

## Diversity thoughts: Christchurch, New Zealand, and Islamophobia

March 18, 2019

A shocking attack of horror was perpetrated in "unlikely" New Zealand and 49 people were slaughtered while attending 2 mosques.

This is a shocking example of the devastation and injustice that can be caused by ethnically and religiously motivated hatred and violence.

Please turn in support to coworkers and other people in your lives who have shared with you that they are Muslim or close to Muslims.

We must educate and labor to counter Islamophobia. The following excerpt from:

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2017/expelling-islamophobia>

proposes that...

“We look at Islam from three different perspectives: history, violent extremism and Islamophobia,” says Murray, who serves with Shah on the interfaith education committee. The history of Islam acts as the introduction, he explains, helping students get a handle on vocabulary and context. The course then pivots to violent extremism—who and where such groups are, their motivations, and how they compare to extremists in other major religions, including Christianity. Finally, students examine how the public’s views of Islam are shaped by popular media. They learn to identify the agendas of the “Islamophobia industry”: commentators, politicians and media outlets that profit by stoking fears about Muslims.

I had not conceptualized part of the problem as "Islamophobia industry" but it rings true, and is akin to antisemitism and the easy fanning of unconscious fires that project "bad," "conspiratorial," and/or "untrustworthy" onto "other" by dominant groups.

Anya

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Thank you for the thoughts, Anya!

I wanted to share a local resource called ‘Noor’ that I learned about at the Gender Odyssey Conference. From the website: “Noor is all-inclusive LGBTQI (and Questioning) confidential meeting space for individuals in the greater Seattle area that have ever identified as Muslim. We aim to build a conscious community and solidarity with other movements that resist anti-blackness, islamophobia, cissexism, and harmful masculinity.”

Here’s the web address: <https://www.saaramajid.com/noor>

Thanks,  
Eli