

WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
ISLAMO-FASCISM
AWARENESS WEEK

Background & recommendations for Muslim student groups



Making Muslims part of the solution since 1988

www.mpac.org | LA: 213-383-3443 | DC: 202-547-7701





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ISLAMO-FASCISM AWARENESS WEEK

(OCTOBER 22-26, 2007)

According to its organizers, Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week (IFAW) is a nationwide set of university events which will bring together controversial conservative speakers and could stir hostility and division among student groups. Featuring the likes of Ann Coulter, Sean Hannity, Daniel Pipes, Robert Spencer and David Horowitz, IFAW organizers vow “the nation will be rocked by the biggest conservative campus protest ever.” Created by extreme conservative David Horowitz – best known for his racist and xenophobic campaigns targeting African Americans and other minority groups – the event is clearly intended to agitate and provoke students and community groups.

The declarations of Horowitz’s Freedom Center and the Terrorism Awareness Project supporting equality, dignity, and freedom do not match the rhetoric of the speakers slated to participate in IFAW, or the hostility emanating from the program’s title. To call any religion “fascist” demonizes it and dehumanizes its adherents, thus contradicting the group’s stated mission. In reality, IFAW is counterproductive to genuine and effective efforts to promote moderation in countering extremism in all forms.

MPAC RECOMMENDS THAT STUDENTS DO NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE BAITED BY IFAW ORGANIZERS, AND CAUTIONS AGAINST LAUNCHING ANY SORT OF OPPOSITION OR RESPONSE.

6 TIPS TO HANDLING ISLAMO-FASCISM AWARENESS WEEK

MPAC is here to help you and other campus student organizations effectively respond to IFAW’s campaign with Islamic ethics, clear vision and open hearts:

1. PRACTICE ISLAMIC ETHICS

As we are challenged by Islamophobia and other forms of bigotry, we must remind ourselves of Islamic ethics in confronting social evils. Our style of work and speaking should be a demonstration of the Quranic verse: *“Good and evil cannot be equal. Repel evil with what is better - so that he between whom and yourself was enmity, may then become your closest friend.”* [Quran 41:34]

2. SUPPORT FREE SPEECH

Any action must be taken with the understanding that freedom of speech is integral to the academic

setting and its participants. We advise against any move to censor or shut down the operations of the student organizations involved in the event.

3. DO NOT RESPOND

Refrain from drawing attention to events that are part of IFAW to prevent controversy, backlash, or an escalation of tensions from occurring. IFAW organizers are seeking an angry protest from Muslim students – we should avoid this at any and all costs, both in events and statements.

4. CONTACT CAMPUS ADMINISTRATORS

Student groups should contact appropriate campus administrators — such as the dean of

student affairs, religious leaders, the university president — to address concerns raised by the presence of outside agitators on their campus whose inflammatory and controversial views could have negative consequences to student life on campus.

5. TALK TO OTHER STUDENT GROUPS

Muslim students and Muslim student groups should initiate or enhance dialogue with other campus groups to unite efforts against hate and all manifestations of extremism on campus.

6. REPORT INCIDENTS

Individuals and groups should report hate incidents and hate crimes that may occur as a result of backlash from IFAW to campus police and administration, city/county law enforcement, and community organizations.

Hate crimes and hate incidents can be reported to MPAC's Hate Crime Prevention Department by calling the toll-free hotline number at (800) 898-3558 or emailing hatecrimes@mpac.org.

The following definitions may be useful in determining the types of hate acts that may take place on campus. For further information, visit www.mpac.org/hate-crime-prevention.

Hate Crime — any criminal act or attempted criminal act directed against a person(s) based on the victim's actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

Hate Incident — an act directed against a person(s) based on their actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. The difference between a hate incident and a hate crime is that a hate incident is a non-criminal act.

For more information
to prepare yourself and
student groups for IFAW,
please call our Los Angeles office at
(213) 383-3443
or email truthoverfear@mpac.org.



WHO'S BEHIND ISLAMO-FASCISM AWARENESS WEEK?

Programs such as Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week (IFAW) seek to isolate and divide communities, thereby dislodging their place as contributing members of society. Students hold a distinct right to shape the discourse on their campus communities, and IFAW only impedes upon their rights to pursue their education in a just and open-minded campus setting.

WHO'S BEHIND IFAW?



Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week is the brainchild of David Horowitz, best known as the editor of the extreme right wing websites FrontPageMagazine.com and DiscovertheNetwork.com. So, who is David Horowitz? A former campus radical from the 1960s involved with groups such as the Black Panther Party and other revolutionary organizations, Horowitz became in the late 1970s disillusioned with his radical left-wing orientation and began to drift towards the extreme right.

