



Muslim Students Association National Statement

3 June 2020

In the Name of God, the Intensely Compassionate, the Immensely Compassionate

In this extraordinarily painful time, MSA National expresses its deepest solidarity and condolences to the many grieving Black families and individuals across the nation. MSA National unambiguously condemns the wave of police brutality across the nation as vile acts, and joins millions of other Americans in calling for a permanent end to police violence. MSA National would also like to extend its support to Black Muslim students; please add us as a resource, and if we are unable to meet your requested needs, we will connect you with the appropriate organizations and resources.

As an organization dedicated to serving the needs of Muslim students across the nation, and one of the oldest running non-profit organizations in the American Muslim community, we stand against all forms of racism. It is one of the most grievous sins, borne out of nothing but arrogance and evil. Every day, we find ourselves deeply honored to serve a community as racially and ethnically diverse as the American Muslim community.

We are in particular indebted to our Black brothers and sisters, who paved the way for the freedoms many of us take for granted in the nation through incredible struggle, such as the Civil Rights Movement. In many ways, the Black community have been the torchbearers of both the long fight for justice in general, and our faith of Islam in specific, within this nation. Without the relentless sacrifice of the Black community, none of us would have the liberties and opportunities we have today. We acknowledge the racism and prejudices present within our own communities. We dedicate ourselves to learn, to listen, and to honor the experiences of the Black community.

Our faith also commands us to engage in self-critical reflection and constant self-betterment, so as to become a community closer to the Prophetic example. We dedicate ourselves to engage in the difficult act of self-introspection and self-reflection, as individuals and as a community, and hold each other unflinchingly accountable for the forms of ugly anti-Blackness that can permeate our collective spaces. Our Board of Directors and staff state their commitment to the eradication of injustice within our communities and families; and to refuse to tolerate racism, wherever we may find it and in whichever form it may take.

We ask the American Muslim community in general, and MSAs across the nation in specific, to reach out to, follow, and learn from organizations such as the Muslim Anti-Racism Colaborative. We also ask other Muslim organizations to follow suit in fulfilling the following shared demands from our community's Black leaders:

I. Public Statement

Muslim organizations, mosques, and community centers must draft a letter of solidarity with the Black community, and in particular with Black families, whose loved ones have been taken and impacted by police violence. We expect all allies to publicly condemn police brutality across the US as despicable, harmful and an injustice that must end immediately.

II. Day of Outrage

Muslim organizations (legal, humanitarian, financial, spiritual and social), Mosques and community centers must participate in a Day of Outrage on June 5th - where collectively each Masjid/center/organization dedicate their Friday talk or recorded message in condemnation of anti-Blackness and police brutality.

III. Community Centers

Muslim organizations, Mosques and community centers must commit internally to addressing anti-Blackness within their locality through education, dialogue, courageous conversations and a firm commitment to accountability.

IV. Local Efforts

Join local efforts to uplift justice and equity for the Black community, including calls to actions, protests, etc. History is being made, we must not sit on the sidelines.

May Allah help us collectively walk in the footsteps of the Prophet. May He grant ease and comfort to the oppressed, in this world and the Hereafter. And, just as today the world may be immersed in injustice and darkness, may He soon immerse it in His Divine light and justice.