

» MAPS-AMEN Report

MAPS-AMEN seeks to fulfill the justice mandate in Islam and empower the community by focusing on four areas: education, engagement, encouragement and empowerment. Under the leadership of Executive Director Aneelah Afzali and with support from MAPS-AMEN's Community Organizer Theresa Crecelius – and of course, with divine mercy and blessing – MAPS-AMEN has established itself as an active and effective frontline advocacy organization for Muslims and other marginalized communities, locally and even on a national level. Some accomplishments are highlighted below.



Aneelah Afzali, *MAPS-AMEN Executive Director* and Theresa Crecelius, *MAPS-AMEN's Community Organizer*

EDUCATION

Faith Over Fear WA Roadshow. The "Faith Over Fear: Standing With Our Muslim Neighbors" roadshow featuring Aneelah and Pastor Terry Kylo takes the message of combating Islamophobia to venues across Washington, including in smaller towns without a large Muslim population. The roadshow has now visited over 20 cities, from Vancouver to Mt. Vernon and Bremerton to Spokane, and helped support on-the-ground solidarity efforts in those cities. This roadshow is made possible through multiple partnerships and funding support from King County/Seattle Foundation and Islamic Relief USA.

COMBATING ISLAMOPHOBIA TRAININGS AND ISLAM PRESENTATIONS

In addition to the Faith Over Fear Roadshow, MAPS-AMEN delivered numerous presentations on combating Islamophobia, Islam, women's rights, immigration, and more, at faith institutions, college campuses, professional associations, non-profit organizations, and more. Aneelah has also delivered multiple sermons at Sunday church services.



OUR VISION

- Educate fellow Americans about Islam and their Muslim neighbors;
- Engage friends and allies to take effective action against Islamophobia and other forms of hate, bigotry and injustice;
- Encourage positive changes in media to counter the double standards and negative portrayal of Islam and Muslims; and
- Empower American Muslims to represent and serve their communities and emerge as future leaders of America.



OUR MISSION

Building bridges of understanding and unity to advocate for justice together

ACTIVISTS/ALLIES TRAINING

MAPS-AMEN partnered with several organizations to hold well-attended training seminars at MAPS to educate and engage community activists and allies on immigration in July 2018, and on Islamophobia in September 2018.

JUDICIAL/LEGAL TRAINING

MAPS-AMEN also helped organize a half-day seminar on "Combating Bias Against Muslims in the Legal System: Equipping and Empowering Washington Judges" at the 2018 Fall Judicial Conference in Yakima in September 2018.

DOJ/CRS TRAIN THE TRAINER

By invitation, Aneelah participated as a trainer with the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service "Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim Americans" program in Washington D.C. in November 2018.

WOMEN'S MARCH

For the weekend of Women's March activities, MAPS-AMEN organized panels on Islam 101 and Islamophobia; helped organize a panel on Immigrants/Refugees Sharing their Stories; and participated in a panel on Women in Religion.



MAPS-AMEN
AMERICAN MUSLIM EMPOWERMENT NETWORK

"It means so much that we have your expertise in support of working against Islamophobia in eastern Washington/north Idaho, an area with many hate groups but also many people working for justice. I am so impressed by your passion and hard work."

- Joan Braune, Co-Founder
of Bridges Not Walls
in Spokane."



EMPOWERING CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY



• “MAPS-AMEN IS FOCUSED ON COMBATING ISLAMOPHOBIA, BUT ALSO MAKES SURE THAT WHEN OTHER IMPACTED COMMUNITIES ARE IN NEED, THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IS THERE TO SUPPORT.”

-- ALEX FAYER (SEATTLE INDIVISIBLE)



MAPS-AMEN (cont.)

OTHER TALKS

OTHER TALKS

MAPS-AMEN participated in several other educational events, including a “Secret Life of Muslims” panel; “American Hate” town hall with author Arjun Sethi; “How to Read a Protest” town hall with author L.A. Kauffman; UW Comm Lead Connects conference on Artificial Intelligence; King County “Women of Impact” panel; ISNA Conference panel on connecting Muslims and Evangelical Christians; Macha Theater Works post-play discussions; Save the Uyghur event; and much more.

