

## Steve Slocum - Award-Winning Author and Social Activist

A science-informed approach for breaking down a culture of privilege

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**San Diego, CA (Jan 5, 2022)** – Majority/dominant cultures swim in an ocean of privilege completely unaware of what life feels like for those without access to the markers of privilege. People of whiteness got a wake-up call during the early stages of the Covid lockdown with the indelible image of Derek Chauvin's cold eyes staring into the camera as he calmly and horrifically choked the life out of George Floyd. It was an inflection point in racial awareness and millions of white Americans began to educate themselves about Black and Indigenous history, hoping to become antiracist allies.

Awareness is an important first step, but awareness alone does not change culture. Millions of white Americans have read books, watched movies and documentaries, and attended workshops and conferences to increase their racial awareness. How can we capitalize on this momentum to help these newly aware folks get to the next level of culture change? A level that goes beyond awareness to concrete societal change. How can we help these people become productive advocates for a society that embraces diversity and where equity and inclusion are the norms? How can we help them see our society in that new way?

Steve Slocum has been working with the nonprofit he founded for several years bringing people of various backgrounds together for meaningful connection. Slocum took a deep dive into the science around human groups in order to find ways of being more productive in changing the culture of whiteness. **He has developed and successfully prototyped an approach for creating community within a highly diverse group.** Prototype group participants have found the experience to be quite powerful:

"If I had met any of you in a room, I might not have gone toward you especially some of you are so different from my world. But now you are so close - I really feel close."

"I really feel like I have developed a strong, I wouldn't say friendship, but it is more like a kinship."

"Wow! We are so much the same and different, we are able to both be unique and have this common humanity...This is like a real human demonstration of it."

It is just here, right here, there is the diversity and that we are all the same and in most beautiful ways."

Slocum is a frequent speaker at conferences and to organizations. He talks about his own journey out of unconscious privilege, about what he's learned about the science of human groups, and how that science has informed his efforts to change a dominant culture of privilege. Topics include:

- The biology of groups - from bacterial colonies to chimpanzees to humans
- Tribes and clans - an excellent model, in its time
- Understanding crowds and swarms - how their behavior may be modeled and manipulated
- The neuroscience of group decision-making - it's contrast with individual decision-making
- How hearing impactful stories changes the brain
- Lessons learned from ongoing social experiments bringing highly diverse groups together

Slocum's inspiring and informative talks can help energize your conference and will offer up concrete steps towards creating a culture of equity and inclusion in your organization.

## STEVE SLOCUM

Award-winning Author, Social Activist

### Short: (50)

Steve Slocum, author, activist, and founder of SalaamUSA.org, has been bringing diverse groups together for meaningful connection since 2018, energized by his five years living in Kazakhstan. He is a frequent media expert and speaker, with appearances on the KTLA morning news, KPBS, and the Parliament of World Religions.

### Medium: (100)

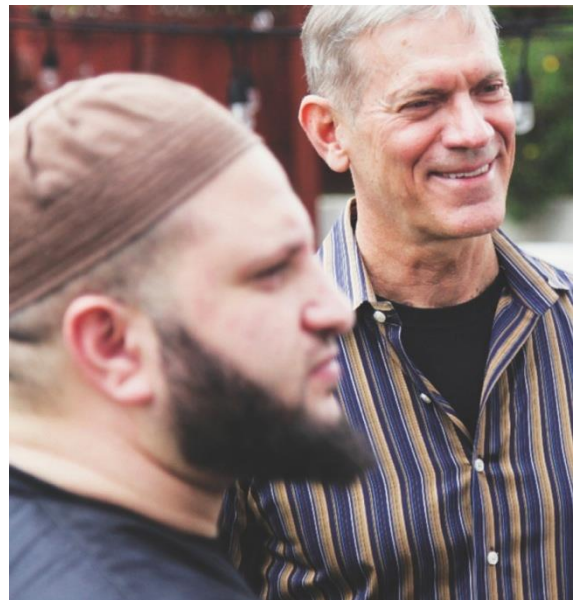
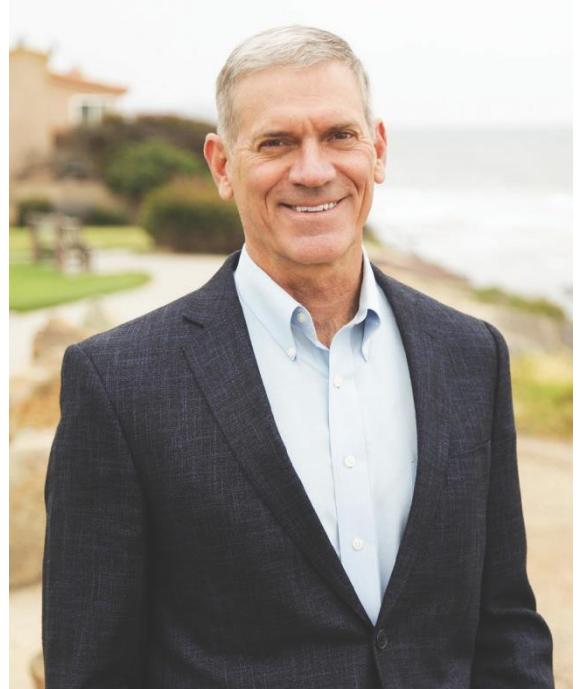
Steve Slocum, award-winning author, activist, and founder of SalaamUSA.org, has been bringing diverse groups together for meaningful connection since 2018. Energized by his five years living in Kazakhstan, and informed by his 30 year engineering career, Slocum took a deep dive into the science of human groups in order to better understand how to effectively bring people together and to change culture. He is the author of *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World* and is a frequent media expert and speaker, with appearances on the KTLA morning news, KPBS, and at the Parliament of World Religions.

