

We the People

*American citizens who are Muslims
pledge their allegiance to the
United States of America.*



*As Americans, we share
the same beliefs and values.*

We are



www.onationforall.org

Full acceptance of American citizens who are Muslims is the objective of One Nation.

Freedom of Religion is why the Pilgrims came to America; indeed, it is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

Yet the United States has sometimes fallen short of its promises, ignoring the Bill of Rights, using national security as a justification. As if slavery weren't enough, Japanese families were rounded up in World War II, Jews and others were branded Communists during the McCarthy Era, and now American citizens of Muslim faith are threatened.

We are One Nation, a community of scholars, businesspeople, philanthropists, faith leaders and citizens from different faith traditions united in the belief that America must abide by the values that have set our nation apart and set the standards for the rest of the world in safeguarding liberty, justice and respect for human rights.

It has become far too easy, even acceptable, to question the loyalty of American Muslims, U. S. citizens who share American values such as family, education, and working hard to get ahead.

**In Germany, they came first
for the Communists, And I didn't speak
up because I wasn't a Communist;
And then they came for the trade union-
ists, And I didn't speak up because I
wasn't a trade unionist; And then they
came for the Jews, And I didn't speak up
because I wasn't a Jew; And then . . . they
came for me . . . And by that time there
was no one left to speak up.**

Attributed to Pastor Martin Niemöller
(1892-1984)

Africans... Japanese... Italians... Irish...
Poles... Chinese... Jews... they have all
experienced the mixed welcome of America,
yet they have each become part of the
American family.

Today, thanks to 9/11, the outsiders are
American Muslims, even if they have long
been legal U.S. residents. Imagine if
Christians were smeared by those who
assumed they were all members of the
Klan or neo-Nazis!

If past is prologue, American Muslims can gain full acceptance, but America's inherent promise of equity and pluralism needs to be continually renewed; it requires eternal vigilance.

The problem has been documented. “According to a 2006 USA Today/Gallup poll, substantial minorities of Americans admit to harboring at least some prejudice against Muslims and favoring heightened security measures for Muslims as a way to help prevent terrorism. The same poll found 44% of Americans saying Muslims are too extreme in their religious beliefs. Nearly one-quarter of Americans, 22%, say they would not want a Muslim as a neighbor; less than half believe Muslims are loyal to the United States.”²

Attitudes of Americans toward all religions put Muslims ahead of atheists and Scientologists and below Mormons. At the present time:

- 35% have a favorable attitude toward Muslims,
- 26% are undecided, and
- 39% have an unfavorable attitude.³

...But there is reason for optimism. Most problems in relationships are a result of misperceptions, misinformation, miscommunication, or misunderstanding. The truth is that:

- *Our faiths* have much in common;
- *Our values*, as Americans, are the same; and
- *Our feelings* of doubt and uncertainty mirror each other.

The Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights don't require us to adopt someone's faith tradition in order to accept it; we need simply defend each other's rights to believe as they do.

Mutual understanding of what we have in common is the key.

²Said, L. (2006, August 10). *Anti-Muslim sentiments fairly commonplace*. Gallup Poll News Service. Retrieved September 14, 2007, from <http://www.galluppoll.com/content/Default.aspx?ci=24073> Source: *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think* by John L. Esposito and Dalia Mogahed.

³Figures from a Zogby poll commissioned by Fenton Communications on behalf of One Nation.

ACCOMPLISHING THE OBJECTIVE

The business plan calls for changing public perception through (1) media and (2) networking.

That was the conclusion after three (3) national summits of 50 concerned and respected leaders convened by the East-West Institute and George Russell in 2005-06.

Since then, One Nation has:

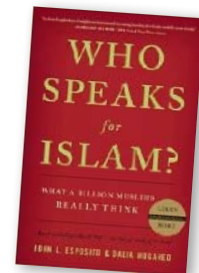
- Enlisted an 8-Person Board of Advisors
- Attracted over \$8 million in gifts and pledges
- Identified partner organizations with needed expertise

The idea is to ‘move the needle,’ as opinion consultants say, and the ‘needle’ will be future Gallup Poll readings.

