

/The gathering/ was very interesting, especially as I have had little opportunity to meet people from abroad. I would like to meet up again, I am just trying to come up with a good idea for a positive contribution towards the current situation, but also for the future! I feel we need to reach people not only at the academic level but also throughout the society here in Dresden. I have many thoughts and also personal experience of (very small) examples where I was able to interact positively in xenophobic situations, however this would take too long to explain and also I am not sure if it would be relevant. In any case I would like to contribute if I can, and hope we can come up with good and feasible ideas.  
Thank you for the organization and all your efforts.  
Christine

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It was quite interesting to hear what others, Germans and foreigners, thought about PEGIDA and how to approach the issue. I especially liked the idea that demonstrations and counter demonstrations will only provoke more reaction from both sides. Alternatively, holding activities and round table discussions are small scale but more effective in breaking through the angst and xenophobia some have.  
I would love to take part in future discussions, thank you for the opportunity!  
Mohamad

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I learned something important yesterday.  
Your sponsorship for this type of events are truly valuable for more discussions and deeper understanding of others for the future.  
I hope that you keep up with your courageous work to bring people together and not afraid of conflicts and disagreements among people.  
Veronica

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thank you for the event, even if I did not say anything there as I am still not fully understanding what is PEGIDA and i have no experience with Islamic religion.  
But I have learned for me something different.  
I have a feeling that there is another problem and much more deeper and it is related with social comfort of all people around.  
If all Dresden people are not comfortable with their life's or with people around or with other religions around it will end up in conflicts - one can call them differently and observe in different places in the world, we have similar problems in Russia, although I was lucky not to have any problem so far except not friendly people and my conflict is the language and there is also about everybody's comfort as everybody used to speak German - and even if they can speak English - it is all about comfort to speak German and everybody wants to stay in their comfort....  
To make everybody comfortable - it is interesting question for me and therefore let people to learn another people might bring them to comfort.  
I'm even interested if this interpretation is correct?  
Olga

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thank you very much for organizing the event. I find the event very useful and hope that it's a first step towards an open dialogue. I wished if some counter arguments were present. I really wish if we can create a forum were we can have a productive conversation with the Germans who have concerns so maybe we can try to address their concerns and give them a different perception about refugees (in general) and Muslims (in particular)  
Another interest of the Arabic cultural club-Dresden, as we have mentioned to Professor Karlheinz Ruhstorfer yesterday, is to hold an event were we invite some moderate Muslim theologians to address some misconceptions about Islam in an open interactive discussion.  
Just to be clear, the idea here is not to have a debate between Muslims and non-Muslims but rather to clarify the usual theological misunderstandings and/or stereotypes (which are very common among Muslims as well as non-Muslims) that led to the negative image that both Islam (as a religion) and Muslims (as a community) have today, unfortunately!.

a suggested titles for such a discussion can be:

1. Tolerance and violence in Islam
2. Do we understand Islam ?
3. the Muslim community: Culture Vs Religion

an life example of such a forum is what BBC has hosted 3 years ago as shown in this video

[The Big Questions Is Islam an intolerant religion part 1](#)



The Big Questions Is Islam an intolerant religion part 1

View on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) Preview by Yahoo

We believe that the average German needs to hear an honest mature discussion to be able to distinguish where the problem lays and that the average Muslim also needs to hear such a discussion be aware of certain misinterpretation within his own religion

We hope that Prof. Ruhstorfer would be interested in such an initiative

Best Regards

Aslan Kamali

Arabic Cultural Club – Dresden

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I came to Dresden from Canada, someone asked me if I know that Dresden is in East Germany, what means, a lot of Nazis... You cannot solve problems if you run away: I try not to leave people in fear **or prejudice**, but to address them and make them familiar with my culture and country. If you don't go across **to interact with other cultures**, how do you show **people that you are** a human being like them? Communication is the only way towards trust and away from fears or prejudice. Foreigners have to take the first step to interact and integrate." For example, Raphael suggests that authorities can organise intercultural days to present different cultures and to invite not only people from the TU Dresden, (since he has never experienced Xenophobia at the TUD), but **also** all people in Dresden.

Raphael