

## Oral History Interview with Nicole and Frazaana

Speaker 1: Hi, this is Adam Pacsun at the Kansas City rally and I'm here with

Speaker 2: Farzaana.

Speaker 3: Nicole.

Speaker 1: Okay guys. Um, first question is, "What prompted you to come out today?"

Speaker 3: Honestly, I feel like my students are what prompted me to come out. There's been so much fear and anxiety in my students' faces, um, since the election. And I've never been a big activist person, like going out and supporting things, but seeing my students so worried about what's going on in the world, really made me feel like these are the people, they're the future, and these are the kids that I'm fighting for and I care about them so much, like, I need to be out there.

Speaker 1: Do you mind if I ask what age group you teach?

Speaker 3: Kindergarten to eighth grade.

Speaker 1: So you're noticing even young kids know what's going on?

Speaker 3: Even young kids. Even young kids. I had, uh, we had a third grader last week show up dressed up for Martin Luther King Day. And in their class we just talked and one of the girls, um, brought up the fact that women are still paid less than men, and that her father talked to her about that and said that, um, it's important that she knows all of the things that are, that, that exist in the world even though she's young.

Speaker 2: I came out today because I was born and raised Muslim, 100% American Midwestern girl, and, um, I think finally everyone is coming together for one cause. I mean, after 9/11, I remember going to protests and having a lot of persecution when my mom used to wear hijab when I was small, and I think now, really, is the time where everybody with causes is coming out together, and that's why I decided to come out today.

Speaker 1: Yeah. Um, how did you guys hear about the protest – er – rally? Sorry.

Speaker 3: From Facebook.

Speaker 2: Yeah, Facebook. Definitely social media.

Speaker 3: Social media for sure.

Speaker 1: And, and what do you think, all these rallies are happening all across the country today. Um, what do you think they can accomplish or what do you think they will accomplish?

Speaker 3: I think just it's important right now to, to unify and, you know, human rights encompasses so many different things and I think, uh, we can fall into the trap of just, um, championing, you know, one cause, when in reality they're all related. And I think, like, now is the time that's more important than ever to, to come together and really fight that fight.

Speaker 2: And I think it, it really gives hope. If you are unified in one cause, like no revolution is started with one person. It's started with, you know, leadership and people coming together for the same cause.

Speaker 1: And, um, I know you both said that you've been politically active some before, um, has this spurred you to, um, have plans past today? For this cause?

Speaker 3: For sure.

Speaker 2: Yeah, definitely.

Speaker 3: I'm moving to Ecuador this summer, and I'm actually, like, what else can I do before I go? (Laughs) What else can I participate in? Yes, for sure.

Speaker 2: I am going to another walk.

Speaker 1: Cool. And then last, I've just kind of been asking people, what do your signs say? If you don't mind sharing.

Speaker 2: Oh, uh, mine says, "Muslim and American, they aren't separate."

Speaker 1: Awesome.

Speaker 3: And mine says, "In my America, black lives matter, women rights are human rights, no human is illegal, climate change is real, love is love, and kindness is everything."

Speaker 1: Great. Thank you guys.  
Thank you.