I. MEDIA – A National Communications Strategy now underway, in collaboration with Fenton Communications and others.⁵

NEWS • Strategic Communications Initiative (SCI)
to help American-Muslim leaders engage with media and insert the voices of mainstream American Muslims into the news cycle, pushing back against toxic anti-Islamic propaganda like the movie *Obsession*.

FILM • Media Development Initiative (MDI)
to promote diverse and accurate representations of American Muslims in popular media. One Nation has commissioned a number of short subjects as well as feature-length films like *On a Wing and a Prayer*, about a Muslim who takes flying lessons, to stimulate discussion between Muslims and non-Muslims.



⁵Other partners of One Nation are: Link TV, which has produced a digital film festival; Unity Productions Foundation (UPF), producers of films used to stimulate constructive dialog among Muslim and non-Muslim populations; Islamic Networks Group (ING), which will provide facilitators for such dialogs; Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), which will provide technical assistance and capacity building to Muslim community groups; and the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), which will build and scale their model of interfaith-based service projects in college campuses around the nation.

II. NETWORKING – A Multi-City Program of Civic Engagement accomplished in partnership with community foundations throughout the U. S.

DIALOG • Civic Engagement Initiative (CEI)

- **MEET A MUSLIM** – Facilitated discussions among American Muslims and their neighbors using new media to simulate discussion and introductions.
- **BUILD CAPACITY** in American Muslim organizations to sustain and improve performance and community service, benefiting all Americans.

SPOKESPEOPLE • Public Policy Initiative (PPI)

- Recruit as spokespeople high-profile individuals from news media, popular culture, business, academia, and faith.
- Objective: involve more Muslim Americans in the general community.

What does it mean to be a Muslim in America today? People of education and accomplishment are under suspicion...

- Martin A. Paley, Former President, San Francisco Foundation



To Measure the Achievement

One Nation is using empirical data obtained by the Gallup Organization. Like all poll results (or stock indexes), there will be short-term variation in response to daily or weekly news cycles.

One Nation's focus, however, is on the long-term, tracking quarterly averages over a five-year period through 2013.

An Investment in People, Pluralism, and Peace.

An invitation from One Nation's founder:

I have had a blessed life. Because of countless stories like mine, America is still called the “land of opportunity”—a place for people of all races, faiths and cultures to come and build a better life. I helped create One Nation to make sure America will always be that place. One Nation is a collection of people deeply committed to making sure that America always lives up to its highest ideals of liberty and justice for all. Because, when we do, the world is a better place—a safer place—for our children and families, and for millions of children and families around the globe. There is no better legacy for my life than to play a role in this effort. I invite you to join me and make it your legacy, too.

Sincerely,



George F. Russell, Jr.
Chairman Emeritus
Russell Investments
Chairman of the Board
One Nation

George F. Russell, Jr., built Frank Russell Company from one part-time secretary in 1958 to become one of the world's leading investment advisory firms. Russell served as chairman from 1958 until the firm was sold to Northwestern Mutual Life in 1999. Today, the company guides 1,900 clients in 44 countries with assets exceeding more than \$2.4 trillion, and manages \$171 billion in funds. One Nation is the brainchild of Mr. Russell.



★ SARA ABBASI

Executive Board Member, Developments in Literacy (DIL), California

After a career in advertising and marketing, Abbasi and her husband, a former Oracle Senior Vice President, endowed the Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies at Stanford University to provide undergraduate and graduate students with both a geopolitical lens and multidisciplinary lens that includes literature, history, politics, economics, religion, law, sociology and anthropology. Sara is also President of the Executive Board of Developments in Literacy (DIL), – a U.S. based non-profit dedicated to female literacy and creating schools in the remote areas of Pakistan.

HISHAM ALIREZA ★

Co-Founder, Xenel Industries Ltd, Saudi Arabia

A descendant of the oldest trading house in Saudi Arabia, Alireza co-founded and managed Xenel Industries Ltd, one of the nation's leading conglomerates. Now retired, his focus is in the area of philanthropy. He has founded several initiatives supporting education and cultural understanding between east and west, including Dar Alfikr School, the first American style private School in Saudi Arabia, Dar Alhikma College, the first private college for women in Saudi Arabia, and The Book Foundation, a UK registered charity.



