
faith in **ACTION**

preventing sexual violence
in faith communities

Sunday, April 10, 2016
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

American Islamic College
640 W Irving Park Rd
Chicago, IL

HEART
WOMEN & GIRLS

A project of the Germanacos Fellowship,
co-sponsored by Heart Women & Girls
and the American Islamic College

agenda

10:00–10:15 **Opening Remarks:** Hind Makki

10:15–11:15 **Survivor Stories:** Sumaya Abubaker and Samir Ahmed
Hear firsthand from two survivors on what it was like for them to seek help, support, healing and justice after their assault.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the experience from the perspective of a Muslim female and Muslim male survivor
2. Gain an appreciation of the impact of sexual assault on a survivor's overall well being and ability to seek justice and healing

11:15–11:30 **Break**

11:30–1:00 **Understanding Sexual Violence in Faith Communities:**
Nadiyah Mohajir, Suzanne Healy, Sumaya Abubaker
This presentation will offer participants the basics of sexual violence – what it is, what it isn't, common myths and misinformation, and barriers faced by victims of sexual violence. The latter half of the session will explore some of the work being done in Southern California in the Catholic community to address sexual violence in the church. Learn the impact that sexual violence has on the individual, community, and faith institution and how one community has tried to address it.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Gain foundational knowledge such as definitions and statistics
2. Identify myths/facts prevalent in faith communities
3. Understand why victims of sexual assault don't disclose in faith communities
4. Identify the impacts of not addressing sexual violence
 - a. On the survivor
 - b. On the community
 - c. On the faith institution

1:00–1:45

Lunch & Prayer

1:45–2:45

Moving Forward: Where do we go from here?

Nadiah Mohajir, Suzanne Healy, Sumaya Abubaker

This session will continue the discussion in the prior session with a facilitated conversation around how to move forward and address this issue in faith communities.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn how to address sexual violence as leaders
 - a. Archdioceses of LA process of addressing complaints
 - b. Role of pastoral care
 - c. Recommendations on how to begin addressing it in your community/institutions
2. Open discussion, Q/A

2:45–3:00

Break

3:00–4:00

Breakouts

BREAKOUT 1:

Supporting Survivors Using Victim-Centric Approaches in Faith Communities: Barbara Blaine & Itedal Shalabi

An in-depth interactive workshop that looks at the needs of victims in faith communities. The session will teach participants how to support victims who disclose their sexual assault, get them help, and connect them to services.

Target audience: Novice/general community members

OBJECTIVES:

1. Assess your role as a bystander to support victims if a victim discloses to you (what to do/what not to do)
2. Identify what a victim-centric approach looks like
3. Develop at least 2 action steps to implement victim-centric responses in daily settings

agenda

BREAKOUT 2:

Putting it into Practice: Dismantling Rape Culture in our Communities and Institutions: Sameera Qureshi, Maryam Mirza

An in-depth interactive workshop that examines the external and internal barriers to addressing sexual violence in a community—the institutional barriers, rape culture, general attitudes. Participants will work through case studies on how to push back on those barriers.

Target audience: People in leadership or educational positions (board members, faith leaders like chaplains/imams, teachers)

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify rape culture and external & institutional barriers to addressing sexual violence in faith communities
2. Develop at least two action steps to raise awareness about rape culture in daily settings

BREAKOUT 3:

Accountability: What does justice look like for victims in faith communities Samar Kaukab and Guila Benchimol

The majority of sexual assaults do not make it to law enforcement. The grim reality is that too many victims are forced to suffer in silence, while their abusers walk free, likely targeting others. This session will examine how the power of religious and community/lay leaders intersects with the silence of religious communities and victims. It will then offer strategies to empower communities to intervene and support victims.

Target audience: Experts in the field. This will be more a facilitated discussion

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify multiple strategies/approaches to survivor healing and justice (in addition to legal trajectory) (restorative justice, community engagement, etc)
2. Identify two strategies communities can use to hold perpetrators accountable if/when the legal system fails
3. Connect sexual assault agencies and faith communities to work together toward justice

4:00–4:15

Closing

speakers

Nadiyah Mohajir

Nadiyah Mohajir is the co-founder and Executive Director for HEART Women & Girls. For the last five years, she has led the organization to provide health education programming to over 3000 Muslim women and girls in the Chicagoland area as well as cities across the country, breaking many cultural barriers and raising awareness about important issues such as sexual and reproductive health, sexual violence and media literacy.

She has worked in healthcare for over ten years in a variety of settings, including, but not limited to research, academics, policy, and community health. In the past, she was a consultant for the Office on Women's Health (OWH) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, working on a variety of different projects focusing on minority health in the Midwest.

Prior to her work at OWH, Nadiyah worked on a research project focusing on improving pregnancy outcomes of low-income Chicago women. Nadiyah earned her Masters degree in Public Health in 2009 from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her Bachelor's degree in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago. Nadiyah has also participated in a number of fellowships, including the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute and most recently, the Germanacos Fellowship.

Nadiyah lives in Chicago with her three children and husband.

Sumaya Abubaker

Sumaya Abubaker manages leadership training programs at the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, including for the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute and Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement.

