

FAITH

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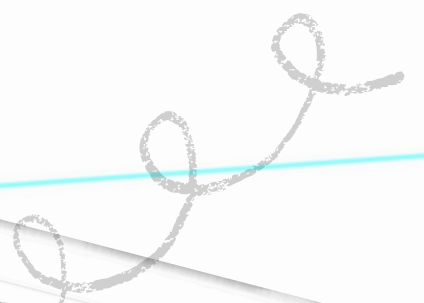
FLING

MUSLIMS IN U OF R'S HOOKUP CULTURE

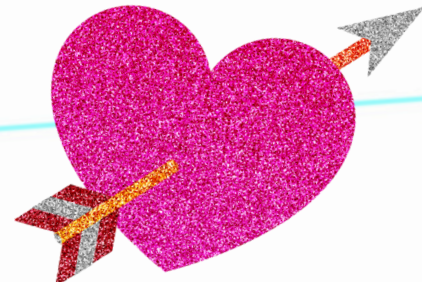
DO U  
LIKE  
ME?



ME  
+  
YOU



YES OR YES?



# ICE BREAKER

- What is your understanding of the hookup culture at the U of R?
- Join at [mentimeter.com](https://www.mentimeter.com)
- Use code 8457 4165





"What exactly is hook-up culture? That's the issue. No one is actually sure of what it is or what's going on in their relationship. There is no set structure, no proper etiquette of how to be a partner in a relationship that is simultaneously so intimate and so distant. What behavior is deemed appropriate and what isn't? You spent the night, but if you see each other in the cafeteria are you supposed to say hello? Is having a snapstreak as opposed to communicating via text indicative of emotional investment? If it's just physical, why are you spending non-intimate time together?"

*-SAMANTHA BECKER (U OF R CAMPUS  
TIMES, 2019)*



# THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE: GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF HOOKUP CULTURE

HOW DO YOUR  
CULTURAL AND  
RELIGIOUS VALUES  
INFLUENCE YOUR VIEW  
OF CASUAL  
RELATIONSHIPS OR  
HOOKUP CULTURE?

People had different answers:

## PERSON 1

- "My cultural and religious values influence me. I value respect and intentionality in the relationships my faith teaches, but I also see some gray areas. Casual relationships are not wrong if people have mutual understanding and respect. It's about balancing my faith and what feels right for me."

## PERSON 2

- "As a Muslim, my faith encourages intentionality and respect in relationships, which is different from the casual nature of hookup culture. Relationships hold a deeper spiritual and emotional significance rooted in commitment and trust. Casual relationships can sometimes feel misaligned with those values, as they often prioritize brief connections over long-term purposes. My values help me focus on meaningful connections, even if it means stepping outside the existing culture."

# THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE: DATING AND RELATIONSHIPS

HOW DO YOUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS (E.G., ISLAM'S VIEWS ON MODESTY, COMMITMENT, AND MARRIAGE) IMPACT HOW YOU APPROACH RELATIONSHIPS IN COLLEGE?

People had similar answers:

- Strive to maintain boundaries that feel respectful to their faith and personal values.
- Prioritize emotional and intellectual compatibility and avoid situations where relationships feel superficial.
- The end goal is to get married.

LOVER



# THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE: MARRIAGE AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS



IF YOUR GOAL IS TO MARRY, HOW DO YOU RECONCILE THE SOCIAL PRESSURE TO ENGAGE IN CASUAL HOOKUPS WITH YOUR BELIEFS ABOUT EMOTIONAL FULFILLMENT AND COMMITMENT?

SERIOUS

SENSE OF HUMOR

TOO EASY GOING

RESPONSIBLE ADULT

ANYTHING GOES

PASSIONATE

PESSIMIST

OPTIMIST

ESTRANGED

FAMILY PERSON

CAUTIOUS

ADVENTUROUS

People had similar answers:

- Building meaningful friendships and connections that have the potential to grow into something deeper.
- It can sometimes feel isolating, especially when hookup culture dominates social settings. Still, they remind themselves that staying true to their values will lead to more fulfilling relationships in the long run.
- Having friends with similar values or involvement in cultural and religious communities dramatically helps.

# THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE: PERSONAL VALUES AND CAMPUS DYNAMICS



DO YOUR PEERS OR THE  
BROADER UNIVERSITY  
COMMUNITY UNDERSTAND OR  
RESPECT YOUR CHOICE TO  
ENGAGE IN RELATIONSHIPS  
DIFFERENTLY DUE TO YOUR  
RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL  
VALUES?

People had different answers:



## PERSON 1

- "Sometimes, people assume that not participating in hookup culture and choosing to be celibate means being overly strict or judgmental, which isn't the case. I've also noticed that some people struggle to fully grasp why I approach relationships differently, especially if their own experiences don't include the same emphasis on modesty, commitment, or long-term intentions."

## PERSON 2

- My peers and the broader University of Rochester community are open-minded and respectful regarding different relationship approaches. Many people are curious about my perspective as a Muslim and are willing to have thoughtful conversations about how my faith and cultural values shape my choices. That said, there can still be moments of misunderstanding or subtle pressure to conform to the more casual dating norms that dominate campus life.



# THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE: GENDER AND IDENTITY

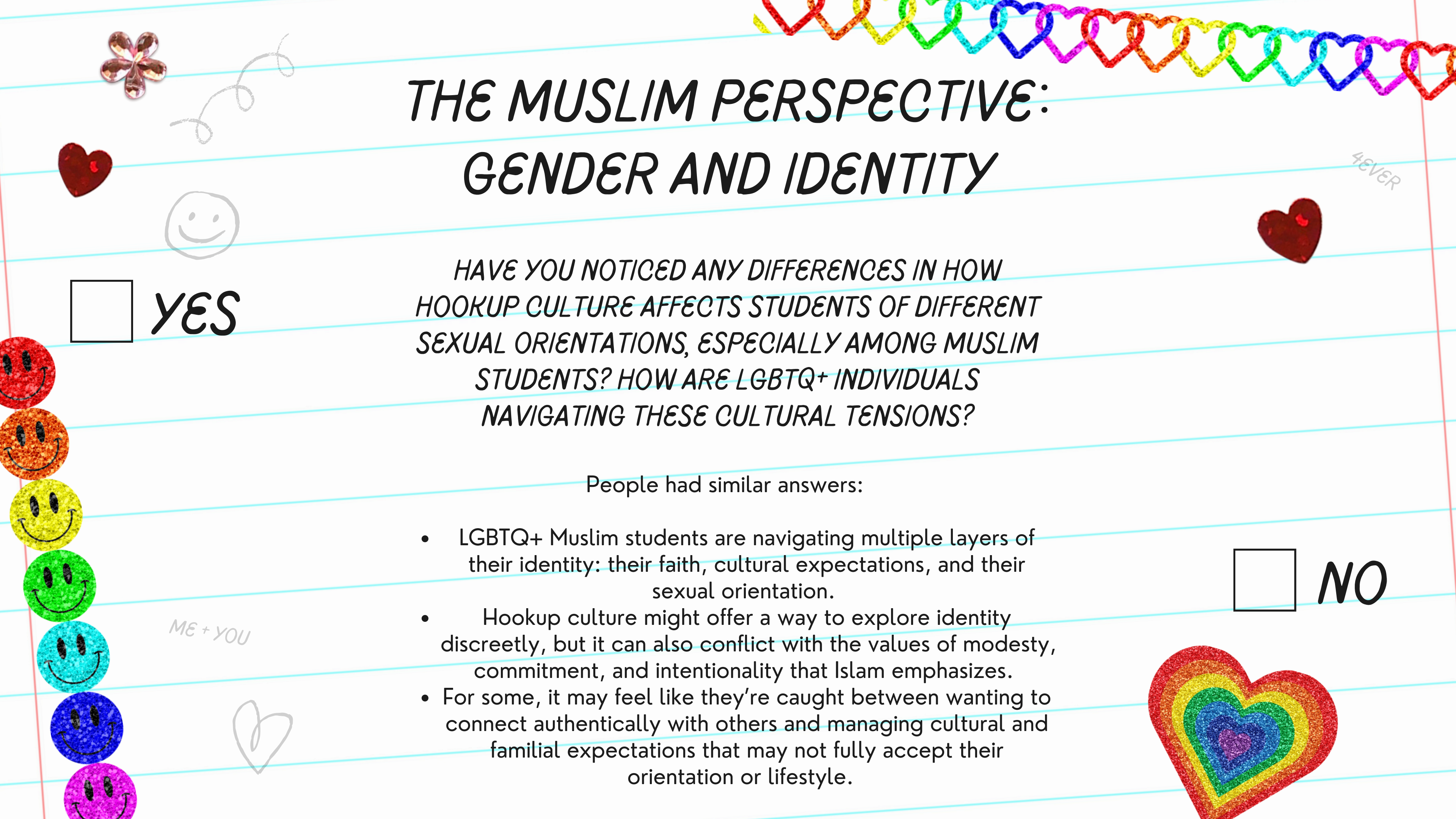
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY DIFFERENCES IN HOW  
HOOKUP CULTURE AFFECTS STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT  
SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS, ESPECIALLY AMONG MUSLIM  
STUDENTS? HOW ARE LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS  
NAVIGATING THESE CULTURAL TENSIONS?

People had similar answers:

- LGBTQ+ Muslim students are navigating multiple layers of their identity: their faith, cultural expectations, and their sexual orientation.
- Hookup culture might offer a way to explore identity discreetly, but it can also conflict with the values of modesty, commitment, and intentionality that Islam emphasizes.
- For some, it may feel like they're caught between wanting to connect authentically with others and managing cultural and familial expectations that may not fully accept their orientation or lifestyle.

YES

NO





# THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE: IMPACT OF DATING APPS AND MODERN HOOKUP CULTURE

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DATING APPS LIKE TINDER, MUZZ, AND SIMILAR PLATFORMS? DO THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE RISE OF HOOKUP CULTURE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS?

People had different answers:

PERSON 1

- These platforms can promote a shift in how intimacy is perceived, reducing it to something transactional or instant rather than something sacred. In my view, while technology can be a tool for good, the way it's used on these platforms often doesn't align with Islamic values. It can also be exploitative to women like myself."

PERSON 2

- "Dating apps are tools, and their use depends on the individual. Apps like Tinder might contribute to the rise of hookup culture. Still, platforms like Muzz or Salams provide opportunities for Muslims to meet people with shared values, which can be especially helpful in a diverse college environment like the University of Rochester. For Muslims, these apps can bridge the gap between tradition and modernity by helping them navigate relationships in a way that still feels intentional."



*THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING!*



Any Questions?



### RESOURCES:

- Sexual Hookup Culture: A Review by Justin R. Garcia, Chris Reiber, Sean G. Massey, and Ann M. Merriweather
- Social Motivations for College Hookups by Shemeka Thorpe and Arielle Kuperberg
- The Problem with Hookup Culture by Samantha Becker
- What's Gender Got to Do With It? Sexual Double Standards and Power in Heterosexual College Hookups by Heather Hensman Kettrey
- Beyond Repression: Muslim Sexuality on Campus by Hasan Hameed
- 'Tinder' and the Rise of Hook-up Culture: Mapping an Islamic Solution by Ahmad Shidqi Mukhtasor
- Muzz, a Muslim Dating App, Takes Its Matchmaking on the Road by Sadiba Hasan