★ JOHN ESPOSITO

University Professor, Professor of Religion and International Affairs and Founding Director, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Esposito is a leading expert on the Muslim world and co-author of *Who Speaks for Islam: What a Billion Muslims REALLY think*.

HAMZA YUSUF HANSON ★

Founding Director and Scholar, Zaytuna Institute, California

A classically educated Westerner who converted to Islam over thirty years ago, he studied for ten years in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, as well as North and West Africa, earning degrees in Religious Studies and Health Care. He founded Zaytuna Institute, which has established an international reputation for presenting a classical picture of Islam in the West and which is dedicated to the revival of traditional study methods and the sciences of Islam. Graduates of Zaytuna occupy faculty positions at major universities in the U.S.



★ EMIKO HIGASHI

Managing Director, Tomon Partners-LLC, California

Emiko Higashi, a native of Japan, is a founder of Tomon Partners, LLC, an M&A advisory firm and, earlier, co-founder and CEO of Gilo Ventures. She was with Lehman Brothers before becoming a founding member of Wasserstein Perella and, later, a managing director in charge of global technology M&A practice for Merrill Lynch. Earlier, she was at McKinsey & Co. in Tokyo. Ms. Higashi has served on multiple corporate boards, and non-profit organizations.

CHRISTOPHER LOWNY ★

Author and Jesuit Scholar, New York

A former Jesuit, Lowney is a lecturer on topics as varied as leadership, business ethics, and inter-religious dialogues and author of *Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-Year-Old Company that Changed the World* and *A Vanished World: Medieval Spain's Golden Age of Enlightenment*.



★ RAHIM SABADIA

Founder & President, Sabtech Industries, Inc., California

Founder (1984), of this globally respected manufacturer of military communication products and services, Sabadia is also president of the Sabadia Family Foundation, supporting humanitarian, human rights and educational initiatives.

Staff and Consultants



★ HENRY IZUMIZAKI

CEO, One Nation

A member of the management team The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF) and associate of The Threshold Group—Chairman's Office, Izumizaki serves as a program advisor to George Russell on his personal philanthropy. He was founding president of T.E.A.M.S. (Transformation through Education and Mutual Support), training grassroots leaders; also Executive Director, California Consumer Protection Foundation; Assistant Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District; Executive Director, Urban Strategies Council, Oakland; and Program Officer, San Francisco Foundation.



★ AL-HUSEIN N. MADHANY

Executive Vice President, One Nation

Madhany is a track two diplomat of the American Muslim community. He is adept at connecting and coordinating groups of like-minded Muslims, including both Sunni and Shia communities to their mutual benefits, and America's, by actively promoting social entrepreneurship and civic engagement. With graduate degrees from Harvard, Georgetown and the University of Chicago, Madhany is a Senior Fellow at the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University and serves on the Stanford Islamic Studies Advisory Group for Public Education. Previously, he taught at Georgetown University and worked as the Executive Director and Executive Editor of *Islamica Magazine*.



★ NILLOFUR JASANI

Program Manager, One Nation

A native of India, who has practiced both Islam and Christianity, has lived and worked in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates as well as England and Canada. Her work has raised awareness and built cultural bridges in these faith communities through dialog and friendship. She served His Highness the Aga Khan as a member of the National Council of the Ismaili Muslim community in the U.K. and as communications coordinator in the U.A.E. Her corporate experience includes having been Executive Assistant to the Vice President of New Product Development at Weyerhaeuser.



★ AIMMEE SERRATO

*Program Manager, One Nation and
Administrative Professional to George Russell & Henry Izumizaki*

A Poulsbo native who joined The Threshold Group three years ago, she brings a highly developed sense of organization to the logistics of administration and board meetings, previously administered medical clinics in both the civilian and military world, at home and abroad.



★ MASON BLACHER

President, Mason Jay Blacher & Associates and Fundraising Consultant to One Nation

Former Director of Major Gifts at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, Blacher and his Seattle-based firm has served hundreds of organizations, including museums, hospitals, schools, arts organizations, think tanks, and institutions of higher education throughout the U. S. and abroad, including the Middle East.



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