

Islamophobia: Replacing Fears with Facts

Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m. - UUCA Center

Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles will welcome our Muslim neighbors and other outside guests for a presentation and discussion entitled **Islamophobia: Replacing Fears with Facts**. The presenter will be Ms. Meira Neggaz, Executive Director of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU - <http://www.ispu.org/>).

The Committee for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine (CPJIP) is sponsoring the event and has invited leaders and congregants from the Moroccan American Muslim community that worships on Fridays at UUCA as well as the nearby Dar Alz-Hijrah Islamic Center. CPJIP has also invited neighboring Christian and Jewish congregations and leaders including Kol-Ami, Temple Rodef Shalom and Congregation Et Hayim whose parent organizations, like UUA, are members of the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign whose subtitle is “Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values”.

This event builds on Rev. Aaron McEmry’s strong expression of support for the Muslim community in his sermon entitled: “Islam: The Wronged Religion” and is consistent with the UUA’s “Defying the Nazis” Action Project”.

The November 9 presentation features Meira Neggaz, Executive Director of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU). Ms. Neggaz will present ISPU’s groundbreaking research on Islamophobia and will lead a discussion of what each of us can do to combat discrimination against historically marginalized groups, including American Muslims. ISPU’s Islamophobia research includes “Manufacturing Bigotry: A State-by-State Legislative Effort to Pushback Against 2050 by Targeting Muslims and Other Minorities,” “Religious Freedom and Discrimination in America – Then and Now: Lessons Learned for American Muslims and their Allies,” and “Strength Through Diversity: Four Cases of Local and State Level Coalition Success,” which can be found at <http://www.ispu.org/public-policy/islamophobia/>

The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) – a nonprofit that conducts objective, solution-seeking research that empowers American Muslims to further community development and fully contribute to democracy and pluralism in the United States. As America becomes more diverse and is expected to have no ethnic or racial majority by 2050, some are threatened by these demographic changes and are working to erode the rights of historically marginalized populations, including American Muslims.

Event Location: UUCA’s Center, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22204.

Contact: Allan Kellum, Convener of the UUCA Committee for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine (CPJIP).