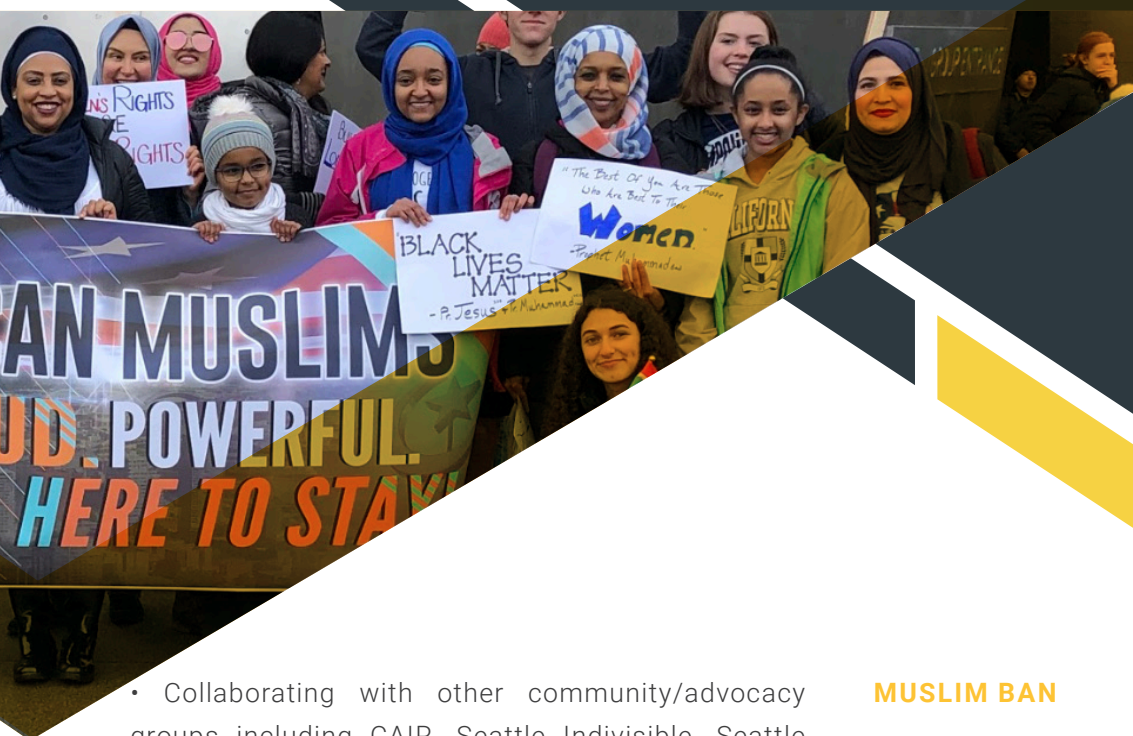
ENGAGEMENT

COALITION-BUILDING AND ADVOCACY

In the past year, MAPS-AMEN has continued building coalitions, expanding relationships, and mobilizing faith leaders, community activists, advocacy groups,

elected officials, and more toward action. Some highlights include:

- Taking a leadership role with the Faith Action Network (Aneelah is a board member, and MAPS is a participating faith community) and working with an ever-expanding group of faith leaders/organizations;
- Actively working with WAISN (WA Immigrant Solidarity Network; Aneelah is on the steering committee) and other immigrant rights’ advocacy groups to protect the rights of immigrants and refugees;
- Joining the leadership team of the #FamiliesBelongTogether Coalition to challenge family separation policies;
- Participating in the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival, led by Rev. William Barber;



- Collaborating with other community/advocacy groups including CAIR, Seattle Indivisible, Seattle Womxn Marching Forward, OneAmerica, and many others to raise awareness and co-organize events;
- Joining the SeaTac Community Coalition to advocate for the Muslim/immigrant business owners facing displacement by the City;
- Helping create a Community Coordinated Response to Islamophobia (CCRI) to more strategically respond to anti-Muslim protesters and hate groups;
- Working with organizations at a national level to repeal the Muslim Ban;
- Joining a coalition to improve Washington's hate crimes legislation and support religious accommodation;
- Participating with technology coalition partners to challenge surveillance tools that disproportionately target and hurt Muslim and minority communities;
- Serving as part of the Islamophobia Roundtable with leading national organizations and American Muslim leaders across the country to counter Islamophobia; and
- Helping lead a national coalition to challenge media portrayal of Muslims and Islam in mainstream media and entertainment.

