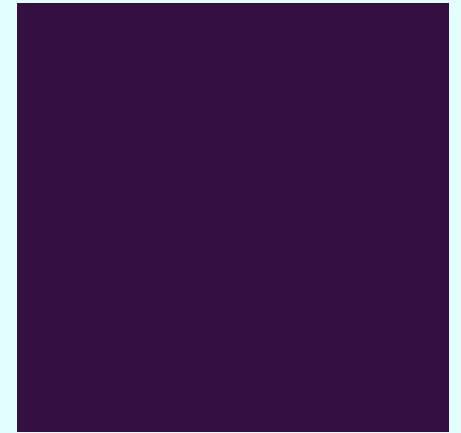
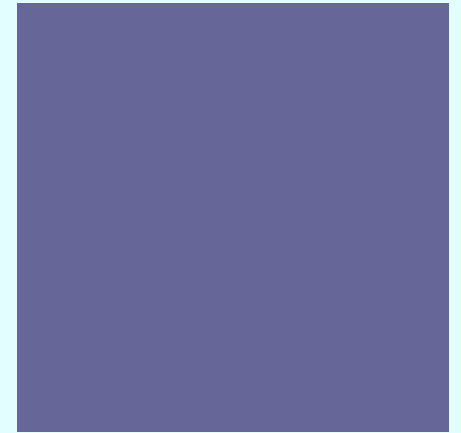
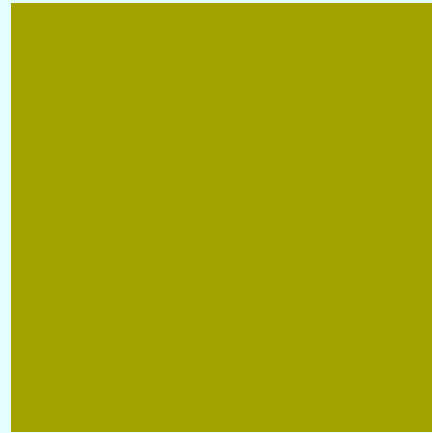




**Advocates
for Youth**

Rights. Respect. Responsibility.®

**The Muslim Youth
Leadership Council**
2017 – 2018



What are some issues facing
young, queer Muslims in
America today?

stigma

racism

American Islamophobia

silence



Police
violence

Relationship
violence

State Violence

Mental health

Sexual assault

transphobia

Family
issues

STDs/HIV

Muslim Ban

immigration
homophobia



#MuslimAnd...
Important

#MuslimAnd...
ANGRY

#MuslimAnd...
HOPEFUL

#MuslimAnd...
RADICALLY
HEALING

#MuslimAnd...
Proud AF!

#MuslimAnd...
Here!

#MuslimAnd...
WOKE

#MuslimAnd...
FEMINIST

#MuslimAnd...
Powerful

#MuslimAnd...
Queerly
Southern!

#MuslimAnd...
all these things

#MuslimAnd...
ready

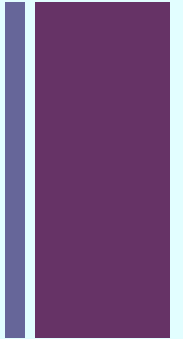
#MuslimAnd...
unapologetic

The Importance of MyLC in the age of Trump





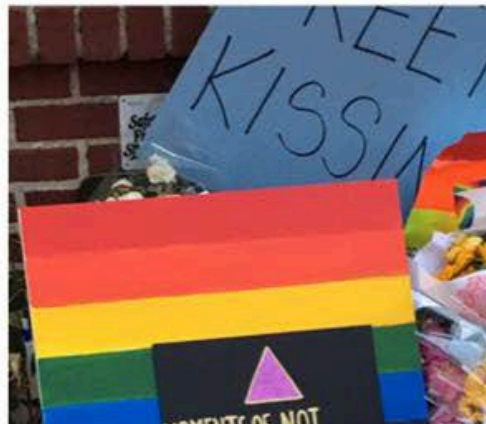
What is gendered Islamophobia?



