

NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

Promising Practices to Strengthen Relations with
Refugees and Muslims

September 19, 2016



WELCOMING
Refugees

The Welcoming Refugees Project is supported by the
Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR/ACF/DHHS)



Objectives

By the end of this webinar, participants will:

- understand why anti-refugee and anti-Muslim backlash matters to all Americans
- understand key takeaways from the *Neighbors Together* toolkit
- learn about how strategies from welcoming efforts in Michigan and Tennessee can be incorporated into their own work

Agenda

- Why This Matters...
Susan Downs-Karkos, Welcoming America
- *Neighbors Together: Promising Practices to Strengthen Relationships with Refugees and Muslims* Toolkit
Mahvash Hassan, Toolkit Author
- Working in Arab American Communities
Nadia El-Zein Tonova, National Network for Arab American Communities
- The Tennessee Story
Stephanie Teatro, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

WHY THIS MATTERS...

Context

- Fear and distrust
- Economic challenges
- “Canaries in A Coalmine”
- Lack of familiarity



City of Boise

The Right Side of History.....

Anti-refugee and Muslim backlash hurts your ability to address your basic human needs."

Faizan Syed, Executive Director, CAIR St. Louis, MO

Preventing and countering anti-Muslim backlash is a way to protect our democracy, our way of life."

Dalia Mogahed, Director of Research Institute for Social Policy



Diplomedia/Shutterstock

NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

Promising Practices to Strengthen Relations with Refugees
and Muslims

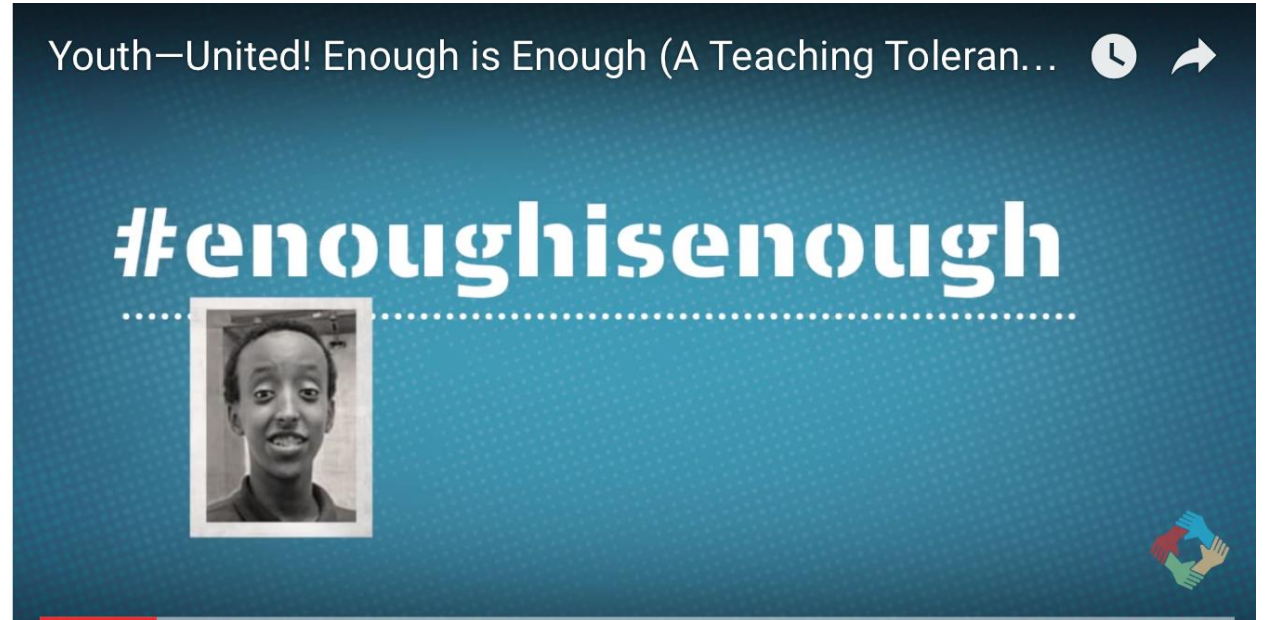
Lessons Learned - 1

- Relationship building BEFORE crisis erupts, and AFTER crisis passes.
- Multiethnic and Interfaith Alliances
- Joint Community Service Projects



