Gendered Islamophobia

A Panel Discussion with the Partnership to End Gendered Islamophobia

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Who are we?
Grounding

Land Acknowledgement, Deep Breath, Clear Mind
This is Gendered Islamophobia
“Gendered Islamophobia consists of the ways the state utilizes gendered forms of violence to oppress, monitor, punish, maim and control Muslim bodies” (Justice For Muslims Collective, 2019).
WHAT IS GENDERED ISLAMOPHOBIA?

- Internalized Gendered Islamophobia
- Interpersonal Gendered Islamophobia
- Institutional Gendered Islamophobia
- Structural Gendered Islamophobia
GENDERED ISLAMOPHOBIA VIOLENCE PYRAMID

STATE (GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS/ LAW/ POLICIES/ PROGRAMS)

BROADER SOCIAL SOCIETY

COMMUNITY

FAMILY

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

INTERNALIZED
GENDERED ISLAMOPHOBIA VIOLENCE SPECTRUM

Harmful Narratives
- Construction of Muslim women as inherently oppressed and in need of saving
- Construction of Muslim women as security and cultural threats who need to be monitored, controlled and surveilled
- Acceptance of Islamophobic political speech and dehumanizing narratives against Muslim women and girls

Escalated Violence
- Culture of impunity flourishes and acceptance of violence on a mass scale
- Collusion between abusers and the State
- Muslims internalize dominant State narratives

Verbal + Psychological violence
- Tolerance for discrimination and exclusion
- Microaggressions by members of society
- Lack of prioritization as a group by community members worthy of advocating for and minimizing the gendered violence Muslims experience

Physical violence, detention, incarceration, torture, hate violence, murder (state, non-state, and community actors)
- Normalization of mass dehumanization (wars, drones, murder)
- Societal and systemic exclusion
HOW GENDERED ISLAMOPHOBIA SHOWS UP IN OUR FIELDS

Academia
- University collaboration with Department of Homeland Security
- Departments funded by defense contracts with particular agendas
- Transnational university programming working to erase gendered Islamophobia
- Exploitation of the violence Muslim women experience in other countries as research usually funded by UN grants or militaristic defense contracts
- Token hires who are islamophobic or silenced
- Lack of funding for nuanced research/critical hires
- Invisibility of Muslim women’s voices and expertise
- Increase in gendered hate violence
- State exploitation of intimate relationships
- Recruitment of low-income Muslims into the military and national security apparatus
- Narratives that use the excuse of fighting for the rights of Muslim women as justification to launch the War on Terror

Reproductive Justice
- Global Gag Rule
- Helms Amendment
- Forced Sterilizations
- Funding for “extreme” forms of GBV (i.e., honor killings vs. IPV)
- Sex selective abortion regulation
- Overpopulation discourse for Eugenics
- Gaps in medical care for trans Muslims, Black Muslims, pain, repro health
- Medical care + anti-Blackness
- Linking of social services with criminalization and national security

War on Terror
- Surveillance/metal health = less collective trust
- Sex selective abortion regulation
- Overpopulation discourse for Eugenics
- Gaps in medical care for trans Muslims, Black Muslims, pain, repro health
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Structural
- Exploitation of the violence Muslim women experience in other countries as research usually funded by UN grants or militaristic defense contracts
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HOW GENDERED ISLAMOPHOBIA SHOWS UP IN OUR FIELDS: GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Structural

- Global Gag Rule
- Medical experimentation of gendered Muslim, Black, brown bodies
- Forced Sterilizations
- Mental health + surveillance
- Rape as a war tactic against Muslim populations
- Medical care + anti-Blackness
- Funding for "extreme" forms of GBV (i.e. honor killings vs. IPV)
- Sex selective abortion regulation
- Overpopulation Discourse for Eugenics

Institutional

- Gaps in medical care for trans Muslims, Black Muslims, pain, repro health
- Surveillance/mental health = less collective trust

Interpersonal

- Silencing of survivor narratives because of "feeding Islamophobes"
Reproductive Justice
Gender Justice
Personal Commitment

How has this shown up in your work?

Think about your agency or personal complicity in perpetuating GI and the steps you will take to disrupt it now that you know the harm it causes.
Gender Based Violence
Policy Recommendations
Recommendation: Move the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) from the Department of Justice to the Department of Health and Human Services.
Recommendation: Move from Criminalization to Community Driven Transformative Justice

Criminal justice system
- lack of power and control in the process and system for survivor
- focused on law and criminalization and not healing for survivor
- resource drain with little support for survivor in long term
- temporary solution with no guarantee of changed behavior
- higher rates of criminalization for Black/brown individuals who harm - multiple charges colored with anti-Blackness and Islamophobia