MUSLIM BAN

MAPS-AMEN has continued its efforts to challenge the religiously discriminatory Muslim travel ban, including through legislation, a press conference and rally after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, and more to raise awareness of the ongoing impact of the discriminatory ban.

IMMIGRATION/REFUGEE ACTIVISM

In response to family separation policies, MAPS-AMEN joined the Families Belong Together Coalition leadership team and helped organize a week of action in June/July, including a large 10,000+ person rally at SeaTac Detention Center, a meeting with Governor Inslee to share stories, a faith leaders' press conference, and an Activists/Allies Symposium at MAPS. Later action included the "Families for Families" children march and rally in October, the "No More Tears" rally in December, and more to encourage action.





WOMEN'S MARCH

For the third year, MAPS-AMEN organized a group of American Muslims to participate in the Women's March in Seattle, and worked with the Womxn's March leadership team on speaker selection and programming for the weekend of activities.

RESPONDING TO HATE

MAPS-AMEN has helped respond to hate speech by anti-Muslim individuals visiting our region, and participated in/spoken at events to show love is greater than hate following violence or attacks like when a local Buddhist temple was vandalized, a local church attacked, and after the massacres at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and Al Noor/Linnwood mosques in New Zealand. In addition to these reactive responses of solidarity, MAPS-AMEN has also proactively sought to address the underlying issues that lead to hate, including with an anti-Islamophobia teach-in at the Muslim Community Interfaith Vigil at MAPS in March.

PROCLAMATIONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

MAPS-AMEN worked with King County Council to issue a proclamation against Islamophobia and in support of Muslims on March 27, and supported efforts by other elected officials including in Burien and Issaquah to issue resolutions against hate and in support of diversity.

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

MAPS-AMEN seeks to politically engage the

American Muslim community and help politicians/candidates get to know the American Muslims. To achieve these goals, MAPS-AMEN has organized and/or participated in meetings, press conferences, lobby days and other events with federal, state and local officials. MAPS-AMEN also co-sponsored and participated in several candidate forums (including with Aneelah as moderator), and partnered with Seattle Indivisible to hold voter registration tables at MAPS. Aneelah was also featured in a #MyVoteMyVoice video campaign to encourage voter turnout.

ENCOURAGEMENT

One of MAPS-AMEN's focus areas is encouraging positive changes in media, as the majority of coverage about Muslims/Islam is negative and even defamatory.

MEDIA COVERAGE

MAPS-AMEN's work has generated positive media coverage and MAPS-AMEN has also helped uplift the work of other organizations (e.g., feeding of SeaTac employees during government shutdown, housing Tent City residents during winter storm, etc.). MAPS-AMEN has also appeared in several TV/video, radio and podcast interviews. Some of the more extensive ones include:

- The "Challenge 2.0" TV series moderated by Jeff Renner, which broadcasts on local television.
- Thurston Community Media recording of a three-part TV series on women in Islam with Veterans

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"I am in AWE of what [Aneelah] and MAPS-AMEN have accomplished in just two short years! I have found the activist workshops and messaging trainings empowering and informative, and I am grateful for all of the opportunities to connect with this community!"

- Erin Albanese
(Co-Founder, Lawyer
Moms of America)



» MAPS-AMEN (cont.)

Challenging Islamophobia, and a session on understanding Islam with Glenn's Parallax Perspectives.

- Multiple interviews with Stephan Cox of Indivisible Washington for the Washington State Indivisible Podcast channel.

