CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN & NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Islamophobia Working Group
Friday, November 2, 2018, 4-5:30pm
455 Weiser Hall

MISSION
Given the recent increase in anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment internationally, the purpose of this group of faculty, staff, and students is to strategize on how to create a safe and inclusive campus environment for Arab, Muslim, and MENA students and those who are impacted by anti-MENA and anti-Muslim sentiments.

AGENDA

1. Introductions

2. Announcements
    a. Conference on Muslim Women 11/2019 (Nisreen Khokhar)
        i. Keynote Muslim Female speaker and a panel giving speeches. At the same time, student organizations will be having presentations, workshops, etc. for people to walk around and interact with. Want to include a Gala component (Dinner) that will be of cost, plan on sending all the money to a school that supports Muslim women.
        ii. Yaqeen institute: Muslim women that could be a part of the panel. Want to include a woman in STEM as well. Negine Farsad.
    b. Reflection Rooms (Abby Chien)
        i. Reflection Room in Trotter (current) is scheduled to open on November 12th. First floor when you walk in the doors - across from information desk. No card swipe because current Trotter is closing soon.
    c. Updating website regarding reflection room listing (Abby Chien)
        i. Inconsistent information about the reflection rooms - need someone who has a consistent listing with helpful information regarding the reflection rooms. abchien@umich.edu . Needs people to travel to certain rooms to get information on these rooms.
        ii. Information that would be helpful on reflection rooms: dimension, location, signage, hours, UM-ID to enter?, picture, rooms carpeted?, electrical outlets? Create sheet that is crowd-sourced that people can add to.

3. Discussion of mission of IWG (Jad Elharake and Evelyn Alsultany).
   "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."
   - Want IWG to be open to all student and staff concerns that are related to the broader Islamophobia issues
   - Non-Arab Muslims issues need to be brought to the front page
   - More outreach to different groups → people who are affected by Islamophobia that do not come to IWG
   - Find a definition of Islamophobia that is not linked to ethnicity or religion but linked to the larger issue or experiences of others
   - Show the good that could come out of an organization like this - the benefits
   - IWG Group Coordinator talking to classes about the IWG and encouraging them to join the IWG
   - Inviting a non-Muslim activist who suffers from Islamophobia to talk to IWG
   - Move IWG listserv from MCommunity to Gmail's own listserv. Can provide us a way to develop the agenda in an organic way (chat room)
   - Sexual and Gender diversity → used to counter Islamophobia

4. Ross Global Showcase and cultural appropriation (Jumanah Saadeh)
   a. Program where people from across campus include their global engagement programs. One of the places students can go is Israel: had Arab food and named it as Israeli food…
   b. How to tell Ross they are engaging in cultural appropriation.
   c. IWG can take hold and send an email; SAFE can also take charge. Can be an opportunity to reiterate the approach and principles of BDS.

5. BDS and recommendation letter controversy (Samer Ali)
   a. BDS event on Monday, October 29th & feedback: Wanted people to stay for Q/A.

6. **ME/NA Box Update (Jad, Samer, Evelyn)**
   a. **NOT COVERED**

7. **Matters Arising**
   a. **NOT COVERED**