

# Network Against Islamophobia

The Network Against Islamophobia (NAI), a project of [Jewish Voice for Peace](#), was created to serve as a resource to, and work with, JVP chapters and other groups interested in organizing against Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism and to be a partner to the broader, Muslim-led movement against Islamophobia.

We created these materials – a two session curriculum and resources; a series of modules; and a facilitator guide – so we can be effective, accountable partners in this work.

Many thanks to Nina Mehta and Krysta Williams from the Participatory Action Research Center (PARCEO) for reviewing and contributing so meaningfully to the curriculum and for co-creating the facilitator guide.

## Organizing Against Islamophobia and Racism: Planning an Action

### **PURPOSE OF MODULE:**

This module is for individuals and groups that want to plan an action or are currently organizing a campaign or action against Islamophobia, including canvassing, solidarity actions, JVP's Chanukah action, direct action, among others. This module can be used by JVP chapters and other Jewish groups, college campus groups, and other organizing groups. Although the examples used in this module come out of JVP actions and were specifically created to provide visible, accountable Jewish voices in the broader movement, they might also be useful to other groups considering initiating unique actions. When planning a campaign or action, participants should think both about how and why they might work with coalitions (see Coalition Building Module) and also how and when to initiate actions within their own groups. We suggest using this module after the Intro module. Other tips for use can be found in the Facilitator Guide.

**GOALS:**

- TO BE THOUGHTFUL AND PRINCIPLED IN OUR ORGANIZING
- TO WORK WITHIN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES AND TOGETHER WITH GROUPS FROM WITHIN MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS OTHERS WORKING TO CHALLENGE ISLAMOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ARAB RACISM
- TO BE PART OF THE BROADER MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND AGAINST ALL FORMS OF INJUSTICE AND SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION

**MATERIALS:**

- [NAI website](#)
- [Chanukah Actions 5776](#) with commitments written out
- Handout #15: Organizing Against Islamophobia (take home)
- Handout #16: Ten Commitments to Challenge Islamophobia and Racism
- Handout # 17: NAI Canvassing Tool-Kit (also [online](#))
- [Action Planning Checklist](#)
- Post-it notes
- Chart Paper

## I. Moving Forward: Possibilities and Challenges (15 minutes)

**FACILITATOR:**

Offer overview of this session, agenda, rationale and use for this module. Post Guiding Questions on separate pieces of paper/poster board around room. Read them out loud. Pass out post-it notes to each person. Participants write their responses on separate post-it notes and then post them in the assigned space for each question. As people are posting, invite participants to walk around and read responses.

**GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What are examples of ways to challenge Islamophobia? What work are you already a part of that addresses Islamophobia?
- Why do you think it's important to do this work? And why is it specifically important to do it as part of JVP, as Jews, or as part of other communities speaking out against Islamophobia?
- What are your questions and/or challenges for doing this work?
- How can we think about being proactive, rather than only reacting to Islamophobic incidents (which is critical to do as well)?

## II. Moving to Action (35 minutes)

### **FACILITATOR:**

Before this activity, post the 8 commitments from the JVP Chanukah Candle Action Posters up around the room. Facilitators share a little bit of background on the Chanukah Candle Actions and how they've been used across the country. See <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/nai-action-wrapup>. (3 min)

Read all of the statements. Ask participants to stand by the commitment against Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism that resonates with them the most. Participants work in small groups formed around each statement to brainstorm actions that can support their chosen commitment.

Pass out Handout #16: Some of the Commitments to Challenge Islamophobia and Racism to each group. Ask participants to read the section that corresponds with their statement before writing out their action brainstorm ideas on notes or chart paper. Groups consider Guiding Questions to help with action and brainstorm discussion. (20 min)

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS (FACILITATOR CHOOSE A FEW THAT RESONATE WITH YOU AND YOUR GROUP):**

- What are our goals and challenges for working within Jewish communities or with other communities to challenge Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism?
- What are ways you can be vocal about anti-Muslim and racist hate crimes/speech? Individually? With a group?
- What does public condemnation of state surveillance look like?
- What are practical ways to show solidarity and support in hostile environments and interactions?
- What are visible signs of Muslim community support?
- How do we honor and build upon our multiple experiences, histories, and locations as we engage in our work?
- What concrete next steps can we take to begin or strengthen our work and actions?

Using chart paper and notes from brainstorm, each group shares highlights with the larger group. (10 min)

### III. Closing (15 minutes or more)

**FACILITATOR:**

Pass out [Action Planning Checklist](#). Guide discussion on questions, next steps, comments or concerns.

Participants consider Action Planning Checklist and write on post-its at least one next step they're going to take after this training, and who they will work with or stay in touch with to develop their next step. (3 min)

Share post-its, and guide closing discussion using questions below: (10 min)

**GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What is one thing you want to think more about or are taking with you today?
- What is your next action step?
- Who will you work with to develop your next step?

Pass out Handout #15: Organizing Against Islamophobia. Encourage participants to read handout and explore other resources from NAI on their own, including Handout #19: Post-Workshop Readings and Videos on Islamophobia in the United States and Handout #20, Groups to Work with and Support in Muslim and Other Impacted Communities. Encourage participants to take special note of video in Handout #19 of Kalia Abiade, leader and activist in the Muslim community. (5 min)

Thank everyone for participating.