

## **Call to Action to Eradicate Domestic Violence**

As October, the Domestic Violence Awareness month, has ended and we now approach December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, Muslim Canadians reflect on the reality of domestic violence within our own communities, compounded by abhorrent and yet persistent pre-Islamic practices rooted in the misguided notion of restoring family honour.

As Muslims, we base our ethics and behaviour on the teachings of the Quran and the authenticated example of the Prophet Muhammad, who never hit a woman and taught the men that “the best amongst you is he who treats women the best”. The Quran unequivocally emphasizes the sanctity of all life, forbids all forms of coercion in matters of religion, and reminds us all that each of us is accountable for our actions directly to God, the only Judge.

There is no room within these teachings for any person, by virtue of gender or position within the family, to seize control over the life and bodily security of another. Domestic violence and, in the extreme, practices such as killing to “restore family honour” violate clear and non-negotiable Islamic principles, and so we categorically condemn all forms of domestic violence.

We the undersigned declare our commitment to intensify our efforts to eradicate domestic violence from our communities through:

1. Working within our community and with other communities to raise awareness of harmful (and sometimes lethal) attitudes that lead to this violence.
2. Working within our communities to raise awareness about the serious psychological, judicial, social and religious consequences of such practices, through Friday sermons, public lectures, workshops, and other means.
3. Morally opposing the use of the word “honour” when describing such killings to ensure no positive connotation is implied directly or indirectly in connection to such heinous crimes.
4. Working with community leaders and Imams in order to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary resources and training so that they can offer mediation, conflict resolution, and domestic violence counselling in a manner that reflects professional standards, contemporary research, and religious scholarship.
5. Educating parents and youth about existing resources that can help them deal with intergenerational conflicts and misogynist leanings far before it gets to the point of violent confrontation.
6. Teaching parents and youth how to deal with intergenerational conflicts and misogynist leanings.

As a first step, starting immediately and specifically on December 9, we commit ourselves to addressing this issue at all levels, including and especially within our Friday sermons, which must highlight Islamic perspectives on domestic abuse,

perspectives that condemn all forms of violence against women and children, most especially threatening, abusing, and killing women in the name of protecting the family's honour. As Muslims and as Canadians, we stand with all Canadians and pledge to combat domestic violence in all its manifestations, wherever and whenever they arise.

### **Contacts**

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*ENDORSED BY:*

### **Muslim Organizations**

1. Ahlul Bayt Centre, Ottawa
2. Amal Center for Women [www.amalwomencenter.ca](http://www.amalwomencenter.ca) \*
3. British Columbia Muslim Association (BCMA) [www.thebcma.com](http://www.thebcma.com) \*
4. Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAM-D) [www.camd.ca](http://www.camd.ca)
5. Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) [www.ccmw.com](http://www.ccmw.com) \*
6. Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations- CAIR-CAN  
[www.caircan.ca](http://www.caircan.ca)
7. Canadian Council of Imams [www.canadiancouncilofimams.com](http://www.canadiancouncilofimams.com)
8. Canadian Muslim Forum [www.fmc-cmf.com](http://www.fmc-cmf.com)
9. Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association (CMLA) [www.muslimlaw.ca](http://www.muslimlaw.ca) \*
10. Centre for Islamic Development [www.cidonline.org](http://www.cidonline.org) \*
11. Cordova Spiritual Education Centre & Cordova Academy  
[www.cordovaacademy.com](http://www.cordovaacademy.com) \*
12. DAR Foundation [www.darfoundation.com](http://www.darfoundation.com)
13. DawaNet [www.DawaNet.ca](http://www.DawaNet.ca)
14. El-Tawhid Juma Circle Mosques \*
15. Faith of Life Network [www.faihoflife.net](http://www.faihoflife.net)
16. Federation of Muslim Women (FMW) [www.fmw.org](http://www.fmw.org)
17. Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (IOAS), Regina [www.iaosregina.com](http://www.iaosregina.com) \*
18. Islamic Centre of Cambridge [www.iccambridge.com](http://www.iccambridge.com)
19. Islamic Chaplaincy Services Canada
20. Islamic Community Center, Brossard [www.iccbrossard.com](http://www.iccbrossard.com) \*
21. Islamic Family and Social Services Association (Edmonton)  
<http://www.ifssa.ca/> \*
22. Islamic Humanitarian Services [www.al-haqq.com](http://www.al-haqq.com) \*
23. Islamic Information and Da'wah Centre International  
[www.islaminfo.com](http://www.islaminfo.com)

