UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

# Call for IWG agenda items for Fri, 11/2 meeting, by noon on Mon 10/29

13 messages

**Samer Mahdy Ali** <samerali@umich.edu> Tue, Oct 23, 2018 at 5:40 PM
To: Islamophobia Working Group <islamophobiaworkinggroup@umich.edu>, Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

Dear Islamophobia Working Group,

Our next meeting is on Friday, November 2, 4:00-5:30pm at 455 Weiser Hall. As you know, the IWG relies on group members to make us aware of issues that Muslim, MENA, and other students, staff, and faculty members impacted by Islamophobia face. So, I'm emailing to request agenda items you care about.

If you are part of a student group, please feel free to use this group to brainstorm and discuss any issues that have come up within your group. Same goes for faculty and staff.

Please send Silan Fadlallah and me agenda items by **Monday, October 29 at noon** and we will circulate the agenda in advance of the meeting.

Warm wishes,
Samer

PS
Below is some additional information about IWG. Please feel free to forward to friends to encourage them to attend them meeting.

About the Islamophobia Working Group
The IWG is open to any student, staff, or faculty member at UM who is interested in collaborating on making this campus as inclusive as possible given the increased national and international climate of anti-Muslim and anti-Arab/Middle Eastern racism. The group is comprised of students, staff, and faculty who volunteer their time to identify and address issues that impact our community. We seek to advise and work with the administration on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives as they pertain to Muslims of all backgrounds and others impacted by Islamophobia. Our work is driven by issues brought to the group by any student, staff, or, faculty member. The group strategizes as a collective to figure out the best approach to a given issue. Thus, if you encounter a pertinent issue, we want to know about it and we welcome your participation in the group.

Upcoming Fall meetings
Friday, November 2, 4-5:30 pm
Friday, December 7, 4-5:30 pm

If you are interested in getting up to speed with all things IWG, please visit our Google Drive folder, website, or view our video.

Finally, please forward this email to anyone who might be interested in joining us. Those who are interested should contact Silan Fadlallah or me to be added to the email listserv.

Likewise, if anyone would like to be removed from this listserv, please let us know.

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**Samer Mahdy Ali** - University of Michigan
**Associate Professor,** Department of Middle East Studies
**Director,** Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies | Pronoun: he/him/his
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**Samer Mahdy Ali** <samerali@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 12:14 AM
To: Nisreen Khokhar <nkhokhar@umich.edu>, Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

Yes, that sounds like a good idea, Nisreen.

Silan, can you create a google doc for the IWG agenda and add Nisreen's conference on Muslim Women?

thanks,
S

On Tue, Oct 23, 2018 at 3:40 PM Nisreen Khokhar <nkhokhar@umich.edu> wrote:

> Hi Dr Ali,
>
> I just wanted to check in - do you think it's a good idea to discuss the developments we've made with our conference during the IWG meeting?
>
> Thanks,
> Nisreen
> [Quoted text hidden]

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**Nisreen Khokhar** <nkhokhar@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 12:16 AM
To: Samer Ali <samerali@umich.edu>
Cc: silanf@umich.edu

Thanks for the quick response - looking forwards to it!

Nisreen
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**Silan Fadlallah** <silanf@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 2:00 AM
To: nkhokhar@umich.edu
Cc: Samer Ali <samerali@umich.edu>

Hello all,

Absolutely! The link is below.

**IWG Agenda 11/2/18**

All the best,

Silan
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Silan Fadlallah
University of Michigan | Class of 2020
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Student Program Assistant | Arab and Muslim American Studies

Public Relations Chair | SAFE
President U-M | Epsilon Alpha Sigma Sorority, Incorporated
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**Samer Mahdy Ali** <samerali@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 2:01 AM
To: Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>
Cc: Nisreen Khokhar <nkhokhar@umich.edu>

Excellent. Thanks, Silan!
S
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**Abby Chien** <abchien@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 11:17 PM
To: Samer Ali <samerali@umich.edu>
Cc: islamophobiaworkinggroup@umich.edu, Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

Hi Samer and Silan,

I'd like to add a talking point about reflection rooms. MESA needs assistance in updating our website regarding the reflection room listing, and I'd like to ask for 1-2 volunteers to help me.

Thanks so much!
Abby

On Tue, Oct 23, 2018 at 9:42 AM Samer Mahdy Ali <samerali@umich.edu> wrote:
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**Abby Chien**

Program Manager | Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs
University of Michigan
Pronouns: She/her

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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**Silan Fadlallah** <silanf@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 11:33 PM
To: Abby Chien <abchien@umich.edu>
Cc: Samer Ali <samerali@umich.edu>, Islamophobia Working Group <islamophobiaworkinggroup@umich.edu>

Hello Abby,

I have added it to the agenda! Thank you for reaching out.