NATIONAL MEDIA AND MESSAGING WORK

MAPS-AMEN is also working with local and national partners to change the representation and coverage of Muslims in national media and entertainment. In partnership with Shoulder to Shoulder and other organizations, MAPS-AMEN helped create "Faith Over Fear" videos to promote positive messaging by faith leaders in response to Islamophobia, and helped create messaging guidelines and deliver media/messaging training for faith leaders.

EMPOWERMENT

MAPS-AMEN has been working to inspire and engage all, especially women and youth. As part of its women's empowerment program, MAPS-AMEN held training and skills-building workshops for Muslim women on story-telling, media and messaging, and responding to tough questions.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

In two-and-a-half years of its existence, MAPS-AMEN has made big waves and received recognition for its

frontline advocacy work and leadership. This past year:

- The national Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) selected Aneelah as the **"2018 American Muslim of the Year"** after a national vote;
- Adweek selected MAPS-AMEN as a **"Rising Brand Star"** in 2018, alongside brand giants like Amazon, Alaska Airlines, Microsoft, Starbucks, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;
- International Rescue Committee honored Aneelah with its **2018 Humanitarian Award**;
- WomenInKon recognized Aneelah with a **2019 Community Service Achievement Award**;
- The Seattle Japanese-American Citizens League (JACL) selected Aneelah for its **Aki Kurose Education Award** (to be presented in May 2019);
- CAIR-WA chose to honor Aneelah alongside four other American Muslim women who are making history and challenging people's ideas on who Muslim women are, in honor of Women's History Month 2019;
- The global communications firm Weber Shandwick selected MAPS-AMEN and CAIR-WA for its **2018 Impact Project**, which included \$100,000 worth of service hours that Weber Shandwick put toward a video campaign to be launched in Ramadan 2019; and

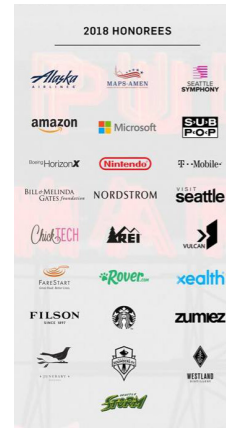


"[Y]ou're empowering us women and helping us
find our voice and truly practicing faith
in action."

-- Rokaih Vansot

- **Islamic Relief USA** awarded MAPS-AMEN a \$15,000 grant toward its "Faith Over Fear" work with Neighbors in Faith, and \$20,000 toward the Coordinated Community Response to Islamophobia (CCRI).

MAPS-AMEN has also helped elevate American Muslims into a leadership role in the larger struggle for justice. The impact of MAPS-AMEN's work has been noted by community members. Of course, all thanks and praise for any good is due to God, so alhamdulillah for the success thus far of MAPS-AMEN, and may Allah (exalted is He) accept and reward our continued efforts, and pour blessing, mercy, and success on the much-needed work ahead! Amen.



» MAPS-AMEN *by the Numbers*

250

programs that MAPS-AMEN participated in

Over
2,000

people who participated in the "Faith Over Fear" Roadshow

Over
5,000

people received direct training through MAPS-AMEN

Over
500

people benefited from media/messaging training through MAPS-AMEN

250,000

is the number of people that MAPS-AMEN events have reached

» MAPS-AMEN Speaking Engagements

» (April 2018 – April 2019)