- The idea that Islam is inherently anti LGBT and anti-woman.
- Secular, feminist and pro LGBTQ rights are pitted against Islam – Saw explicit examples of this after Orlando – language in Muslim Ban 1st Executive Order
- Assumption of more patriarchy in Islam
- Burkini ban in France - constant debates about Muslim women and what they are wearing
- Commentary by Trump around Mrs. Khan
- Act for America “anti Sharia” rallies organized by a gay republican



Orlando and the pulse tragedy





Muslim youth leadership council

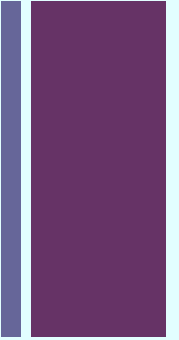
To engage and mobilize young Muslim identifying people ages 17-24 into action on sexual and reproductive health and rights, LGBTQ rights, racial justice, and immigrant rights on a local, state and national level.





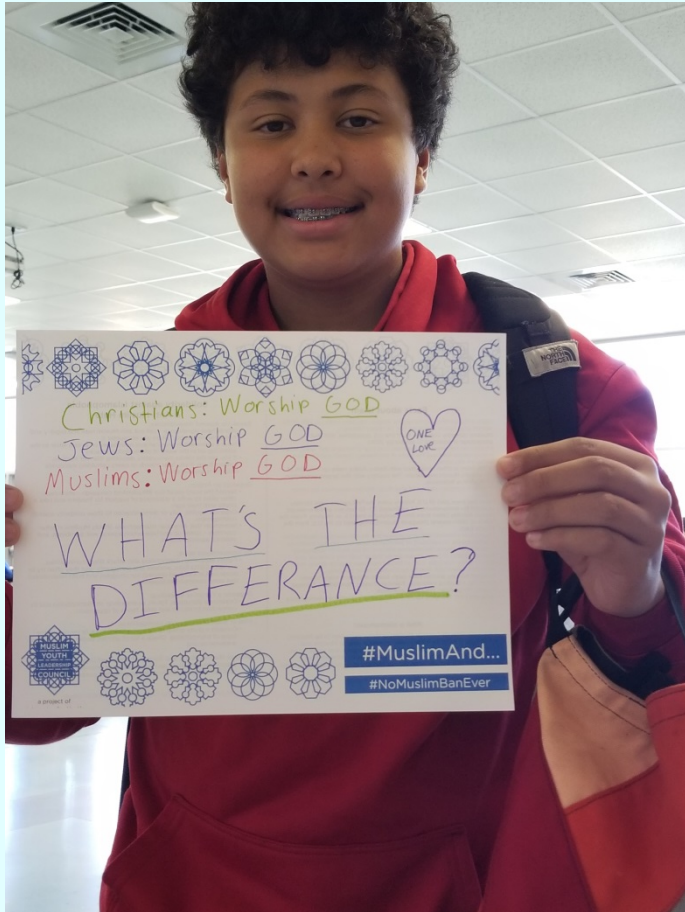
4 MAIN BUCKET AREAS

- Countering Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hate and Bigotry
- Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights
- LGBTQ Rights and Supporting Queer Muslims
- Racial Justice and Countering Anti-Blackness in our Communities





Urban retreat 2017



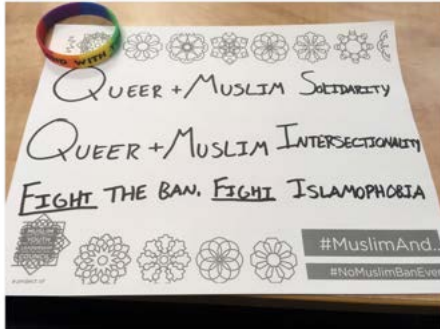
#MuslimAnd





The BacheLorant
@Lorantalyn

Queer + Muslim solidarity, queer + muslim intersectionality. Fight the ban, fight islamophobia. [#MuslimAnd](#) [#NoMuslimBanEver](#)



Hash Slingin Slasher
@drizzy_drel

Xavierites in solidarity w/ the [#MuslimAnd](#) campaign & young Muslims across the nation as they fight anti-Muslim hatred across the country 🍷 ?



