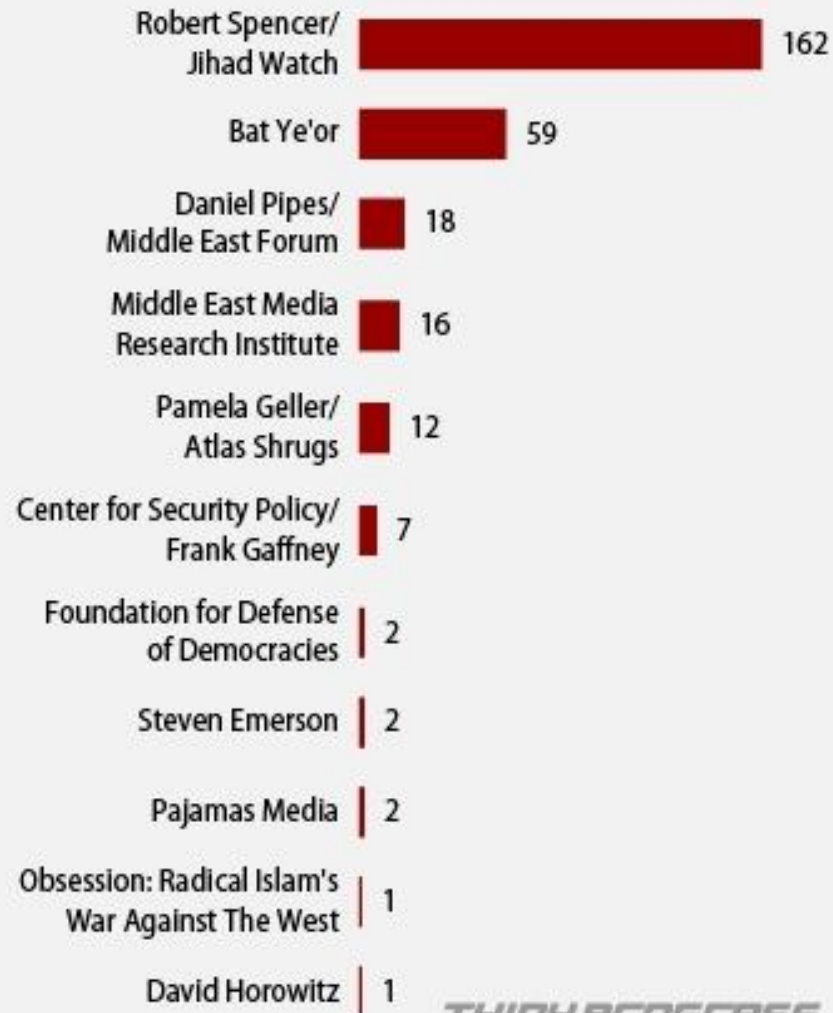
Talal Ansari
BuzzFeed News Reporter



Islamic Society of New Tampa
mosque @KellieCowan

Manifesto citations

Right-wing pundits and organizations cited in
Anders Breivik's anti-Muslim manifesto



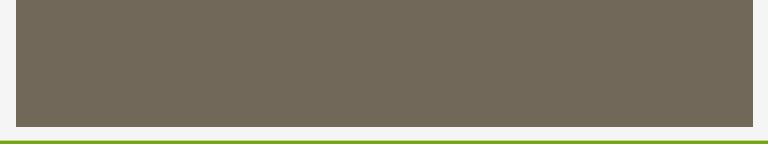


Cheri Berens blog



Getty images

**Hate speech is not civilized.
Support peace in word and deed.
#mysubwayad
@umwomen**



Going Forward

- Muslims: define our own narrative and protect our rights
- Partner with interfaith allies



Shoulder to Shoulder

Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values

National Membership

- American Baptist Churches USA
- Arab American Institute
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Reformed Church of North America
- Church of the Brethren
- Church World Service
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- The Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- Faith in Public Life
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
- General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
- HIAS
- Interfaith Alliance
- Islamic Society of North America
- Jewish Council on Public Affairs
- Milstein Center @ Jewish Theological Seminary
- National Council of Churches
- National Religious Campaign Against Torture
- New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good
- Peace Catalyst International
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Progressive National Baptist Convention
- Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
- Reformed Church in America
- Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism
- Sisters of Mercy
- Sojourners
- T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- United Church of Christ
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Universal Muslim Association of America



Edit



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Shoulder to Shoulder Camp

Shoulder to Shoulder is a coalition of 34 religious denominations and organizations committed to standi...

Mar 21 · 8 min read

Toolkit for Mobilizing to Protect and Support American Muslims

Please note: This toolkit is a living document- we will be updating it as new developments arise in order to help equip you to work against anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SPECIFIC THREATS THAT AMERICAN MUSLIMS FACE TODAY?