Lessons Learned - 2

- Share Your Story
- Reframe Your Message
- Use the Arts

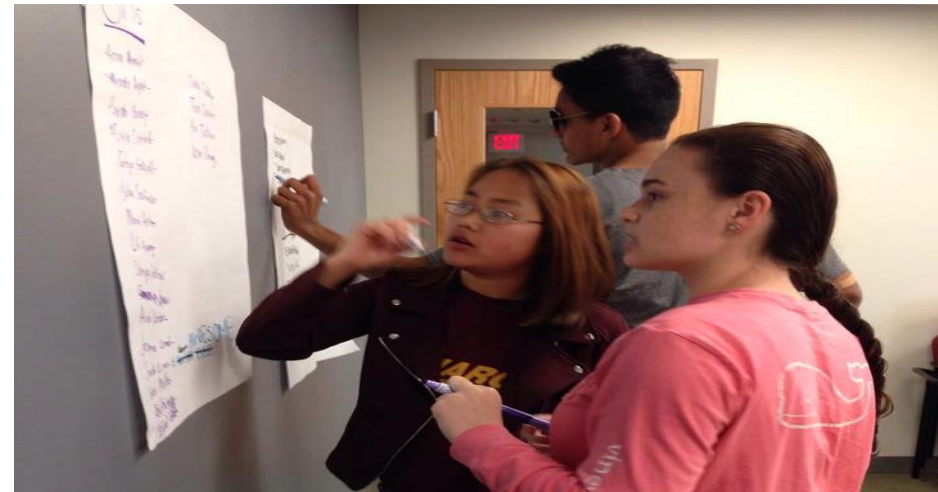


Lessons Learned - 3

- Leverage Civic Engagement within Refugee and Muslim Communities
- Engage with and Learn from Youth
- Partnerships with local institutions



COURTESY CITY OF BEAVERTON



Youth LEAD

WORKING IN ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

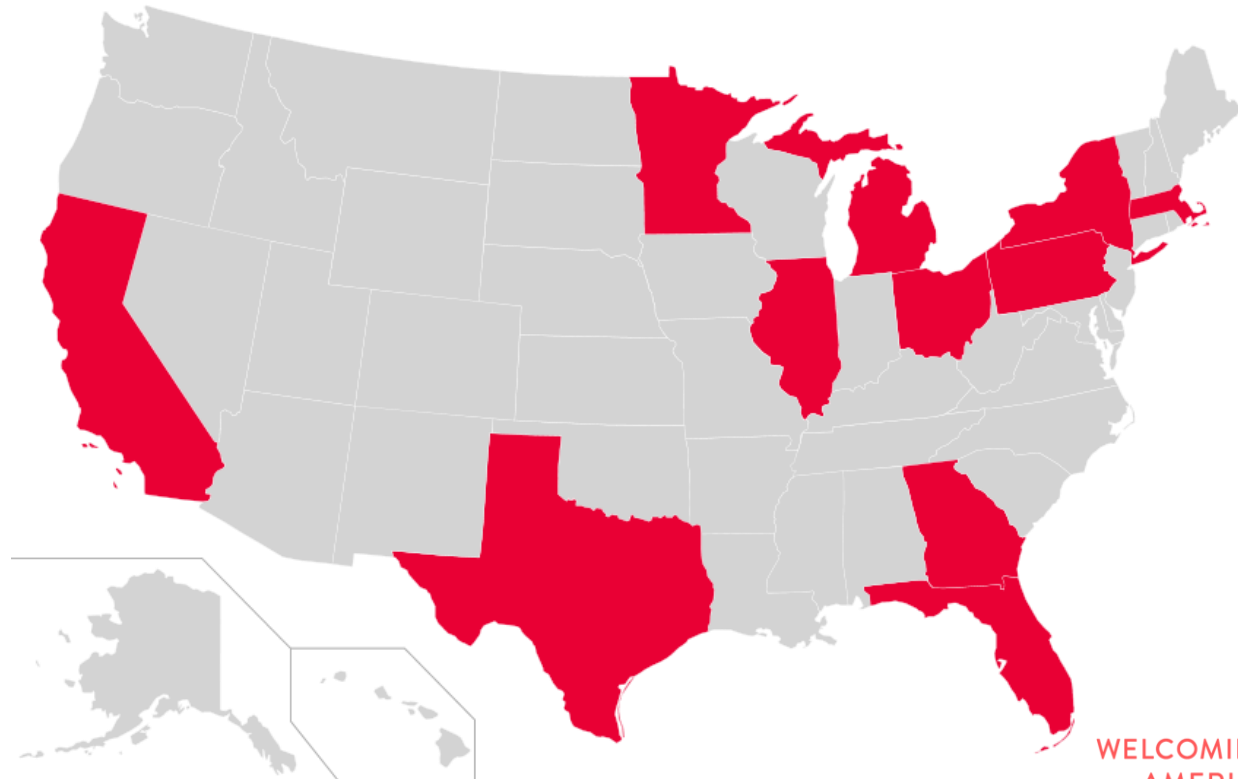
National Network for Arab American Communities