👤 XULA MSA and Advocates For Youth
10/18/17, 4:24 PM



Nilofar Ganjaie
@NilofarGanjaie

[#MuslimAnd](#) fighting for abortion access. We are not a monolith. Stand up against anti-Muslim hate when you see it. [#NoMuslimBanEver](#)



M Sandhoff
@drsandhoff

Students in my class on Muslims in the US say: [#NoMuslimBanEver](#) [#MuslimAnd](#)



These are our siblings. Let's keep it going. [#NoMuslimBanEver](#) [#MuslimAnd](#) 🍷



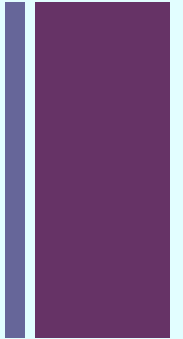
Articles on [#MuslimAnd](#) has been published in Bustle, MTV, and ColorLines



- Emad and Hana were leaders of their cities' Women's March
- Tay created the Islamic Healing Space of Ipsilanti & A2
- Fyzah is becoming a social worker to focus on healing trauma for queer Muslims
- Areeba created a workshop on financial literacy for Muslim women
- Several members have created zines & art pieces, utilized social media to tell their stories, held leadership positions on campus, and served as community leaders
- Amina is creating sex-ed content and curriculum for AFY materials

■ Whats next...

- “I’m Muslim, and I Think I Might Not Be Straight...” resource guide!
- Group going up to 20 people
- Mentor-mentee program





How can providers do better?

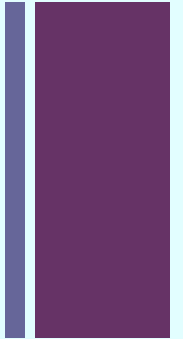
Recommendations

- Culturally competent staff and volunteers
 - Programs should familiarize staff and volunteers with the needs of Muslim youth and train them to be nonjudgmental
- Do not assume that a young person's religiosity means that they are or are not having sex
 - For example, just because a young woman wears a hijab does not mean she is not sexually active.
- Do not assume the genders of people they are having sex with
- Continue to ask questions to support young people's health and safety



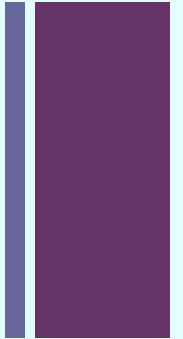
Recommendations, cont.

- Accurate, culturally and linguistically appropriate and reliable resources and materials—regarding the sexual and reproductive health of Muslim youth.
- Additional research that can illuminate the myriad and complex issues around reproductive and sexual health of Muslim youth is needed.
- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the community to develop effective programs.
- Need for enhanced communication between parents and adolescents about sexuality
- Including parents in adolescent reproductive health programming and finding ways to engage the entire Muslim community.





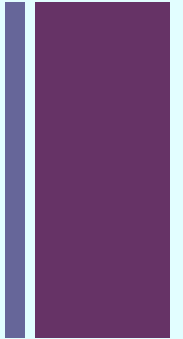
- Programming developed and led by youth
 - Programs that empower young people to train and develop support groups for other young people, allowing the programs to focus on the needs identified by Muslim youth rather than on needs perceived by adults.
 - Peer-led programming limits youth's isolation and encourages them to build leadership skills and provide other Muslim youth with support.
- Opportunities to build skills
 - Effective programs promote and encourage skills, such as developing healthy relationships, negotiating safer sex with partners, using condoms and dental dams, communicating with steady and casual partners, and saying "no" to unwanted sex.
- Programs specific to Muslim youth
 - Programs support youth as they deal with decisions and issues regarding sexuality, identity, gender identity, culture, race/ethnicity, racism and Islamophobia.





How to be in solidarity?

- Don't assume that someone's religiosity has a relationship to how they think about issues around LGBTQ rights, sexual health, racism, etc
- Think of the wholeness of a Muslim person and their self identities
- Don't assume that Muslims working on sexual health and reproductive rights can only do this work within a secular context
- Make sure to push back on islamophobia and anti Muslim hate on social-cultural, institutional and political levels
- Male allies, straight allies, non-Muslim allies – speak up!



Thank you!



Contact:

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www.advocatesforyouth.org