Throughout and following the 2016 elections, we heard a lot of rhetoric demeaning and threatening Muslims, and we saw a spike in hate crimes and incidents of violence against Muslims in our country. There were many times

<https://medium.com/@S2SCampaign>

1. Connect, Listen, Learn

2. Amplify

2. Speak Up/Out & Show Up

2. Call Others In

2. Strategic organizing & pushback

Educate yourself & your community about Islam and American Muslims

There is a lot of bad information out there about Islam and Muslims, and if you only learn about this religious community through the news, you're hearing a very tiny fragment of the story. Here are some resources to learn more:

- Harvard's Pluralism Project has [some great resources](#) for learning the basics about Islam and American Muslims, as does [ING](#)
- [This PBS video series](#) and [this Unity Production Foundation film](#) give great educational overviews
- [American Muslim poll](#), from the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding
- [The Diversity of Muslims in the United States](#) (a report from US Institute of Peace)
- Responses to FAQs about American Muslims

Interfaith Iftar opportunities



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Nov 14, 2016 · 4 min read

Some great American Muslims to follow on social media (among the MANY more!)

Like any community, the American Muslim community is diverse, so when you want to know “what are American Muslims feeling/thinking right now?”, there is no single answer. This list is not meant to be a substitute for getting to know American Muslims in person and building deeper relationships, but for those looking to hear multiple, diverse voices from the American Muslim community, this list is a good place to start, to “listen in.”

- [@AltMuslimah](#)—Tweets from Asma T. Uddin and the altM editors on gender, Islam and more.

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Mar 16 · 4 min read

Tactics for lifting your voice publicly

Faith leaders can play an important role in our public discourse by writing about anti-Muslim bigotry for your local newspaper or online news outlets. Writing an op-ed or Letter to the Editor (LTE) can seem like a time-consuming and difficult task. That's why we've put this brief how-to together for faith leaders. We know you have a lot of passion, but not a lot of time!

Letters-to-the-editor

These are brief (no more than 200 words) responses to specific articles. If you see something in your local paper that catches your attention, a letter to the editor can be a great way to make one specific point in response. Here



Faith leader op-ed sign-up – email
Catherine.Orsborn@s2scampaign.org

RELIGION

Sorry, Islamophobes: Your Anti-Muslim Rallies Ended Up Inspiring Acts Of Love And Service

After hearing about armed protests scheduled to take place around mosques, the interfaith community rallied around Muslims.

🕒 10/11/2015 09:10 am ET



Carol Kuruvilla 

Religion Associate Editor, The Huffington Post

A loosely affiliated group of armed protestors [organized anti-Muslim hate rallies](#) across the country on Friday and Saturday. But instead of dividing the communities they targeted, news about the rallies strengthened bonds between interfaith allies and inspired





IAHR Banners Oppose Anti-Muslim Bigotry



To counter anti-Muslim bigotry, Interfaith Action for Human Rights joins with [Shoulder to Shoulder](#) and [T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Justice](#) to call on U.S. religious communities to display banners signaling their support for the Muslim American community.

The campaign follows in the tradition of similar banner campaigns, such as Save Darfur, Stand with Israel and Black Lives Matter. It aims to demonstrate that faith communities stand together with the Muslim American community.

Read two outstanding editorials by Austin, Texas Clergy!

[Rabbi Steven Folberg's Message](#) to Cong Beth Israel

and

[Rev John Elford's op-ed](#) in the Austin American-Statesman
[United Church of Christ News: Austin interfaith community](#)

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Myths or stereotypes about your work,
the change you seek, the people
involved

*Undocumented
immigrants are
dangerous criminals*

*Churches have no role
in politics*

Things you're proud of or give you joy
about the work, the change you seek,
and the people involved

*Daniel and his family
are our neighbors and
they are in danger*

*For all of time, from
Exodus to the
Underground Railroad,
faith communities have
taken action for justice*

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Local Resolutions against anti-Muslim bigotry



Local Progress is a network of hundreds of local elected officials from around the country committed to a strong economy, equal justice, livable cities, and effective government.

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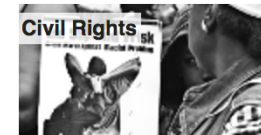
American Leaders Against Hate and Anti-Muslim Bigotry Campaign

July 25, 2016 | 4:08 EDT

This year, Local Progress and the Young Elected Officials Action Network (YEO Action) partnered hand-in-hand with our constituents – including many from the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities – to speak out and fight back against anti-Muslim bigotry, and the related xenophobia, racism, and hate that surrounds it. We believe progressive leaders must stand together to reject it and denounce anti-Muslim bigotry.

Hate crimes have spiked drastically since the 2016 presidential election. Xenophobic and racist rhetoric, as well as calls for horrendous public policies based on religious discrimination are very much a reality. Now, more than ever, it is important to stand up

ISSUES



LATEST NEWS



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