



Uitnodiging moslim-jongerenorganisaties Rotterdam **Crossing Oceans: Beyond 'Us and Them'**

Zondag 3 november 2019

16:00u-19:00u

We leven vandaag de dag in een gepolariseerde wereld. Nederland is daar helaas geen uitzondering op. Er bestaat een sterke tendens in termen van 'wij' en 'zij', gebaseerd op onderscheid etniciteit en/of religie. Veel mensen nemen met name een controversieel onderscheid waar tussen 'moslims' en 'niet-moslims'. Ondanks dat dit onderscheid geen enkel recht doet aan de daadwerkelijke diversiteit in de bevolking, domineert het wel het publieke en het politieke debat in de samenleving. SPIOR maakt zich zorgen hierover, omdat het geen gezonde situatie is in een duurzaam open, democratische en diverse samenleving. Deze gevoelens en percepties kunnen, indien zij niet effectief opgevangen en gecorrigeerd worden, een voedingsbodem zijn voor radicalisering en extremisme. SPIOR zet zich al meerdere jaren in tegen extremisme in iedere vorm; onze focus ligt bij preventie, door het bouwen aan weerbaarheid in de moslimgemeenschap.

Nederland staat er niet alleen voor in deze uitdaging. Meerdere landen in de EU en in de rest van de wereld kampen met het tegengaan van gewelddadig extremisme. Zo ook de Verenigde Staten, met initiatieven als 'strong cities' (sterke steden) waarin Amerikaanse steden bouwen aan samenwerking, sociale cohesie en weerbaarheid in de gemeenschap tegen extremisme in allerlei vormen. We kunnen van elkaar leren en de kennis en ervaring op dit gemeenschappelijke doel onderling delen. Daartoe heeft SPIOR het project 'Crossing Oceans: Beyond 'Us and Them' in het leven geroepen. Drie deskundige sprekers uit de Verenigde Staten zullen in dit project hun licht werpen op het thema: *Christian Picciolini, Mohamed Elbiary en John Harris Loflin*.

SPIOR nodigt (vertegenwoordigers van) moslim-jongerenorganisaties in Rotterdam van harte uit om deel te nemen aan een interactieve workshop op:

Datum: zondag 3 november 2019
Tijd: 16:00u-19:00u (hapjes en drankjes worden verzorgd)
Locatie: Centrum de Middenweg, Kerdijkstraat 16, 3038 XE, Rotterdam.

Dagvoorzitter van deze bijeenkomst is *Joram van Klaveren*. Er zal ruime gelegenheid zijn om interactief in gesprek te gaan met de sprekers.

Van de jongeren, die namens hun organisatie aanwezig zijn, verzoeken wij om de kennis die zij tijdens deze bijeenkomst hebben opgedaan, enkele weken later te presenteren binnen hun organisatie en daarover een verslag te schrijven aan SPIOR.

Aanmelden kan door een e-mail te sturen aan a.dundar@spior.nl o.v.v. 'Crossing Oceans jongerenorganisatie Rotterdam'. Voor meer info kunt u tijdens kantooruren bellen naar 010-466 69 89.



Over de sprekers (Engelstalig)

Christian Picciolini

Christian Picciolini is an award-winning television producer, a public speaker, author, peace advocate, and a reformed violent extremist. His life's work bears witness to an ongoing and profound need to atone for a grisly past and an urgency to make something of his time on this planet by contributing to the greater good.

After leaving the violent hate movement he helped create during his youth, he began the painstaking process of rebuilding his life. While working for IBM, Christian earned a degree in international relations from DePaul University and later began his own global media firm. He is currently leading the Free Radicals Project, the world's first global network of extremism preventionists, who are helping people disengage from hate movements and other violence-based ideologies around the globe.



In 2016, Christian won an Emmy Award for his role in directing and producing an anti-hate advertising campaign aimed at helping youth disengage from white supremacist groups.

Mohamed Elibiary

Mohamed Elibiary is a Texas Muslim whose post-September 11th career has simultaneously worked inside the American Muslim community and the across the Homeland Security Enterprise (HSE) with multiple state and federal law enforcement and intelligence security agencies. Mohamed publicly served in homeland security policy advisory capacities beginning at his local city level, then at the State of Texas level, followed at the federal United States Government (USG) level and currently at the international level. In 2009 Mohamed served on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group and testified before the United States Congress on addressing homegrown violent extremism. In October 2010 Mohamed was appointed to the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) by Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, serving two terms until September 2014. In September 2011 Mohamed was awarded by Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Director Robert Mueller the FBI's "highest public service award" for his "extraordinary contributions to specific cases in support of the FBI's counterterrorism mission."



Elibiary has similarly served the American Muslim community in multiple capacities. After the September 11th attacks upon the United States, Mohamed co-founded and served as the

President and CEO of the Freedom and Justice Foundation (F&J), a nonprofit organization established in 2002 and closed in 2011 “to promote a centrist public policy environment in Texas by coordinating the state-level government and interfaith community relations for the organized Texas Muslim community”. The Foundation coordinated the statewide lobbying for passage of Texas’s Halal Food Law (the state’s first Muslim focused statute), and for the institutionalizing of Islamic prayers (recited by Imams) in both chambers of the State Legislature. In 2006 Elibiary additionally co-founded the North Texas Islamic Council (NTIC), to coordinate the activities of the many mosques, Islamic schools, and community groups serving the Dallas-Fort Worth area’s 250,000+ Muslim residents. In 2003 Elibiary helped rebuild and served on the board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Dallas-Fort Worth chapter (CAIR-DFW) to advocate for the civil rights of American Muslims during the September 11th aftermath. Though Mohamed resides in Dallas, Texas he continues to advise multiple large western Muslim organizations in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

John Harris Loflin

John Harris Loflin, an educator, child and youth advocate, academic, community activist, mentor, visionary, and artist has degrees from Purdue and Indiana universities, and studied at the Kheprw Institute located in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA where he is a life-long resident.



John is the Director of Education and Youth Issues for the Black & Latino Policy Institute, Chair of the Southeast Indianapolis Working-Class Task Force, on the advisory board of the Indianapolis Race and Cultural Leadership Network, and member of the Program Committee of the Indianapolis Center for Interfaith Cooperation which is studying the causes and cures of urban youth violence.

John taught at the middle school, high school, adult, and university levels. His research is published internationally and he has presented on 6 continents regarding alternative and democratic education, as well as his search for the sources of human violence.

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