National Network for Arab American Communities

— *An ACCESS Institution* —

Nadia El-Zein Tonova,
Director



Anti-Bullying & Leadership Development

- Over 1000 diverse students trained
- Builds an understanding of contemporary social justice issues such as Islamophobia.
- Teaches to deal with bullying, and educates them on their rights.



Race Identity Series

- Topics include Racism 101, Identity and Privilege, and Overcoming Implicit Bias
- Interactive workshops on race and identity allow participants to think about these issues in new ways and build bridges across communities of color



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BUILDING A NATION OF NEIGHBORS



TAKE ON HATE

SEPTEMBER EVENTS IN MICHIGAN

Feeling of Being Watched: A Discussion on Profiling & Surveillance

Friday, Sept. 9, 2016 | 6-9pm
Arab American National Museum - Annex
Dearborn, MI

Waking in Oak Creek (Film & Discussion)

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 | 7-9 p.m.
Madonna University - Livonia, MI
Friday, Sept. 16, 2016 | 9:30-11:30am
Macomb County Family Resource Center
Mount Clemens, MI

Narratives of Pain

Friday, Sept. 16, 2016 | 7-9pm
Arab American National Museum - Annex
Dearborn, MI

Race Identity Series Part 5: Bias & Microaggressions

Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016 | 6-9pm
Arab American National Museum - Annex
Dearborn, MI

The Headwrap Expo

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016 | 1-8pm
Ford Performing and Community Arts
Center - Dearborn, MI

QUESTIONS? EMAIL INFO@TAKEONHATE.ORG.



WELCOMING
AMERICA 

THE TENNESSEE STORY

Countering anti-refugee backlash in the Volunteer State

Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition

Stephanie Teatro,
Co-Executive Director



TENNESSEE
**Immigrant
& Refugee
Rights**
COALITION

The background of the image is a solid red color with a repeating zigzag or chevron pattern. The pattern consists of a series of connected 'V' shapes pointing downwards, creating a textured, woven appearance. The word 'CONTEXT' is centered on the left side of the image.