Since 2011, Abubaker has represented CRCC on the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health Faith-Based Advocacy Council, which works towards integrating mental health and spirituality to advance the health of under-served communities. She helps build the capacity of spiritual communities to meet their mental health needs through collaboration with one another and with the DMH.

Outside of CRCC, Abubaker co-founded the Rahma Network, a project established to help American Muslim communities address sexual violence and abuse. As a survivor herself, she works with survivors, builds resources and conducts speaking engagements for diverse faith communities on how to prevent and address sexual violence and abuse.

Abubaker also is a fellow of NewGround, a program that engages Muslim and Jewish Angelenos in an innovative community-building process of intra- and inter-faith education and reflection, leadership training and civic engagement. She also served on the board of ELEV8, a nonprofit designed to empower youth with the tools to engage in activism through the arts.

Prior to joining CRCC, she worked for Wells Fargo Bank, the Council for Islamic Education and The Minaret Magazine. Sumaya holds a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she studied International Development with a specialization in the Middle East/North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

Samir Ahmed

Samir Ahmed is the director of interfaith outreach for the Michiana Muslim Society and a Crisis Chaplain for the Mishawaka Police Department. He founded the Mudathir Project in 2012, a non-profit organization that focused on sexual assault, domestic violence, and drug & alcohol abuse in Muslim communities in Los Angeles. He was also the head Muslim Chaplain for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department from 2012-2015. From 2013-2015, Samir helped develop and facilitate multiple workshops on domestic violence and sexual assault for the F.B.I., L.A.P.D., and the D.E.A.

Suzanne Healy

Suzanne Healy became the Director of Victims Assistance Ministry for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in July 2007.

The purpose of the ministry of the Victims Assistance Office is to deal with allegations of past or current sexual abuse by clergy, religious or any lay person working with or volunteering for the Archdiocese. The Office is charged with creating a safe and compassionate environment for victims to come forward while ensuring that civil authorities are notified and victims are provided with counseling and other assistance in the healing process.

Suzanne is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and for the ten years prior to coming to the Archdiocese, she worked as a school counselor and was in part time private practice.

Suzanne is a longtime active member of the Faith Based Advocacy Council for the Department of Mental or Health and a member of the Faith Based Advocacy Executive Board for the past two years. Additionally, she collaborates with the City and US Attorney's offices and Law Enforcement agencies on child abuse prevention and cyber-crime prevention symposiums.

Sameera Qureshi

Sameera Qureshi has been developing and facilitating Islamic sexual health education programs for the past four years, through HEART Women and Girls. Her work started in Calgary in 2012 with the development of a curriculum for the local Islamic schools, Muslim students attending public schools, and community agencies working with Muslim clientele. Since then, curricula and trainings have been developed and facilitated across several Canadian cities including Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Toronto, with her work being shared at conferences across North America. Sameera's areas of expertise are in sexual health education from a developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive perspective; child sexual abuse education; and empowering parents and communities leaders to create safe spaces for sexual health education. Sameera recently moved to Washington, DC where she is working with local mosques, Islamic schools and community leaders to expand HEART's work into the DC-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) area.

speakers

Samar Kaukab

Samar Kaukab is Executive Director for Arete, a research accelerator that launches and systematically supports complex research initiatives at the University of Chicago. In her role, Samar manages a multi-unit team that works in partnership with faculty and University leadership to develop strategies for complex research, funding, and collaboration. Previously, Samar was the Executive Director of Ohio's statewide anti-sexual violence coalition. A 2016 Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar, Samar also her continues her work in anti-sexual violence advocacy. She is a board member of Heart Women and Girls and serves on the Advisory Board and writes frequently for AltMuslimah, the only media platform that is wholly dedicated to stories and commentary on gender-in-Islam from diverse male and female perspectives.

Barbara Blaine

In 1988, Barbara Blaine founded the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, the nation's oldest and largest self-help organization for victims of clergy sexual abuse. The first support group meetings of SNAP were held in a homeless shelter that Blaine ran in south Chicago.

Through word of mouth and small ads, SNAP grew into a national outreach, educational and advocacy organization. Today, SNAP has more than 21,000 members.

Blaine was born in Toledo, Ohio, where she was repeatedly molested by a Catholic priest at the parish she attended. Because of the shame and trauma, several years passed before she was able to tell anyone. By that time, it was too late to file criminal or civil charges. Church officials refused to restrict the priest's access to children or take action against him for several more years, despite other victims coming forward.

The shattering experience directed the course of Blaine's life. She went on to become a social worker and an attorney who advocates for children's rights. She earned a bachelor's degree from St. Louis University, a master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, a master of divinity degree from Catholic Theological Seminary in Chicago and a law degree from DePaul University School of Law.

In 2002, Ms. Magazine chose Blaine as one of its "women of the year" for her work on behalf of clergy sexual abuse victims. In bestowing the award, the magazine noted that Blaine founded her organization "14 years before the issue became a front-page story." By empowering survivors to tell their stories publicly, Blaine has been a catalyst in lifting the climate of secrecy that enables clergy predators to thrive.