All the best,

Silan
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**Evelyn Alsultany** <alsultan@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 11:38 PM
To: Samer Ali <samerali@umich.edu>, Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

Hi Samer and Silan,

There are two items from the last agenda that were not discussed and one of them was on the last two agendas.

1. Discussion of mission of IWG (Jad and Evelyn).
Some say we focus only on Arab issues (MENA box, Palestine, al kitaab), others say we focus on Muslim issues (reflection rooms ... and al kitaab), so who are we and what are doing? We thought it would be useful to have a broader discussion of our identity and parameters as a group and to then articulate this clearly to others.

2. Ross Global Showcase and cultural appropriation (Jumanah Saadeh)
It would be good to touch base with Jumanah to see if she will be attending the meeting and alert her that we plan to put this one the agenda. Silan, could you contact her?

Finally, I do think we should talk about all of the activity that has taken place around BDS and the controversy around denying letters of recommendation to students. But, I think Samer, you should take the lead on that ... if you are up to it.

Thanks!
Evelyn

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**Abby Chien** <abchien@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 11:39 PM
To: Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

Fabulous - thank you!
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**Samer Mahdy Ali** <samerali@umich.edu> Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 12:55 AM
To: Evelyn Azeeza Alsultany <alsultan@umich.edu>
Cc: Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

Thanks for reminding us, Evelyn, and I would be happy to lead the discussion. Silan, can you add something like "BDS and rec letter controversy" as well as the two items that Evelyn mentioned?

so grateful to be working with you all,
Samer
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**Samer Mahdy Ali** <samerali@umich.edu> Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 1:01 AM
To: Marjorie Horton <hortonm@umich.edu>, Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>, Evelyn Azeeza Alsultany <alsultan@umich.edu>
Cc: Abby Chien <abchien@umich.edu>, Ali Aboubih <alijloza@umich.edu>

Thanks, Marjorie, for the update. And chiming in.

Ali would you feel comfortable talking about your and Marjorie's experience with the BSB reflection space? and next steps?

Perhaps we can couple this with Abby's request for volunteers re. reflections spaces, which can be before or after the BSB saga.

warmly,
Samer

On Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 3:54 PM Marjorie Horton <hortonm@umich.edu> wrote:

> Hi Abby, Ali, and Samer

Ali and I tried to get traction last semester to get a reflection room in the new Biological Sciences Building. None was planned at the time the building was built. The capital projects manager in LSA for the BSB is Susan Monroe. She had responded to us about the possibility of sharing a space that was planned to be a lactation room. Ali and I both thought that wasn't workable. My later request to explore this further with Susan, who has always been a wonderful LSA colleague, didn't get a response, and I'm not aware that Ali had any more success. There are several classrooms in the BSB. What I don't know is what the distance is between the BSB and another UM building that does have a reflection room.

I think it would be worth reaching out to Susan again, and if that doesn't result in any response, another LSA Dean's Office person to connect with about this would be the associate dean who handles DEI matters. This is Professor Fiona Lee.

I hope this is helpful. Though I'm now retired, I'd be happy to nudge Susan though I think hearing from you, Ali, requesting a face to face meeting, might be more effective.

Best regards,

Marjorie

On Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 3:18 PM Abby Chien <abchien@umich.edu> wrote:
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Marjorie Horton, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education

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**Jad Elharake** <jelharak@umich.edu> Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 8:28 PM
To: Samer Ali <samerali@umich.edu>, Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>

Hi Samer and Silan,

Please add ME/NA Box to the agenda. I hope we will have an update by then.

Best,
Jad
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Jad Elharake
Program Coordinator | Office for Health Equity & Inclusion | Michigan Medicine
Program Lead | Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
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**Abby Chien** <abchien@umich.edu> Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 9:42 PM
To: Samer Ali <samerali@umich.edu>
Cc: Marjorie Horton <hortonm@umich.edu>, Silan Fadlallah <silanf@umich.edu>, Evelyn Alsultany <alsultan@umich.edu>, Ali Aboubih <alijloza@umich.edu>

Hi All,

Marjorie - special thanks for still being plugged in and raising this!

Ali - perhaps we can chat for a moment after the meeting in case you need support or there's more strategy to consider. Happy to help.

Also: I think it goes well with general conversation around reflection rooms and would be happy to share the "agenda item" :)

Abby

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