UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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[UM Academic Freedom Network] Request for Funding: CMENAS Teach-In Town Hall on BDS and MLK's Legacy

1 message

Samer Mahdy Ali <samerali@umich.edu> Fri, Dec 21, 2018 at 7:46 PM
To: um-academic-freedom-network@googlegroups.com, Islamophobia Working Group <islamophobiaworkinggroup@umich.edu>
Cc: Jessica Hill Riggs <jessmhil@umich.edu>, Rima Hassouneh <rhassoun@umich.edu>

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As you can see from the event description below, CMENAS is planning a Teach-In Town Hall focusing on BDS in conjunction with MLK week. No doubt, the event may be viewed by some as controversial, but we are heartened by UM's many initiatives to promote publicly engaged scholarship that addresses pressing issues of our time.

As President Mark Schlissel has noted, it is “both a privilege and an obligation to provide thoughtful insights and important contributions toward public policy and to help solve the most complex and challenging issues confronting our society.” Publicly engaged scholars often hold controversial events on gun violence, for example, that examine pro-gun-control approaches to the epidemic of gun violence, or examine police brutality featuring BLM voices, or promote a particular approach to address climate change, such as fossil fuel divestment. Our institution and its tradition of academic freedom promotes and protects that free enquiry, however controversial.

If you would, please help us direct this funding request to the appropriate official at your unit or other units at UM that may be interested in joining us. We estimate an event budget of $4,000-5,000 for food, IT, honorarium, ground and air transportation, as well as lodging for the three guest speakers. We are requesting $300-500 from co-funding units, which will receive a sponsorship credit on all post-confirmation promotional materials.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Best wishes for a memorably break/holiday and a peaceful New Year!

kind regards,
Samer

-- Please Distribute Widely --

CMENAS Teach-In Town Hall
Tues., January 22, 2019
10am-noon (followed by Luncheon Reception)

BDS, Nonviolence, and MLK’s Legacy in the Middle East

Weiser Hall, 10th Floor
500 Church St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109

> “ Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” -- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Nobel Peace Prize, 1964)

The legacy of MLK not only demands justice at home, but justice abroad -- dignity, socio-economic equality, and human rights globally. The world's threats were grouped by him as the triple giant evils of racism, poverty, and militarism. How does that legacy inform the quest for justice in Israel/Palestine today?

The CMENAS Teach-In Town Hall will explore the implications of MLK's message as it pertains to a particular protest strategy: the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement in solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli nonviolent activists. More than one 100 artists and musicians, in addition to 37 Jewish groups in 15 countries, have joined the BDS movement to protest state structures of oppression in Israel deemed "apartheid" by many thinkers and activists, including Nobel Peace Laureates, Jimmy Carter and Desmond Tutu.

CMENAS hosts three BDS experts to discuss MLK's legacy in the Middle East, including activists **Cindy** and **Craig Corrie** (Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice) and **Prof. David Palumbo-Liu** (Stanford University). After their brief presentations, an open exchange will unfold with Q/A and discussion in a Town Hall format.

A Luncheon Reception will follow the event. Everyone welcome!







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Samer Mahdy Ali - University of Michigan | **Samer** sounds like "hammer" | Pronoun: he/him/his
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Chair, Islamophobia Working Group [DEI Climate Issues]

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CMENAS acknowledges that the University of Michigan, named for Michigami, the world's largest freshwater system, sits on land stewarded by Niswi Ishkodewan Anishinaabeg--the Three Fires People, who are the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi--along with their neighbors the Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, and Wyandot nations.

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