

Background to the Work of the Charter of Compassion

On February 28, 2008 acclaimed scholar and bestselling author Karen Armstrong received the TED Prize and made a wish—to help create, launch, and propagate a Charter for Compassion. After much work and the contribution of thousands of people the Charter was unveiled to the world on November 12, 2009.

Our organization -- Charter for Compassion -- was inspired by the Charter for Compassion, created by Karen Armstrong and the Council of Conscience in 2009, and inherits a confluence of contributions made by TED.com, the Compassionate Action Network, the Fetzer Institute, and many others. Charter for Compassion International provides an umbrella for people to engage in collaborative partnerships worldwide. Our mission is to bring to life the principles articulated in the Charter for Compassion through concrete, practical action in a myriad of sectors.

Aware that our world is deeply troubled and polarized and committed to make the world a better place, we work to establish and sustain cultures of compassion locally and globally through diverse initiatives—education, cities, business, environment, healthcare, interfaith communities, and the arts. We supply resources, information and communication platforms to help create and support compassionate communities, institutions, and networks of all types that are dedicated to becoming compassionate presences in the world. Through a vibrant Charter for Compassion Partner Network we welcome and communicate the sharing of information, stories and experiences that touch the work of compassion.

The Charter works with over 325 compassionate city initiatives in 47 countries of the world and has membership with individuals and organizations in over 125 countries.

Vision

A world where everyone is committed to living by the principle of compassion.

Mission

We support the emergence of a global movement that brings the Charter for Compassion to life. To do so, we are a network of networks, connecting organizers and leaders from around the world, providing educational resources, organizing tools, and avenues for communication; sharing lessons, stories, and inspiration; providing the umbrella of the Charter for Compassion for conferences, events, collaborations, conversations and initiatives to create compassionate communities and institutions.

As stated above, the Charter for Compassion International as an organization performs its work through networking, utilizing the tools of social media, including offering webinars, instructive conference calls engaging hundreds of people on each offering, and through publishing resources free of cost, one of which was the creation of the Islamophobia Guide Book which was designed as one of the central activities of the Charter's World Interfaith Harmony Week. Other offerings included a World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) Speakers Series and a commitment to support our city initiatives and partners WIHW projects.

World Interfaith Harmony Week Activities 2016

Phase One Activities: Islamophobia

The Charter for Compassion International's (CCI) commitment to World Interfaith Harmony Week started in earnest on December 18th when the Charter sponsored a conference call, with over 500 participants registered, on Islamophobia. The title of the call: "Turning Our Moral Outrage into Compassionate Action."



Description of the 90 minute presentation and discussion: The Charter for Compassion is having this Emergency Call because we are concerned with the escalating, corrosive anti-Muslim rhetoric whipping up Europe and the United States particularly. We are bringing together three voices: Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, President of our Charter's Board of Directors, Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, Board President of the Parliament of the World's Religions, and Sari Heidenreich, Regional Coordinator of the United Religions Initiative- North America, since we believe that authoritative voices are so needed right now.

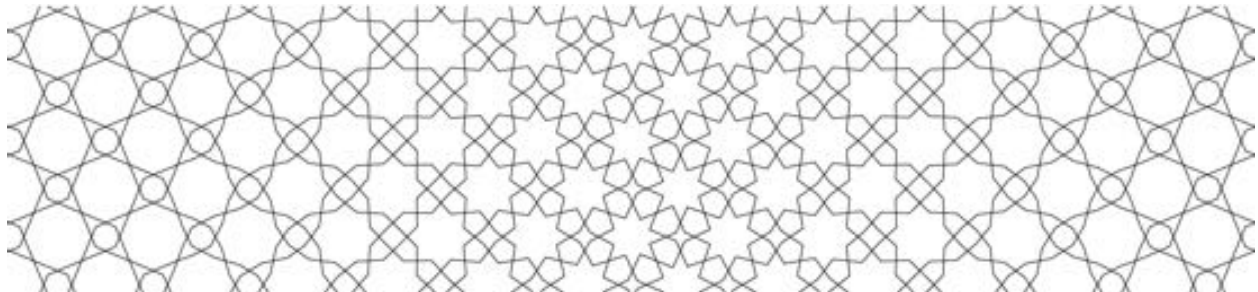


The vitriol of Marine La Pen in France is matched with the venom of Donald Trump in the US; street violence ranges from Pegida marchers in Germany to what appears to be attempted

arson on a mosque in Finsbury Park. In response, we hold this Emergency Call on countering Islamophobia.