CONTEXT

Roots of Anti-Refugee Backlash



npr NASHVILLE PUBLIC RADIO news arts & life music programs shop

POLITICS

Tennessee Lawmaker Calls For National Guard To Round Up Syrian Refugees

3:45

November 19, 2015 · 12:34 PM ET

CHAS SISIK

FROM NASHVILLE PUBLIC RADIO

Tennessee state Rep. Glen Casada has proposed using the National Guard to remove Syrian refugees from the state.
Chas Sisik/WPLN

2016 Legislative Session

Tennessee Lawmakers Want To Sue U.S. Government, Calling Refugee Resettlement An Unfunded Mandate

By CHAS SISK • FEB 16, 2016

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Supporters of refugee resettlement rallied last year outside the state Capitol.

TONY GONZALEZ / WPLH

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GAME ON: TENNESSEE TO SUE FEDS OVER UNCONSTITUTIONAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

[f SHARE 14338](#) [EMAIL](#) [g+ SHARE 19](#) [TWEET](#)

UPI

by MICHAEL PATRICK LEAHY | 19 Apr 2016 | 653

TURNING THE TIDE

Strategies to Counter the Backlash

Shifting the Narrative & Engaging Allies



THE TENNESSEAN
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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Gov. Haslam, heed biblical case for welcoming refugees

Joshua Graves 2:59 p.m. CDT April 29, 2016

Legislators love to love the Bible until they have to heed what it says.

Since birth, I have been taught to love my neighbor. From my earliest days of Sunday school and throughout seminary, mentors challenged me to welcome the stranger and stand with the vulnerable.

Now, as a father, minister and Tennessean, I am striving to demonstrate these values in my daily life. Because of these values, I am in disagreement with legislation passed by the Tennessee General

TOP VIDEOS

MORE STORIES

September political cartoons from the USA TODAY Network

565

7

Leadership Development



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Contribute to Nashville Public Radio before September 23 and you'll be automatically entered to win an Alaskan cruise for two!

Governor Faces Choice On Effort To Cut Off Refugee Resettlement In Tennessee

By CHAS SISK • MAY 15, 2018

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Sherwar Musawir moved to Tennessee in January, weeks before his first child, Aya, was born.
TENNESSEE IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS COALITION

More on the Tennessee Story

<http://www.tnimmigrant.org/countering-the-backlash/>

COUNTERING THE BACKLASH

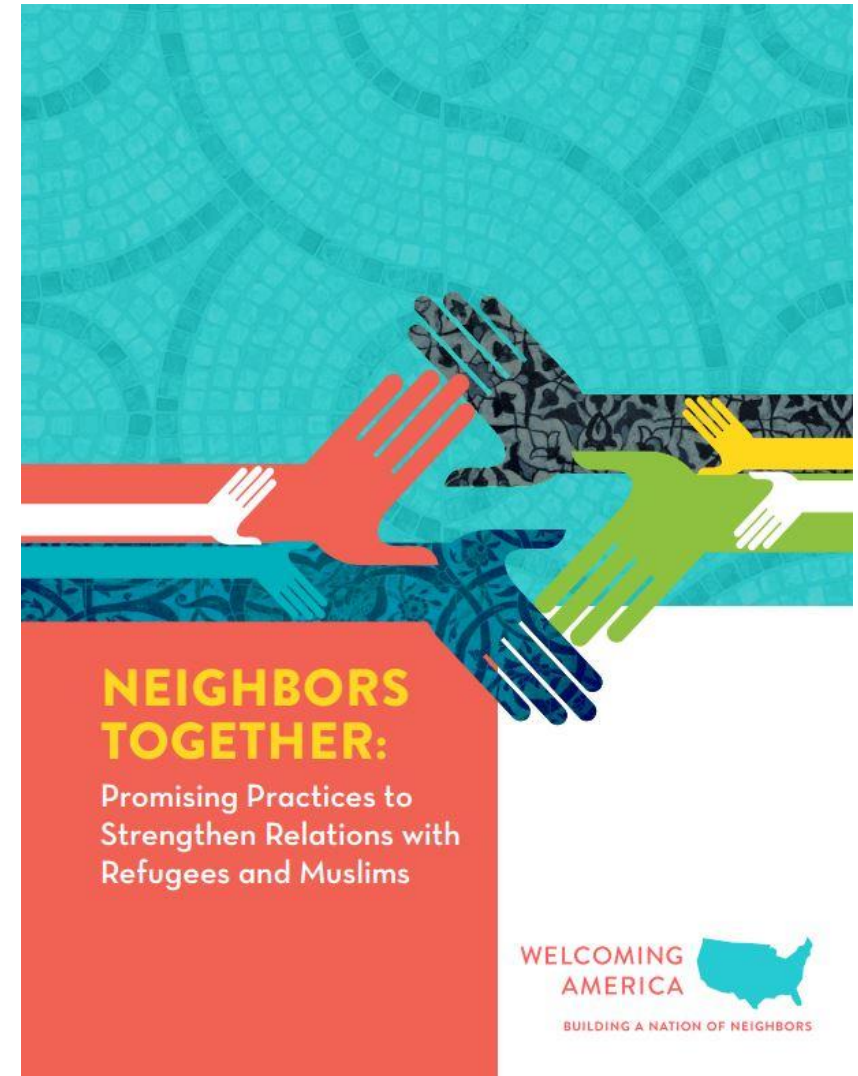
Strategies for Responding to Anti-Refugee and Xenophobic Activity from the New South



