#MuslimGirlsSpeak: The Narratives of post-9/11 Muslim-American Women

IWL Social Action Project by Gia Farooqi

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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Mission Statement

To showcase the work Muslim-American women are doing in their communities and how their nationalism, religiosity, and gender politics have shaped their identity. To explore the problems Muslim-American women are facing in a post-Trump, hostile political climate. To give a voice to the narratives of Muslim-American women. To be spoken to, instead of spoken for.
2016: Year of the Muslim-American Woman

• Anti-Muslim Climate
  – FBI: Hate crimes against Muslim-Americans have increased 67% in 2015

• But, we’ve also seen the emergence of Muslim-American women as icons:
  – Dalia Mogahed, Linda Sarsour, Noor Tagouri, Amani AlKhatatebeh
  – …What does this mean?
The Project

Phase 1: Documentary “Webisodes”

- MuslimGirl + Muslim-American Anthologies: social media campaign
- 5 episodes
  - Episode 1: Post-Trump reactions
  - Episode 2: Hijab Compromising
  - Episode 3: Violence
  - Episode 4: Commodification
  - Episode 5: Conclusion

Phase 2: Open Mic and Showing

- Muslim Writers Collective
- Open Mic Date: January 20th (coincide with inauguration)
- A platform for voices to be heard and reached
Partnerships

Highlighting the narratives of emerging icons and the everyday Muslim-American Woman
MAA got to capture the reactions of Muslim women to the Trump Presidency with Muslim Girl!

Watch what these women have to say about the impact this election may have on the community and themselves.

https://www.facebook.com/muslimgirlarmy/videos/10154673834083399/
Intellectual and Conceptual Foundations: 

3 Key Problems

**Hijab Compromising**
- Hijab as a symbol of faith
- Post-9/11 Burdens

**Violence**
- Internal: domestic violence awareness
- External: Hate crimes

**Commodification**
- Consumers and producers of our bodies
- Revolutionizing fashion
• Constantly evolving
• Problems are external and internal
• Social Media: a double-edged sword
• We’re just getting started
Lessons on Feminist Leadership

• It’s hard
• It requires patience
• Plan, organize, plan some more, act - preparation is key
• Be brave
• Small steps are still important steps
Impact

• Shedding light on unheard voices
• Starting discussions within the Muslim community—even if it’s uncomfortable
• Thinking critically about the role of the Muslim-American woman
• Answering the question: What does it mean to be a Muslim-American woman?
Bibliography


