

MY FELLOW AMERICAN

My Fellow American Resources and Links

We are excited for you to host an event for us! We want this to be easy for you, and for you to be knowledgeable on the campaign and our mission. Below are some resources to get you started! Also, feel free to email outreach@upf.tv with any further questions.

From a Washington Post-ABC News Post (2009)...

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/05/AR2009040501586.html>

- Unfamiliarity breeds skepticism: 53 percent of those who profess an understanding of some Islamic teachings view the religion favorably, compared with 31 percent of those who said they do not have that fluency. Those who have such a background are also significantly more likely to see the religion as peaceful. Similar patterns exist for those who know a Muslim.

- There is still a broad lack of familiarity with the world's second-largest religion -- 55 percent of those polled said they are without a basic understanding of the teachings and beliefs of Islam, and most said they do not know anyone who is Muslim.

- 48 percent said they have an unfavorable view of Islam.

Do you have a different view of Islam? Write about it! Do you know a Muslim? Send us your video!

These are the types of opinions we are trying to dispel...

"We are at a war with a religious dictatorship for the survival of the Western World, nothing less than that!"

"Islam at this moment is responsible for more pain, more bloodshed, more devastation than nearly any other force on earth."

"You need to stop saying, 'The god of Islam and the god of Christianity are the

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same god.' They are not the same god."

"Islam intends, through violence, to conquer the world."

"Make no bones about it. That is pure unadulterated evil."

"And throw 'em out of my country. I'd raise the American flag and I'd get out my trumpet if you did it. Without due process."

"I'm not going to put my wife in a hijab and I'm not going to put my daughter in a burkha and I'm not getting on all fours and praying to Mecca and you can drop dead if you don't like it."

"What kind of world is this? What kind of world are you living in when you let them in with this throwback document of theirs, which is a book of hate. Don't tell me I need re-education. They need deportation."

"I don't want to hear any more about Islam. I don't want to hear one more word about Islam. Take your religion and shove it up you behind."

" Police say... the 17 year olds broke several windows with an iron rod and slashed tires on a van. According to the report, Gonzalas Vaca told police that quote, "All Muslims are terrorists".

"American politicians are telling us that the vast majority of Muslims living in the United States are just ordinary people who love America and are loyal to America. Is that true? Is that really true?"

We know this to be true- the majority of Muslims in America ARE ordinary people who love and are loyal to America. The research proves this. Our relationships with Muslim friends, acquaintances, and strangers show this. So write about it! Lend your voice to the discussion, and help dispel hatred, prejudice, and misunderstanding.

Significant Quotes and Public Opinion on Muslims in America

"Is there something wrong with being Muslim in this country? The answer is no, that's not America." (General Colin Powell)

"Islam has always been a part of America's story." (President Barack Obama)

"I am proud that this year we are recognizing the contributions of the millions of

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American Muslims who do so much to make this country strong.”
(Secretary of State Hillary Clinton)

"Here in Virginia and across the country, Muslim Americans are our neighbors and fellow citizens. You inspire our children as teachers. You strengthen our communities as volunteers, often through interfaith projects, like the President's "United We Serve" program. You protect our communities as police officers and firefighters." (Denis McDonough, Deputy National Security Advisor to the President)

"That experience guides my conviction that partnership between America and Islam must be based on what Islam is, not what it isn't. And I consider it part of my responsibility as president of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear." (President Barack Obama)

"[T]he Arab-American, Muslim-American, South Asian-American, and Sikh-American communities are vibrant, peaceful, and law-abiding, and have greatly contributed to American society..." (House Resolution 234, October 2003)

"Muslims are as much a part of our city and our country as the people of any faith." (Mayor Bloomberg)

Other Significant Statistics and Related News

There will be 2.2 billion Muslims by 2030

<http://pewforum.org/The-Future-of-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx>

Since 2005 the public is still conflicted over whether Islam is a religion that promotes violence

<http://pewforum.org/Muslim/Public-Remains-Conflicted-Over-Islam.aspx>

Possible Quran shredding:

http://www.loonwatch.com/2011/05/quran-shredding-event-may-occur-but-officials-condemn-it/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+loonwatch+%28loonwatch.com%29&utm_content=Twitter

Some 3,565 Muslims have served in Iraq and Afghanistan with United States Armed Forces

[Muslims in the Marines \(The New York Times\)](#)

A look at Muslim Veterans of the US Armed Forces

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[No Religious Preference](#)

Pictures of Muslims Wearing Things:

<http://muslimswearingthings.tumblr.com/>

Statistics Resources:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-l-esposito/american-muslims_b_865262.html

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/summer09/survey0909.pdf>

<http://pewforum.org/Politics-and-Elections/Religion-in-the-News--Islam-Was-No--1-Topic-in-2010.aspx>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp->

<dyn/content/article/2010/09/08/AR2010090806231.html>

Mentions of My Fellow American on the web:

Susan Campbell's blog:

http://blogs.courant.com/susan_campbell/2011/04/muslims-my-fellow-american.html

Islamicate: <http://www.islamicate.com/2011/04/my-fellow-american-video-campaign.html>

Allahcentric: <https://allahcentric.wordpress.com/2011/04/13/my-fellow-american-national-campaign-to-share-the-untold-stories-of-muslims-in-america/>

