

2016

The Muslim Jewish Interfaith Dialogue Group's Alternative Spring Break

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Muslim Jewish Interfaith Student Dialogue Group

Alternative Spring Break

Abstract

Every year, the Muslim Jewish Interfaith Dialogue Group (MuJew) has an alternative spring break trip, both as a way to build bridges between the two religious groups and to engage with the greater community. This was MuJew's second year working at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees in Utica, New York. MVRRCR is a non-profit organization provides a variety of services to Utica's growing refugee and immigrant populations. While there, MuJew attended educational talks on refugee resettlement, policy, and experience, and assisted in a variety of tasks in the center. MuJew recognizes the limits of such a short-term volunteer experience in terms of long-term effects. The service learning trip is designed to educate participants on the refugee experience, allow them to form meaningful relationships within a diverse community, and enable them to return to Ann Arbor ready to continue advocating or working with one of world's most vulnerable populations.

Objectives

- ❖ Strengthen ties between the Muslim and Jewish community
- ❖ Empower participants
- ❖ Learn about the refugee experience in America
- ❖ Service work



Challenges

- ❖ Group dynamics
- ❖ The work itself
- ❖ Entering/Exiting a community



What I Learned

- ❖ Leadership skills
- ❖ American Refugee Resettlement process
- ❖ [Storymap](#)



Real Life Impact



Empowerment through Knowledge



Service Work



Interfaith Relations



Community Connections

Further Work

What's next?

- ❖ Maintaining new bonds
- ❖ Working with local interfaith organizations
- ❖ Future ASBs
- ❖ Acting as advocates
- ❖ Internships/Careers



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The Participants

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Aifa Muhammad Radzi
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MVRCR MOHAWK VALLEY
RESOURCE CENTER FOR REFUGEES

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