



Getting to Know Our Muslim Neighbors

Islamophobia – not in our Community!



A Dangerous Problem that People of Goodwill Must Confront:

Islamophobia (or anti-Muslim sentiment) is the prejudice against, hatred towards, or fear of the religion of Islam or Muslims, and it is reaching a fever pitch in the United States. Behind the fervor is a confluence of circumstances: attacks on westerners from a rising ISIS, and a citizenry with a nearly total lack of familiarity with the religion and followers of Islam. To that, add divisive and inflammatory rhetoric in the political sphere and a dangerous environment results.



Our Current Challenge:

Failing to confront discriminatory rhetoric gravely endangers the promises of fairness and religious liberty upon which America is founded. Whether it occurs in private or in public, consistently countering such rhetoric is essential to provide a balance to a dangerous wave of religious-based hatred.



How to Respond to untruths:

ISIS is not Islam:

- Muslims worldwide profoundly reject the hate-filled doctrine espoused by ISIS.
- ISIS is a radical terrorist organization seeking to legitimize its actions by tying them to a respected religion.
- It is no fairer to say that Islam is to be blamed for ISIS than it is to say that Christianity is to be blamed for the KKK.

Fearing the Unfamiliar- *reveals more about the fearful than the feared :*

- Fearing the unknown is a very common human emotion.
- We must train ourselves to learn from, engage, and build relationships with Muslims and all those with whom we are unfamiliar to overcome this fear.

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Discrimination based on race, religion, or nationality is Un-American

- America's greatness is derived not from discrimination but from a long history of extraordinary attempts to protect minorities from populist mobs.
- We are a nation founded by immigrants upon the principle of freedom of religion.
- The immigrant Muslim population overwhelmingly demonstrates high levels of education, voluntarism, and has greatly contributed to the success of America.
- Nevertheless, some media outlets and politicians have suggested blocking all Muslims from entering the country, even American Muslims traveling abroad from returning to their families in the US, and further, increasing police patrols in predominantly Muslim neighborhoods.
- Supports for these attitudes and policies, is support for discrimination.



Cincinnati Muslim Community

Greater Cincinnati's Muslim community, estimated to be "25,000 plus" is very diverse. It includes immigrants from many of the 53 Muslim majority countries, who have built American Islamic institutions here. Their children, born and raised here, now making up a majority of Muslim Americans, see themselves as totally American, practicing a faith that is completely compatible with the U.S. Constitution. Many are native African Americans, here for centuries. Muslim Americans are serving this country in all walks of life. Ten percent of our physicians are estimated to be Muslim. Many of our educators in schools and universities as well as lawyers, engineers, architects, IT workers, US soldiers, media personnel, professional athletes, restaurant and grocery store operators and transportation workers, to name a few, are Muslim. Many serve on civic boards promoting social justice. Others serve on boards of local universities, hospitals and charitable organizations. They are all people trying to build a better life for themselves, their children and those around them.

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To learn more: Those desiring more information on our Muslim neighbors and the religion of Islam are encouraged to contact any of the following groups for available speakers, interfaith panels, tours, and other resources. They would welcome hearing from you!

Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati

Tours & Talks Program

(513) 755-3280

www.cincinnatiislamiccenter.org

Clifton Mosque

(513) 221-4003

www.cliftonmosque.org

Cincinnati Islamic Community Center

Speakers Bureau

(513) 377-0964/297-1679

www.masjidcinti.com

Cincinnati Chapter of Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

(513) 281-8200

www.cairohio.com

The Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue, Xavier University

(513) 745-3922

www.xavier.edu/dialogue

www.interfaithcincy.org

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Education Department

(513) 333-7500

www.freedomcenter.org

Islamic Networks Group (ING)

Education, Curriculum and Interfaith Resources

www.ing.org

Bridges of Faith TRIALOGUE

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