A complete report of the call can be found at: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/religion-spirituality-interfaith-reports-and-documents/turning-our-moral-outrage-into-compassionate-action-december-18-2015>

The Charter used this call to launch a **year long effort**, the release of an international publication: *The Islamophobia Guide Book*. CCI is committed to updating the Guide Book quarterly during 2016. Currently the Guide, over 150 pages, is available through the Charter's website: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/compassion-and-religion/islamophobia-guidebook> and as a PDF. It has been disseminated by dozens of organizations worldwide.



CHARTER FOR COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Guidebook

Introduction to the Guidebook

In this document you'll find a variety of resources—some are opportunities to reflect, others are more prescriptive. We recommend you browse the full document so you get a sense of what's available—contextual framing from Karen Armstrong, guidance for Muslims by Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, an overview of Islamophobia from Barbara Kaufmann, and links to resources by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and others—many geared toward educators. Finally, you'll find a reflective article by Cambridge Muslim College dean Abdal Hakim Murad and a list of resources for your further study. After getting an overview of what's here, we recommend you set aside time to read at least one of the background articles. Then, use these tools to take action. The single most important thing that you can do to counter Islamophobia is to not remain silent. Your courage to speak will embolden others to be compassionate, and may give pause to those who vilify.

We invite you to share your experiences with us, either on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CharterCities/> or by emailing the Charter for Compassion at contact@charterforcompassion.org.

This document will continue to be updated online. You'll be able to find updates here: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/compassion-and-religion/islamophobia-guidebook>.

You can download this document as a PDF: https://charterforcompassion-my.sharepoint.com/personal/reed_charterforcompassion_org/Documents/Shared%20with%20Everyone/IslamophobiaGuide2.pdf.

Phase Two Activities: Speakers Series during World Interfaith Harmony Week

During the working week of February 1-5 the Charter sponsored five speakers. The intent was to explore the need for developing compassion to understand and benefit from a world that is marked by diversity and pluralism—in life forms, in cultural patterns, in faith pathways, in physical characteristics. A recording is available for each of the speakers and a report available through the website. Each of the reports is referenced below.

Among the topics we grappled with in these calls:

- The value of engaging with the "other"
- Embracing pluralism: how to celebrate diversity while cultivating culture
- Responding to fundamentalism: politics and religion
- When bigotry becomes normalized
- How to represent a community not our own

Speakers for the Series



Karin Miller, Monday, Feb. 1, 10 am ET

Karin is Vice President and General Counsel of a major entertainment industry consortium. Active in the mind, body and spirit communities for over ten years, Miller served as pro bono counsel to Marianne Williamson for the formation of the Peace Alliance and as an Advisory Board Member to the Alliance for a New Humanity, chaired by Deepak Chopra.

Karin founded Our New Evolution (ONE) to connect and empower people and projects that are aligned with Global Values—the heart of Karin's new book, "Global Values: A New Paradigm for a New World." Read the introduction to Karen's book and visit www.OurNewEvolution.org to learn more.

Report: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/deepening-our-historical-perspective/global-values-a-new-paradigm-for-a-new-world>

**The Interfaith Amigos, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 12 p.m. ET
Imam Jamal Rahman, Rev. Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon**

The Interfaith Amigos started working together after 9/11. Since then, they have brought their unique blend of spiritual wisdom and humor to audiences in the US, Canada, Israel-Palestine



and Japan. Their first book, *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith* (Skylight Paths, 2009), brought the Interfaith Amigos international attention with coverage from the New York Times, CBS News, the BBC and various NPR programs. Karen Armstrong calls their "exuberant and courageous" second book, *Religion Gone Astray: What We Found at the Heart of Interfaith* (Skylight Paths, 2011), "an inspiration and example for all of us in these sadly polarized times."