### Long: (150)

Steve Slocum, award-winning author, activist, and founder of SalaamUSA.org, has been bringing diverse groups together for meaningful connection since 2018. Energized by his five years living in Kazakhstan, and informed by his 30 year engineering career, Slocum took a deep dive into the science of human groups in order to better understand how to help humans adapt to our global society, and to change a dominant/majority culture of privilege into one that embraces diversity, where equity and inclusion are the norm.

Slocum has developed and prototyped a community building program that tears down walls and forges loving connections between the members of highly diverse groups.

He is the author of *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World* and is a frequent media expert and speaker, with appearances on the KTLA morning news, KPBS, and at the Parliament of World Religions.



[www.steveslocum.com](http://www.steveslocum.com)

# Book Reviews

## STEVE SLOCUM

Social Activist, Author of *Why Do They Hate Us? Making Peace with the Muslim World*

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### WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

- "Well-researched, cogently argued, and drawing on the work of scholars as well personal insights, Slocum's work avoids clichés and deeply examines the complex relationship between Islam and the West. In the end, Slocum unmasks a clash of ignorance and reveals a shared humanity to which we can all relate."

— **Muhammed Hassanali,**  
**Booklist Starred Review**

- "In his comprehensive, helpful debut, Slocum, an aircraft designer and former missionary, encourages Christians to establish friendly relationships with Muslims... Effectively countering pernicious, misinformed narratives, this is an essential contribution to interfaith studies."

— **Publishers Weekly**

- "An exploration of Islamic beliefs and history that aims to challenge American Islamophobia... A clear, concise, and thoughtful introduction to Islam."

— **Kirkus Starred Reviews**

- "Steve Slocum's *Why Do They Hate Us?* offers readers a highly accessible introduction to Islam as a lived religion along with a helpful blueprint for how to build and maintain peace between Muslims and majority populations in the West. In an era of rampant Islamophobia, Slocum's book is essential reading."

— **Todd H. Green, author of *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West***

- "*Why Do They Hate Us?* takes a stand against prejudice by advocating a different approach to not just tolerating Muslims, but getting to know them on a personal level... It stands out from the crowd in offering a powerful blend of historical, political, and personal perspectives on a very complex issue..."

— **Midwest Book Review**

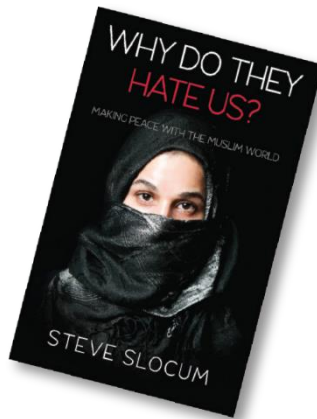
- "Steve Slocum skillfully encourages us to reclaim our sight and rediscover the beautiful truth about our Muslim sisters and brothers: just like us, they

are beloved image bearers of the Divine. This book is for the peacemakers, the haters, and everyone in between who long to see more clearly and who dare to believe that God inhabits uncommon friendships and, through them, is remaking the world."

— **Jer Swigart, Co-Founder, The Global Immersion Project, Co-Author, *Mending the Divides: Creative Love in a Conflicted World***

- "Steve, I wasn't able to just glance through your book. I had to read it slowly. I found it to be captivating, full of important information, relevant to every American."

— **Safi Kaskas,**  
**Muslim Peacemaker, Activist, Author,**  
***The Qur'an - A Contemporary Understanding***



- "*Why Do They Hate Us?* provides needed information about the Muslim world to help non-Muslims see through misleading propaganda. It provides real inspiration based on Steve Slocum's experiences as a Christian living in a Muslim country and traveling widely in the Muslim world. Most important, it is an invitation to join Steve as a peacemaker, learning to love our 1.5 billion Muslim neighbors as we love ourselves. That's an important mission, and a lot depends on our being part of it."

— **Brian D. McLaren,**  
**Author, Speaker, Activist**

- "Steve Slocum's book is a labor of love for humanity. Part historical, contemporary, and reflective in light of his personal transformation, Slocum brings the reader on a beautiful ride towards understanding, compassion, knowledge, and the kind of genuine religious pluralism that our worlds desperately need in the 21st century. This accessibly written book is an important antidote to the rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. and beyond. It will appeal to those who are seeking the truth about the Islamic faith and those who are hoping to liven their spirit by reading the work of a committed bridge builder."

— **Dr. Craig Considine,**  
**Department of Sociology, Rice University**