4/2/18	Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Univ. of Idaho, Moscow	7/8/18	Speaker at 40-year Anniversary of Kadima Reconstructionist Community
4/4/18	Speaker at MLK Assassination Commemoration at Mt. Zion Baptist Church	7/17/18	Speaker at Microsoft meeting on facial recognition technology
4/13/18	Keynote speaker at 28th Annual Students of Color Conference, Yakima	7/19/18	Combating Islamophobia Talk at Women Business Exchange Monthly Forum
4/14/18	Keynote speaker at Afghan-American Conference, New York	7/21/18	Speaker at Eat With Muslims event at St. James Cathedral 7/25/18 Women and Islam Recording at Thurston Community Media, Olympia
4/18/18	Combating Islamophobia Talk at Pacific Lutheran University	7/26/18	Combating Islamophobia Talk at West Seattle Democrats Event
4/22/18	Faith Over Fear Roadshow at MAPS Open House, Redmond	7/31/18	Speaker at Gethsemane Lutheran Sanctuary Service
4/24/18	Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Columbia Basin College, Tri-Cities	8/8/18	Women and Faith Recording at Thurston Community Media
4/28/18	KUOW's "Ask a Muslim" Event at MAPS	8/14/18	Press Conference for the 55th Anniversary March on Washington
5/3/18	Combating Islamophobia Talk at UW Tacoma	8/15/18	Public comment at SeaTac City Council meeting to support immigrant business owners
5/5/18	Panel about Women and Faith at First Covenant Church	8/22/18	Speaker at "Education for Excellence, Diversity, and Respect" conference at SPU
5/9/18	Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Thurston Community Media, Olympia	8/25/18	MultiFaith Summit at Queen Anne United Methodist Church
5/11/18	Runta News Video Feature	8/28/18	Speaker at 55th Anniversary of March on Washington at Mt. Zion Church
5/21/18	Speaker at Poor People's Campaign rally in Olympia	9/1/18	Speaker at Annual ISNA conference about Building Bridges Between Evangelicals and Muslims
5/29/18	Speaker at 3rd Annual Interfaith Iftar at Seattle University	9/6/18	Speaker on Islam to SEIU retirees
5/30/18	MC at MAPS Annual Interfaith Iftar	9/10/18	Remarks and Introduction of Rep. Pramila Jayapal at "Build Our America" Dinner
5/31/18	Speaker/MC at "Secret Life of Muslims" Event at Gates Foundation	9/11/18	Public comment at SeaTac City Council meeting in support of immigrant business owners
6/3/18	Speaker at Poor People's Campaign rally in Olympia	9/22/18	Speaker/MC at Activists/Allies Symposium on Islamophobia at MAPS
6/18/18	Three Practices Group in Bothell with Evangelical Christians	9/24/18	Speaker at 60th Annual WA State Judicial Conference (half-day seminar)
6/18/18	Speaker at Amazon Press Conference re Rekognition	9/27/18	Panel with "Challenge 2.0" TV series re responding to hate crimes
6/20/18	Featured Speaker at Rise Morning Lecture Series by 21 Progress	9/27/18	Speaker at panel on "American Hate" with professor and author Arjun Singh Sethi
6/21/18	Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bremerton	9/29/18	Combating Islamophobia Talk at annual Church Council of Greater Seattle conference
6/23/18	Speaker at Poor People's Campaign rally in Olympia	10/1/18	Speaker on Thurston Community Media show "Glenn's Parallax Perspectives"
6/24/18	Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Magnolia Presbyterian Church, Seattle	10/8/18	Moderator of Eastside AAPI Candidates' Forum
6/26/18	Public testimony before Port of Seattle Commissioners on prayer room inside airport	10/10/18	Speaker/MC at Macha Theater women and Arab artists panel
6/26/18	Speaker at press conference and rally on Muslim Ban Supreme Court ruling	10/15/18	Public comment at Burien City Council meeting on eviction
6/27/18	Speaker at MAPS Annual Youth Retreat, North Cascades Institute		
6/28/18	Speaker at Interfaith Gathering for Liberation (no new youth jail) in Seattle		
6/29/18	Live interview with King 5 Morning		
6/30/18	Speaker at Families Belong Together rally at SeaTac		
7/4/18	Speaker/MC at Inspiring Stories of Immigrants/Refugees w/ Gov. Inslee and Sen. Wellman		
7/5/18	Speaker at Faith Leaders' press conference re family separation		
7/7/18	Speaker/MC at Activist/Allies Symposium on Immigration at MAPS		



CONTACT INFORMATION

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MAPS-AMEN Speaking Engagements



(April 2018 – April 2019)

