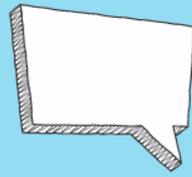




DE-OTHERIZING THE MIDDLE EAST



Pop-up Dialogue Project



DE-OTHERIZING (VERB): the act of deconstructing our fear of the other through active listening and informed dialogue

Misconceptions and fear about the Middle East among the public have very real consequences in America's immigration and foreign policy. Through our virtual dialogue installations, we directly employ youth living in the Middle East to engage in open and honest conversations with American communities as an opportunity to get to know the "other" and combat misconceptions about terrorism, war, refugees and religion. Our platform also lifts the voices of Middle Eastern youth struggling with mental health issues to share their true stories, culture and art. Through dialogue, we learn about each other

to create unified global community



DIALOGUE SESSION RE-CAP @ THE BEATNIK ART GALLERY, JOSHUA TREE CALIFORNIA

We conversed with over thirty people at our August dialogue session in which Yazan, our co-director living in Iraq, virtually read his poetry in English and Arabic and explained how poetry allowed him to express his mental health issues and process his displacement from the war in Syria. Bashar, also displaced from Syria and now living in Turkey, answered questions about his current struggle to get a visa into the U.S. with the Travel Ban despite being married to an American for over two years and getting accepted to Columbia University in New York. The audience voiced how powerful it was to have face-to-face conversations with those currently going through the struggles of displacement in the Middle East and many expressed their solidarity with our speakers after hearing their stories.

TAKE ACTION

This election vote for representatives that will [pass H.R. 4271 and S. 1979](#) to block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the U.S. to overturn the Executive Order Travel Ban

[Sign the ACLU's No Muslim Ban Ever petition here](#)



OPPORTUNITY

We are currently seeking Yemeni and Iranian youth living in the Middle East to apply to our paid speaking positions
please email for more information:

josie.yqnatowiz@gmail.com

REPORT BACK: capacity building training to combat hate speech & discrimination

New Orleans, Louisiana

Josie, the US-based co-director, had the honor of joining the New Venture Fund's Capacity Building Training in New Orleans this past week to expand the De-Otherize Dialogue Project's strategic development. Along with U.S. Muslims for Us All and the American Muslim Advisory Council (AMAC) based in Nashville, TN, we analyzed the sources of hate speech toward the Middle East, Muslims and refugees and identified target audiences to focus our efforts toward intercultural understanding, peace and acceptance. Through practices such as power mapping, contextual analysis and design thinking we identified the point sources of hate and looked at ways to counteract the dissemination of hate speech through audience specific messages that re-humanize the "others." The De-Otherize team is now working on a strategy to map fear to help us strategically engage with high involvement-negative attitude individuals. Overall, the training provided great techniques to create a strategic engagement plan for the De-Otherize team and provided a networking opportunity to collaborate with other organizations working toward the same goals.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES in the Middle East

Our co-director, Yazan is heading a new project based in Iraq that will allow the De-Otherize team to find the best ways to create global solidarity with Middle Eastern youth suffering from depression, trauma and other mental health issues.

Yazan created a survey in English and Arabic to collect stories and data from Middle Eastern youth about their mental health status.

هذا الاستطلاع من اجل الناس في الشرق الأوسط، لتسليط الضوء على هذه القضايا الخفية عن أزمات الصحة النفسية و الأسباب وراءها.

لا اسماء و لا معلومات شخصية، فقط القصص

You can check out the surveys here, spread widely!

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KGMLHSB>

Arabic: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VSVLQNN>

(Surveys translated to Turkish, Farsi and Kurdish coming soon)

CONFRONTING FEAR in Rock Springs, Wyoming

On the way to New Orleans, the De-Otherize project reached out to a local coffee shop in Rock Springs to host a dialogue session in their space. The coffee shop owner was hesitant but was open to meeting us to talk about the project; at first, she said she was scared of the project. "Is it about the Iranians?" she asked. After talking with us, she told us this was a good thing we were doing and although we didn't have time for a dialogue session by that point, we were welcome back. This exchange showed the deep impacts of the media headlines about Iran and the fear in small conservative communities about these topics.



This project is in collaboration with:



Learn more on our website:

www.de-otherize.org

Follow us on Facebook for updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/de.otherize>

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