Hussein Rashid's website: <http://www.husseinrashid.com/2011/05/video-friendship-before-facebook-my-fellow-american.html>

WebTalkRadio.net: <http://webtalkradio.net/tag/my-fellow-american/>

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College website: <http://www.rrc.edu/video/rabbi-jason-klein-my-fellow-american-project>

IslamicSpotlight: <http://islamicspotlight.com/2011/05/my-fellow-american-national-campaign-to-share-untold-stories-of-muslims-in-america/>

Muxlim blog: <http://muxlim.com/blogs/MuslimMatters/my-fellow-american-national-campaign-to-share-untold-stories-of-/>

Prepare New York website: <http://prepareny.com/profiles/blogs/upf-launches-my-fellow>

American Muslim Interactive Network: <http://prepareny.com/profiles/blogs/upf-launches-my-fellow>

Daniel Tutt on the Huffington Post: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/daniel-tutt/-telling-your-story-of-mu_b_871891.html?ref=fb&src=sp

Religious Diversity Links

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www.pluralism.org

In 1991, the Pluralism Project at Harvard University began a pioneering study of America's changing religious landscape. This website documents the evolution of that project and is a great resource for anyone wishing to learn more about the many different ways that religion is practiced in America.

www.beliefnet.com

Beliefnet is not affiliated with any spiritual organization or movement. Its agenda is to help individuals meet their spiritual needs and walk a spiritual path that will bring them comfort, hope, clarity, strength, and happiness. Beliefnet is for those that are exploring their own faith or those exploring other faiths. Their resources include inspiring devotional tools, access to the best spiritual teachers and clergy in the world, thought-provoking commentary, and a supportive community.

www.tolerance.org

Tolerance.org is for those interested in dismantling bigotry and creating communities that value diversity. If you want to know how to transform yourself, your home, your school, your workplace or your community, Tolerance.org is a place to start — and continue — the journey. This website has an online well of resources and ideas, print materials, and downloadable public service announcements.

www.speakingoffaith.publicradio.org

Now in its third year as a weekly program, *Speaking of Faith with Krista Tippett* has brought an unprecedented range of religious perspectives, voices, and topics to public radio listeners on-air and on-line. Each week, Tippett probes the myriad ways in which religious impulses inform every aspect of life and culture, nationally and globally.

www.Theislamproject.org

A series of classroom materials that:

1. Present the diversity of the world's Muslim communities.
2. Answer students' questions about the nature of Islam and its role in the world in which they live.
3. Increase student sensitivity and understanding of Islam.

www.Tanenbaum.org

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The Tanenbaum Center is the leader in providing practical programs to prevent the growing problem of verbal and physical conflict perpetrated in the name of religion. It is a non-sectarian organization that addresses unresolved tensions by helping to change behaviors in religiously-diverse workplaces, schools and in areas of armed conflict.

www.interfaithdialog.org

A non-profit organization whose primary goal is to help bring together communities in order to promote compassion, cooperation, partnership and community service through interfaith dialog and conversation. The Institute of Interfaith Dialog is dedicated to encouraging the study of the global communities' spiritual traditions from the vantage point of respect, accuracy, and appreciation.

www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics

Television newsmagazine that provides insightful coverage and analysis of the news, people, events and trends behind the headlines in the world of religion and ethics.

www.interfaithalliance.org

A nonpartisan advocacy organization founded in 1994 to challenge the religious right. TIA remains committed to promoting the positive and healing role of religion in public life by encouraging civic participation, facilitating community activism, and challenging religious political extremism. TIA works to ensure that America is a nation where religious belief and practice are free and voluntary, and that the government does not favor or discriminate against citizens based on their religious belief or non-belief.

www.thefaithclub.com

The story of three mothers from three faiths— Islam, Christianity, and Judaism; and what happened when they got together to write a book highlighting the connections between their religions. As the authors reveal their deepest beliefs in the book, readers watch the blossoming of a profound interfaith friendship and the birth of a new way of relating to others. This website includes detailed advice on how to start a faith club: the questions to ask, the books to read, and most importantly, the open-minded attitude that needs to be maintained.

www.daughtersofabraham.info

The story of three women who have been meeting monthly since 2002 to explore

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their religious faiths with the use of books. The mission of Daughters of Abraham is to overcome stereotypes and to foster mutual respect and understanding among Muslim, Jewish and Christian women.

www.interfaithresources.com

Interfaith Resources has developed a wide range of products to celebrate our shared ideals. These include interfaith prayer books, posters, stickers, name tags, buttons, T-shirts, pens, and coffee cups.

The Buxton Initiative

The Buxton Initiative is a nonprofit organization seeking to build bridges between Abrahamic faith communities through friendship and dialogue. The organization directs multiple programs to establish a friendly atmosphere where candid dialogue and understanding among people from different faiths help them find ways to live with differences.

Also check out:

20,000 Dialogues: <http://www.20000dialogues.org/index.aspx>

Unity Productions Foundation: <http://www.upf.tv/>

My Faith My Voice: <http://www.myfaithmyvoice.com/>

My Best Friend is Muslim: <http://www.mybestfriendismuslim.com/>

Any other questions?

Send them to: Haley Wright
dialogue@myfellowamerican.us
202-298-8088