Since then he has established himself as one of the most strident voices on the American far-right, indulging in extreme racism, warmongering and the promotion of hate and intolerance through a number of institutions and websites. Horowitz' career has been dedicated to one witch hunt after another, targeting African Americans, university professors exercising academic freedom and now Muslims.

Among his books are "The Professors: The 101 Most

Dangerous Academics in America" (2006), "Hating Whitey and Other Progressive Causes" (1999), and "The Heterodoxy Handbook: How to Survive the PC Campus" (1994).

In 2001, Horowitz stirred national controversy when he ran nasty advertisements in college newspapers across the country entitled "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery is a Bad Idea — and Racist Too." The full-page ads ran in several college papers, causing some to issue retractions and apologies, and others to receive protest from outraged students and accusations of racism. Horowitz capitalized on the latter by declaring an "assault on free speech" by left-leaning students.

The Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week is his latest effort to scapegoat and vilify the American Muslim community on campuses across the nation and to spread intolerance and bigotry. This time, his chosen enemy is Muslim Americans.

HOROWITZ IN HIS OWN WORDS:

- "Do I think some members of the anti-war movement are in actual formal contact with the radical Islamists and advancing their agendas? Yes I do." (FrontPageMagazine.com, 8/19/05)
- "Free blacks and the free descendants of blacks ... benefited from slavery." (FrontPageMagazine.com, 1/26/05)
- "Guns don't kill black people, other blacks do." (FrontPageMagazine.com, 8/16/99)
- "Now it is virtually impossible for a vocal conservative to be hired for a tenure-track position on a faculty anywhere, or to receive tenure if so hired." (FrontPageMagazine.com, 4/18/03)

HATE SPEECH PUBLICIZED BY HOROWITZ ON HIS WEBSITES:

- "...an average Moslem who lives up the life recommended by the Quran, behaves like a beast who has forsaken his freedom to exercise his faculty of

forming an independent judgement of whom to Love and whom to hate? Like a soulless robot he/she hates all non-Moslems. They have the body of a human being, but their mind no longer has the freedom of forming an independent judgement... Thus while having the body of the Human being, a Moslem who unquestioningly follows the Quran, behaves like a soulless beast who has forsaken his/her capacity of independent thinking.” (“Mohammed Atta”, 12/11/02)

- “Osama bin Laden is a very good Muslim -- a model one, in fact, and one of the most devout in the 1400 years of Islam.” (Interview with Paul Sperry, 4/12/05)
- “Arabs do nothing on impulse... Muslims have no allegiance to any country. Their only allegiance is to Islam. This is what they have been taught since birth. It is all they know. Muslims have no borders.” (“Homegrown Sleeper Cells”, 3/7/05)
- “The Judeo-Christian basis of our society is superior to Islam as an organizing principle for the moral life of man...” (Serge Trifkovic: “The Moral Problem of Islam Ethics”, 12/9/02)
- “Islam is cruel, anti-women, anti-religious freedom and anti-personal freedom in general. How could you sympathize with a religion that kills adulterers, homosexuals and people who convert out of Islam? How could you present Islam with such affection? How could you defend a religion that inspired 9/11?” (Nonie Darwish: “PBS Shame on You”, 12/26/02)
- “There has been lots of talk in American media about a difference between ‘moderate’ and fundamentalist Muslims... there is no theological or cultural distinction between the two.” (Michael Anbar: “Where are the Moderate Muslims?”, 5/2/03)
- “I have written on numerous occasions that there is no distinction in the American Muslim community between peaceful Muslims and jihadists.” (Robert Spencer: “2 Men, in New York and Florida, Charged in Qaeda Conspiracy”, 5/30/05)
- “...Put a complete stop to Muslim immigration, and to find creative ways to deport all Muslim non-citizens. These two measures would be accompanied by the creation of an environment where the practice of Islam is made not easy but difficult.” (Hugh Fitzgerald: “Clash of Civilians? Yes and No”, 10/9/05)

ABOUT THE MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The Muslim Public Affairs Council is a public service agency working for the civil rights of American Muslims, for the integration of Islam into American pluralism, and for a positive, constructive relationship between American Muslims and their representatives. Since 1988, MPAC has worked diligently to promote a vibrant American Muslim community and enrich American society through exemplifying the Islamic values of Mercy, Justice, Peace, Human Dignity, Freedom, and Equality for all. Over the years, MPAC has built a reputation as a consistent and reliable resource for government and media, and is trusted by American Muslims as an authentic, experienced voice.

In all its actions, MPAC works diligently to offer the public a portrayal that goes beyond stereotypes in order to elucidate that Muslims worship God, abhor global terrorism, stand against oppression, and are part of a vibrant American pluralism. MPAC operates on the core belief that change in U.S. policy requires more from our community than attending meetings. It requires organized, sustained efforts in coalition with like-minded groups both at the grassroots and national levels. It requires a strong voice in the media, thoughtful analysis and authentic dialogue.