10/21/18 Solidarity visit to Iglesia Ni Cristo church and interview after firebombing there
 10/22/18 Speaker at "My Vote, My Voice" Event with AG Bob Ferguson
 10/28/18 Panel with "Challenge 2.0" TV series on bridging bias, fear and hate
 10/28/18 "Families for Families" rally with children speaking out on family separation
 11/1/18 Speaker at Tree of Life Commemoration/vigil
 11/3/18 Panel with "Challenge 2.0" TV series on rage to reconciliation Part 1
 11/4/18 Speaker/MC at the Bellevue Urban Gardeners Interfaith vigil/tree planting service
 11/7/18 Speaker at "How to Read a Protest" town hall with author LA. Kauffman
 11/8/18 Speaker at emergency "No One Is Above the Law" rally
 11/8/18 Three Practices Group event on racism
 11/9/18 Panel with "Challenge 2.0" TV series on rage to reconciliation Part 2
 11/14/18 Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Mountain View Lutheran Church, Puyallup
 11/28/18 Keynote speaker at Bellevue Essentials graduation ceremony
 11/28/18 Vigil for Pittsburgh/Tree of Life Commemoration in Everett aired on KSER radio
 11/30/18 Macha Theater Works "Veils" post-play discussion
 12/2/18 Speaker at "Stop the Tears" rally
 12/3/18 Speaker at SeaTac City Council meeting in support immigrant business owners
 12/4/18 Speaker at Amazon meeting on facial recognition technology
 12/7/18 Macha Theater Works "Veils" post-play discussion
 12/9/18 "Women Who Went For It" podcast airs "From Attorney to Interfaith Leader"
 12/13/18 Speaker at SeaTac City Council meeting to support immigrant business owners
 12/14/18 Keynote Speaker at Governing for Regional Equity and Inclusion conference
 1/15/19 Public comment on hate crime legislation in Olympia
 1/19/19 Speaker at Women's March rally

1/19/19 Immigrant and Refugee Stories Panel at First United Methodist Church
 1/20/19 Speakers/panelists at Islam 101 Session at Plymouth Church
 1/20/19 Speakers/panelists at Islamophobia Session at Plymouth Church
 1/20/19 Speaker at Womxn in Religion Session at Plymouth Church
 1/25/19 Speaker at UW Comm Leads Conference on Artificial Intelligence
 1/27/19 Speaker at Woodland Presbyterian Church Sunday adult class session 1
 1/28/19 Speaker/MC at Muslim Ban Anniversary Panel at St. Joseph Parish
 1/30/19 Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Cross of Christ Lutheran, Bellevue
 2/2/19 Co-leading Storytelling Workshop for Muslim women
 2/2/19 Speaker/MC at "Save the Uyghurs" Potluck and Presentation
 2/3/19 Speaker at Woodland Presbyterian Church Sunday adult class session 2
 2/23/19 Faith Over Fear Roadshow at Annual Peace & Justice Action Conference, Spokane
 3/2/19 Co-leading Storytelling Workshop for Muslim women
 3/3/19 Speaker at Woodland Presbyterian Church Sunday adult class session 3
 3/3/19 Sermon at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church: "Our Shared Love of Jesus"
 3/4/19 Public comment at Burien City Council meeting on diversity and anti-hate proclamation
 3/7/19 Speaker/panelist at "Impactful Women of King County" event by League of Women Voters
 3/9/19 "Faith Over Fear" Presentation at 2nd Annual Interfaith Women's Conference, University Place
 3/9/19 "Women in Islam" Presentation at 2nd Annual Interfaith Women's Conference, University Place
 3/14/19 Challenge 2.0 Recording on Women in Faith and the Patriarchy
 3/17/19 Sermon at Magnolia Presbyterian Church on Christianity and Islam
 3/17/19 Speaker at Emerge Washington Panel on faith and politics
 3/18/19 Speaker at Muslim Community Interfaith Vigil/Anti-Islamophobia Teach-In
 3/21/19 Indivisible Washington Podcast on Combating Islamophobia
 3/22/19 Emerging Beyond Islamophobia Talk to Washington Leadership Institute
 3/22/19 Muslim Voices Forum with elected officials from 48th District and CAIR-WA
 3/27/19 Speaker at King County Council meeting issuing proclamation against Islamophobia
 3/30/19 Co-leading Storytelling Workshop for Muslim women
 3/31/19 Sermon at Plymouth Church: Islamic Herstory to Combat the Sin of Islamophobia