24. Islamic Institute of Toronto [www.islamicinstitute.ca](http://www.islamicinstitute.ca)
25. Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA) [www.issaservices.com](http://www.issaservices.com)
26. Islamic Society of Kingston [www.kingstonmuslims.net](http://www.kingstonmuslims.net)
27. Islamic Society of North America Canada (ISNA Canada) [www.isnacanada.com](http://www.isnacanada.com) \*
28. Jamiatul Muslemeen of Ottawa (Jami Omar) [www.jamiomar.org](http://www.jamiomar.org)
29. Kanata Muslim Association [www.kanatamuslims.org](http://www.kanatamuslims.org) \*
30. Kawartha Muslim Religious Association (KMRA) [www.kmra.ca](http://www.kmra.ca) \*
31. London Muslim Mosque [www.londonmosque.ca](http://www.londonmosque.ca)
32. Lote Tree Foundation [www.lotetree.ca](http://www.lotetree.ca) \*
33. Masjid al-Farooq Islamic Centre [www.masjidfarooq.com](http://www.masjidfarooq.com)
34. Muslim Association of Canada [www.macnet.ca](http://www.macnet.ca)
35. Muslim Children's Aid & Support Services [www.muslimchildrensaid.ca](http://www.muslimchildrensaid.ca)
36. Muslim Education Network Training and Outreach Services (MENTORS) [www.oais.net](http://www.oais.net)
37. Muslim Law Students Association (MLSA), Ottawa University
38. Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration [www.mrcssi.com](http://www.mrcssi.com)
39. Muslim Seniors Circle, Mississauga, ON [www.muslimseniorcircle.ca](http://www.muslimseniorcircle.ca) \*
40. Muslim Social Services of Kitchener-Waterloo [www.muslimsocialserviceskw.org](http://www.muslimsocialserviceskw.org) \*
41. Muslim Students' Association, McMaster University <http://www.macmsa.com/> \*
42. Muslim Students' Association, University of Ottawa <http://www.uomsa.ca/>
43. Muslim Students' Association, University of Toronto – Mississauga Campus <http://www.facebook.com/utmmsa?sk=wall&filter=1>
44. Muslim Students' Association, University of Toronto – St. George Campus [www.uoftmsa.com](http://www.uoftmsa.com) \*
45. Muslim Students' Association, Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU MSA) [www.wlumsa.com](http://www.wlumsa.com)
46. Muslims for Progressive Values Canada (MPV) – [www.mpvottawa.com](http://www.mpvottawa.com) \*
47. Naseeha Muslim Youth Helpline [www.naseeha.net](http://www.naseeha.net)
48. National Muslim Law Students Association – Canada (NMLSA) <https://sites.google.com/site/nmlsacanada/home> \*
49. Noor Cultural Centre [www.noorculturalcentre.ca](http://www.noorculturalcentre.ca)
50. Ontario Association of Islamic Schools (OAIS) [www.oais.net](http://www.oais.net)
51. P4E Support Group Inc. [www.thep4e.com](http://www.thep4e.com)
52. Presence Musulmane [www.presencemusulmane.org](http://www.presencemusulmane.org)
53. Rohingya Canadian Association \*
54. Salaam: Queer Muslim Community of Canada: <http://salaamcanada.com/> \*
55. SeekersHub Toronto [www.seekershubs.org](http://www.seekershubs.org)
56. Smile Canada <http://www.smilecan.org/> \*
57. Sound Vision [www.SoundVision.com](http://www.SoundVision.com)
58. Talim-ul-Islam (TUI), Weston, Ontario
59. TARIC Islamic Centre [www.taric.org](http://www.taric.org)
60. The Alternative For Her Community Centre (TAFHCC) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmtRrCPqGXs> \*

61. The Coalition of Muslim Women of Kitchener -Waterloo [www.cmw-kw.org](http://www.cmw-kw.org)
62. The Tessellate Institute [www.tessellateinstitute.com](http://www.tessellateinstitute.com) \*
63. United Caring Establishment Canada (UCEC) [www.unitedcaring.org](http://www.unitedcaring.org) \*
64. United Muslim Martial Arts (UMMA) \*
65. Young Muslims Canada [www.youngmuslims.ca](http://www.youngmuslims.ca)

### **Other Organizations**

1. Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic [www.schliferclinic.com](http://www.schliferclinic.com) \*
2. Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM) \*
3. Canadian Association of Multicultural People  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Canadian-Association-of-Multicultural-People/146896072047414](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Canadian-Association-of-Multicultural-People/146896072047414)
4. Pakistan Canada Association Waterloo-Wellington Counties
5. Social Services Network [www.socialservicesnetwork.org](http://www.socialservicesnetwork.org) \*
6. The Care Factor Community Services Inc [www.thecarefactor.ca](http://www.thecarefactor.ca)

### **Imams & Muslim Scholars**

1. Abdul Hai Patel, Imam
2. Abdul Mannan Syed (Nadwi), Imam, Muslim Society of Waterloo \*
3. Abdullah Hatia, Imam, IAOS Regina \*
4. Abu Musa Imran Ally, Imam, TARIC Islamic Centre
5. Abu Noman Tarek, Imam, Islamic Centre of Cambridge
6. Ahmed Limame, Imam, Gatineau Mosque (OIC) \*
7. Ahmed Shafaat, Dr., Imam, Dorval Mosque – [www.islamicperspectives.com](http://www.islamicperspectives.com) \*
8. Faraz Rabbani, Executive Director, SeekersHub Toronto
9. Habeeb Alli, Imam
10. Hamid Slimi, Dr. & Imam
11. Irshad Osman, Khateeb, Danforth Islamic centre and Toronto Islamic Centre
12. Jamal Badawi, Dr. \*
13. Jamal Taleb, Imam, London Muslim Mosque \*
14. Mohamad Jebara, Imam \*
15. Mohammad Zahid, Shaikh
16. Omar Subedar, Imam, The Mathabah Foundation
17. Samy Metwally, Imam, Ottawa Muslim Association (OMA)
18. Shabir Ally, Imam, Islamic Information and Da'wah Centre International
19. Shafiq Hudda, Imam, Islamic Humanitarian Services
20. Sikander Ziad Hashmi, Imam, