

Community United in Compassion

Ballroom, WPU

October 26, 2023

In the face of conflict and tragedy, we unite as a community to kindle the flames of empathy and forge a path towards a more compassionate, understanding, and interconnected society. Our shared humanity is a force that transcends division & discord.

Contact: HinH@pitt.edu

Organizers: Abdesalam Soudi, Ph.D.; Jennifer Murtazashvili, Ph.D.

Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences, Center for Governance and Markets, UCIS/Pitt Global, Student Affairs' Office of Inclusion & Belonging, Office for Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

Welcome,

We are deeply honored to welcome you all to this special event dedicated to compassion. As Chancellor Joan Gabel highlighted, the University of Pittsburgh is firmly rooted in our core values: community, compassion, and a welcoming spirit. We have come together to create this event centered around the overarching theme of “Community United in Compassion” to highlight the importance of empathy, kindness, and solidarity as guiding principles in our commitment to making the world a better place for all. Our commitment lies in cultivating environments that help us navigate the complexities of today's world and foster a more inclusive and healthy community.

We hope to launch a series of initiatives, discussions, and actions dedicated to fostering profound connections and advancing unity. Stay tuned for future emails and updates as we work collaboratively to establish a framework for compassion in our daily lives.

Event Layout

The event will kick off with opening remarks from the University of Pittsburgh Leadership. Dr. Soudi and Dr. Murtazashvili will provide reflections and framework for the event. Following this, we will dive into an open dialogue about compassion and unity, sharing our personal experiences with compassion. A cultural engagement exercise will follow, and we will conclude the event by discussing how we can continue to cultivate compassion within our community beyond this event. Finally, we will wrap up with a moment of personal reflection.

Acknowledgments

We would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a pivotal role in making this event possible, and that includes each one of you in the audience who dedicated their valuable time to join us. We deeply appreciate the unwavering support of our esteemed leadership at Pitt. Our profound thanks go to the generous sponsors and supporters who made this event a reality, including the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences, the Center for Governance and Markets, the University Center for International Studies, Pitt Global, the Student Affairs’ Office of Inclusion and Belonging, and the Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as well as the student organization BridgePitt. We have been touched by the outpouring of support from many individuals and departments who have reached out to offer their contributions. Thank you!

Abdesalam Soudi, Ph.D.

Jennifer Murtazashvili, Ph.D.



Schedule

- 12PM** **Check in and Lunch**
- 12:10PM** **Opening Remarks**
- 12:20PM** **Reflection & Framework: Abdesalam Soudi & Jennifer Murtazashvili**
- 12:40PM** **Open Dialogue**
- What do compassion & Unity mean to you?
 - What drew you to this event?
 - What comes to your mind when you hear “Community United in Compassion”?
 - Have you ever experienced compassion? What was it like?
 - Share personal stories of compassion and unity with others.
 - Share a cultural, religious, or spiritual practice that promotes compassion.
- 1:15PM** **Work in Groups:** Discover the power of deeper connections.
- Know Thyself, Know Others, Cultural Engagement Exercise
 - Takeaways
- 1:45PM** **Cultivating Compassion in Our Community:**
- How can we foster compassion in our community beyond the current event?
- 1:55** **Closing with personal reflections.**