

“Hidden Voices: The Lives of LGBT Muslims” by Faisal Alam

Advertising, Publicity and Audio/Visual Requirements

Photographs & Clip Art: Photos of Faisal Alam and clip art for ads can be found at:
<http://tiny.cc/faisalalam>

*Note: Please only use these approved photographs of Faisal for advertising; please do not use photographs from other websites or the internet.

Audio / Visual Needs:

- Podium
- Lavalier / lapel wireless microphone
- LCD projector and screen
- Projector should have audio and video capabilities
- Faisal will bring a PC laptop

Presentation Description:

"Hidden Voices: The Lives of LGBT Muslims" aims to highlight the many struggles and challenges facing sexual and gender minorities within the Muslim world and to examine the complex intersection of Islam, sexuality and gender. With more than 1.5 billion followers Islam is considered to be the fastest growing religion in the world today, yet the Western world continues to view it with skepticism and uncertainty. While aiming to dispel common stereotypes and myths about Islam, this presentation will also explore the history of the queer Muslim movement in the United States and the suppression of LGBT rights around the world under the guise of the so-called “war on terror. Using his own life experience and by exploring the complex history of the Islamic world, “Hidden Voices” strives to bring new light onto the lives of an often invisible and silent community: Muslims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning.

Biography:

Faisal Alam is a queer-identified Muslim activist of Pakistani descent. At age 19, while trying to reconcile his sexuality with his faith, Faisal organized the first-ever gathering of LGBT Muslims, which led to the founding of Al-Fatiha, an organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex & questioning (LGBTIQ) Muslims, and their allies. Faisal led the organization from its inception in 1997 to 2004 as its volunteer director.

Faisal has traveled across the country and around the world to meet with LGBTIQ Muslims to build a global queer Muslim movement. Faisal’s queer Muslim activism has been featured in LGBT and mainstream media including the *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *BBC World News*, and the *Washington Post*.

Faisal has received numerous recognitions and awards for his activism on behalf of queer Muslims. *Advocate Magazine* selected him as an "Innovator," *Genre Magazine* has recognized him as a "Founding Father," and the *Utne Reader* chose him as one of 30 "Young Visionaries Under 30." The Equality Form has recognized Faisal as one of "40 Heroes" who have "made a defining difference in LGBT civil rights over the last forty years," and Pride Toronto honored him with an award for his "outstanding contribution in the area of spirituality that positively impacts LGBT communities."

Faisal has spoken at more than 150 colleges and universities about the challenges and struggles facing LGBT Muslims. In 2011, Faisal was invited to attend the White House *Iftar* (breaking of the fast dinner during Ramadan), hosted by President Barack Obama.