USING THIS TOOLKIT

Neighbors Together

- Adapt Strategies to Meet Your Local Context
- Share Your Stories - <http://www.welcomingrefugees.org/share-your-story>
- Sustaining - Embed Practices



QUESTIONS?

National Immigrant Integration Conference 2016

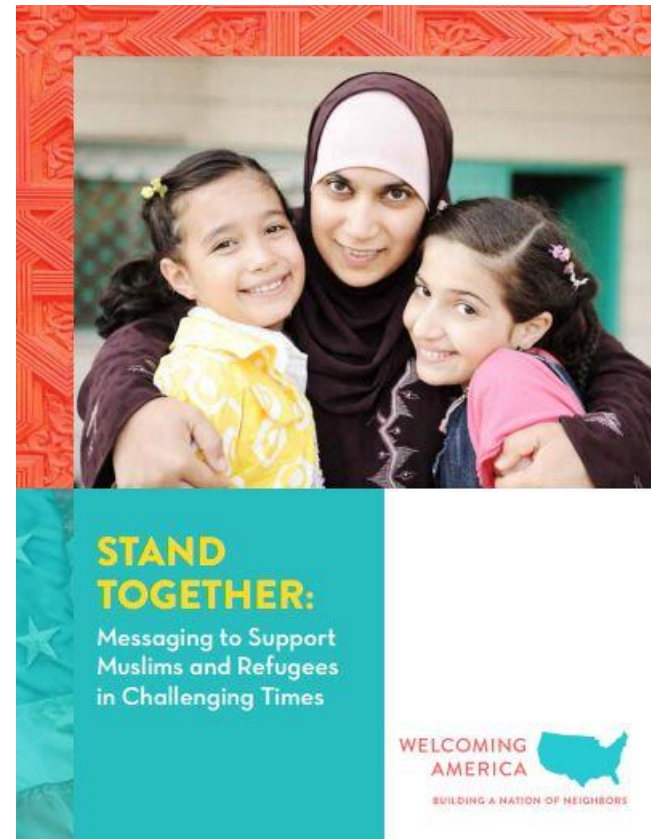
Discounted early bird registration until
September 30th

www.niic2016.org



STAND TOGETHER: The Toolkit

- Audiences
- Winning Messages
- The Power of Stories
- Tough Questions
- Choose Words Carefully
- Appendix/Resources



Welcoming Week – Sept. 16-25



Soccer Without Borders



Kentucky Refugee Ministries

welcomingweek.org

Welcoming Refugees Forum

You will have the opportunity to:

- Engage in special discussions before and after webinars
- Have direct access to Welcoming America staff
- Get early peeks at new resources
- Share successes and challenges in welcoming with each other

<http://bit.ly/wrforum>

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