For nearly a decade, Blaine ran a homeless shelter in south Chicago. At the time, she was part of the Catholic Worker movement – a faith-based community in which members live and work among the poor, accepting voluntary poverty themselves. After earning her law degree, Blaine became a public guardian for Cook County, Ill., which includes the city of Chicago. In that role, she advocated for abused and neglected children.

Itedal Shalabi

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Arab American Family Services

Ms. Shalabi earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from the Jane Adams College of Social Work. In 2001, Ms. Shalabi co-founded Arab American Family Services (AAFS), and officially received the title of Executive Director in mid-2005. In this role, Ms. Shalabi is responsible for all operational aspects of the organization, including overall supervision of the organization's programmatic, management, and administrative functions. Ms. Shalabi is recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for her expertise on issues impacting women and children.

Ms. Shalabi was appointed to the Governor's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and named to the Mayor of Chicago's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence. Ms. Shalabi is also a Board Member of the Illinois Coalition against Domestic Violence and an advisory board member to the National Network for Arab American Communities. Ms. Shalabi is an Advisory member of the Cook County Department of Public Health; Member of the Governor's Language Access Task Force; Member of the Muslim American Advisory Council to the Governor; and previously sat on the Mosque Foundation Board and Universal School Board.

A firm believer in not re-inventing the wheel, Ms. Shalabi looks for partnerships and connectedness to already established programs and services for the Arab/Muslim community members throughout the State of Illinois. Ms. Shalabi took the office from a non-existent budget to a budget of nearly \$1 million.

Under her leadership and management, AAFS served 8,543 families in 2014, impacting over 34,303 individuals.

Ms. Shalabi has been recognized for her leadership and dedication to the agency and community. Under Ms. Shalabi's leadership, AAFS has received several awards for outstanding community service. Ms. Shalabi grew AAFS from 2 staff members to 22 staff members, 1 fellow, and 6 interns over the past fourteen years. Ms. Shalabi serves on boards and committees as part of a strategic effort to build bridges of communication and resources between Arab/Muslim and mainstream organizations, institutions and governmental agencies. Ms. Shalabi is adjunct professor at the UIC school of social work.

Hind Makki

Hind Makki is an interfaith educator who develops and delivers workshops on active citizenship and community empowerment. An internationally recognized speaker, she has taught about and spoken on the subjects of interfaith cooperation, civic integration, and developing Muslim women's leadership, throughout the United States and Western Europe.

Hind is also the founder and curator of Side Entrance, a website that documents women's prayer spaces and experiences in mosques, and serves on the Islamic Society of North America's Mosque Inclusion Taskforce.

Her work is focused on challenging misogyny, racism and sectarianism in Muslim communities across the country and has been featured in a wide variety of media including ABC News, Al Jazeera English, National Public Radio, and The New York Times. Hind is an alumna of the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute and holds a degree in International Relations from Brown University.

speakers

Maryam Mirza

Maryam Mirza is the Director of the Domestic Violence Program at Hamdard Center since 2005. For the last 11 years, she has managed and supervised the Domestic Violence shelter and transitional housing facilities and provided residential and non-residential services to over 1000 women and children in the Chicagoland area as well as States across the country. She has raised awareness about important issues like Domestic Violence, child abuse, and sexual violence within South-Asian, Bosnian and Middle Eastern communities.

She has worked in the social service field for over 15 years in a variety of settings, including research, academics, policy and community education. She has also provided consultancy to the University of Toledo in Ohio on developing a domestic violence protocol for the county's court house and sheriff's department.

While working at Hamdard Center, Maryam collaborated with Harris Bank on a research project on improving financial stability and self-sufficiency for survivors of Domestic Violence. Her work and Financial Management plan was adopted and implemented by various shelters across the state. Currently she is working with APIIDV (Asian Pacific Islander Institute of Domestic Violence) on developing a Language Access Protocol for the API population. She is also working with the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health on developing a trainer's training program on providing trauma informed services. In addition, she works with various DuPage County mosques to develop protocols on addressing sexual assault, child abuse, and domestic violence at the work place and within congregations in a professional manner while abiding by state and federal law.

Maryam earned her Masters degree in Clinical Psychology in 2009 from Northwestern University.

Maryam lives in Bloomingdale with her husband and two children.

Gulia Benchimol

Guila Benchimol is a PhD candidate in sociological criminology at the University of Guelph. Her dissertation focuses on sexual abuse in the Jewish community. She is a research assistant at the Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence and a Wexner graduate fellow. She has her masters in Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy and was a Jewish educator in Toronto for 10 years. Benchimol is a consultant for Jewish institutions on their community safety and protection policies.

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Special thanks to our supporters:

Voices & Faces Project

Rape Victim Advocatesv

Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University (CURL)

Survivors Network for Those Abused by Priests (SNAP)

Arab American Family Services (AAFS)

Hamdard Center for Health and Human Services

Rahma Network



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HEART Women & Girls is a nationally recognized nonprofit that promotes sexual health and sexual violence awareness in faith communities through health education, advocacy, research and training. For more information please visit:
www.heartwomenandgirls.org