Report: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/report-on-the-conference-call-the-interfaith-amigos-february-2-2016>

**Call to Action, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 12 pm ET
Marie Roker-Jones, Louisa Hext, Aleasa Word**

Marie Roker-Jones and Louisa Hext are cofounders of #CompassionConvos: a compassion movement challenging our own bias. It's a call to action bringing people together to create individual and systemic change. Roker-Jones is also

the founder of <http://raisinggreatmen.com/>, an effort to raise boys to be men of character. Hext is the North American representative of The Forgiveness Project, and can be reached through <http://consultantshext.com/>

Aleasa Word is an internationally certified professional life coach, editor at the Good Men Project, small business consultant and author specializing in helping people develop the second chapter of their lives professionally and personally. Details on her site Chapter 2 Living.

Report: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/report-on-conference-call-call-to-action-bringing-people-together-to-create-individual-and-systemic-change-february-3-2016>

Conversation with John Esposito Thursday, Feb. 4, 12 pm ET

John Esposito is American professor of International Affairs and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Esposito is Founding Director of the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-



Christian Understanding in the Walsh School of Foreign Service. Previously, he was Loyola Professor of Middle East Studies, College of the Holy Cross. He is the author of over 45 books. Esposito's interviews and articles with newspapers, magazines, and the media in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and the Middle East: The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, The Guardian, The

Times of London, CNN, ABC Nightline, CBS, NBC, and the BBC. John is a major contributor to the Charter's Islamophobia Guide Book.

Report: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/report-on-conference-call-conversation-with-john-esposito-february-4-2016>

**Desperate Times Call for Compassionate Action,
Friday, Feb 5, 10 am PT
Reham Hamoui and John Forseth**

Join Reham Hamoui and John Forseth who are working with refugees arriving in Europe and America. Reham is Syrian-born American currently residing in Seattle, WA. She has worked on humanitarian issues for 5 years in several capacities including the coordination of medical missions, political advocacy, and community outreach. She is now the Director of Communications for Salaam Cultural Museum, a NGO focused on providing humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees within the MENA region and Greece. John Forseth has worked for Lutheran Community Services for the past 6 years, previously as supervisor of in home caregivers in Pierce County. More recently he has worked as Program Director of Refugee Resettlement and Placement in Tacoma, WA.

Report: <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/report-on-conference-call-desperate-times-call-for-compassionate-action-february-5-2016>

Phase Three Activities: Interfaith Harmony Activities in Conjunction with Charter Partners



Prior to and during World Interfaith Harmony Week, CCI worked with Charter partners to support their own interfaith activities. CCI was a sponsor of the Compassion Games International and as a part of our relationship with the games we promoted the Interfaith Games through our newsletter (distributed to 125,000) on two separate occasions and also created our own Compassion Games Team.

Here is an excerpt from our Compassion Games Report submitted by our Team:

Through all of our various activities it is clear that the world is not only interconnected, but interdependent. We are our sisters and brothers keepers. It was so clearly expressed in our Flint Coalition call that the horrendous water and health issues in this one Michigan town are shared by not only communities in the U.S., but throughout the global. There are no isolated incidents--only moments of awakening and challenges.

Compassion Impact

Volunteers/Players	44
Hours Served	180
People Served	127000

Support of Waves of Compassion's Public Declaration of Interfaith Peace and Friendship

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

from the declaration:

We acknowledge the diverse faiths, spiritual paths, and secular beliefs within our community and world.

We respect the equality of rights and privileges of residents from all our diverse communities, promote zero tolerance of discrimination, and recognize the diverse needs of our communities.

We affirm and appreciate that there can be harmony and strength through this diversity, and will support programs like the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week that promote peace and friendship among our diverse communities.

And we invite all sectors - business, education, health, human rights, justice, non-profit, political, government, and faith communities - to publicly make this declaration before or during the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week.