Uncovering Experiences of Anti-Arab Racism and Islamophobia on Campus

The Anti-Arab Racism (AARI) Subcommittee of the STRIVE Task Force was created to gather information about concerns and experiences of identity-based and structural violence against Arabs and Muslims at Concordia. Such experiences can include bias, prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, intimidation, harassment, ostracization, surveillance, profiling, silencing, and retaliation, to name some (but certainly not all) examples.

Within the scope of this work, the Subcommittee will also pay attention to the general ways in which forms of anti-Muslim and anti-Arab erasure, exclusion, and aggression are manifested and experienced on campus. This can include experiences affecting community members who are neither Arab nor Muslim but are perceived to be (such as non-Muslim South Asian and Black community-members), or who are perceived to be in some way aligned with Islam or "Arabness" based on attire, interests, or expressed opinions.

A report summarizing our findings will aim to identify any patterns and provide analysis of the conditions allowing these experiences and incidents to persist and grow. Informed by the data and participants' input, the Subcommittee will make recommendations and offer strategies for achieving a more respectful and inclusive community and general discourse at Concordia. The Subcommittee's findings will be made public through STRIVE.

You may participate in this process by attending a listening session, completing an online form, or by email (aari.strive@concordia.ca).

 Participation in a listening session

At the listening session, which will take place either in person or via Zoom, you will be asked questions about your concerns and experiences of Anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia, and about navigating university life based on these concerns and experiences. In total, participating in a listening session can take 1 to 3 hours. The listening sessions will be recorded, and notes will be taken by subcommittee members to facilitate our writing of a final report and recommendations for the STRIVE Task Force. Our notes and the recordings will be stored in a secure location. No identifying information will be included in the final report. Participants in a listening session are also expected to respect the confidentiality of all others in the listening session after the session ends. This means not disclosing or repeating anything personal that was shared in the session and not sharing the names of the participants. It also means you may not record the session or share anything about it on social media or any other forum.

Participation by online form or by email

The online questionnaire will include a series of prompts and questions like those that will be asked in the listening sessions. Two-factor Concordia authentication is required to access the questionnaire.

To participate by submitting an email, you are encouraged to use the questionnaire as a guideline to shape your thoughts. When you are ready to send us your email, attach this completed this consent form to your email as well.

Please note that participation is voluntary and that you may withdraw at any time. You are also free to decide which questions you choose to answer, and your choice will be respected.

I have read and understood this form. By signing this form, I am indicating my agreement to participate under the conditions described above, which include sharing my first and last name and contact information with the Subcommittee, along with the information that I share during the listening sessions.

NAME (please print) _____

SIGNATURE_____

DATE_____

Members of the Anti-Arab Racism and Islamophobia Subcommittee:

Sarah Ghabrial (Subcommittee Lead), Associate Professor, Department of History
Rania Attir, Staff, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Varda Nissar, Ph.D. student, Department of Art History
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For any questions or concerns please email aari.strive@concordia.ca.