

“On Common Grounds” Interfaith Community Program Outline

6:30 – 6:45 PM.

- Plan to have nametags at the door and encourage people to enjoy refreshments as they mingle and look over the information table.
- This would be a good time to have “outgoing” individuals of the Islamic faith present to interact with. This will help break down the anxiety some might have. It would be good to have a variety of faiths represented.

6:45-7:00 PM

- The facilitator will welcome attendees, introduce himself and perhaps give brief comments as well as a brief overview of the evening’s program.
- Ahmad Zahra, the film maker, (if present) will be introduced as well the individuals on the panel, who will be sitting at the front and who may explain why they are involved.
- As another ice breaker, the facilitator will ask attendees why they decided to attend. This will encourage people to speak up and feel more at ease to help them realize that this is intended to be an interactive program.

7:05-8:00 PM

- Screening of “On Common Grounds”

8:00-8:15 PM

- Questions for the film maker, Ahmad Zahra (if present or add this time to any other segment of the program).

8:15-8:45 PM

- The facilitator will ask attendees if they have any questions about any of the religions. In this discussion, the common roots of Islam, Judaism and Christianity should be stressed. It is unlikely but possible that harsh questions will be asked and they should be addressed clearly, directly and respectfully. This is an opportunity to model how to dispel the misperceptions and downplay the differences in the faiths... a technique that requires conscious effort but facilitates success in interfaith encounters. (Interfaith activities are not the time to convert or argue with others.) Focusing on what the faiths have in common, will direct attention away from negativity.
- Facilitator asks the attendees if they thought of any activities or projects that might create a positive interfaith experience for participants. Discussion. Write ideas on a white board (if available).

8:45-8:55 PM

- Facilitator invites attendees to check out the information when they leave. Facilitator asks representatives from volunteer-seeking organizations that can accommodate groups to give a one minute synopsis about their organization.

8:55-9:00 PM

- Facilitator thanks attendees for being proactive in promoting interfaith cooperation.
- Explain that an outline of this program as well as helpful resources is available on zahrapictures.com.
- Encourage attendees to:
 - screen the film to others
 - organize groups from their congregations or communities to participate in interfaith events/projects that will break down tensions and barriers.
 - give us feedback on how to enhance effectiveness of the program they just attended.

For additional assistance contact Zahra Pictures at 1-877-888-3634 or email: contact@zahrapictures.com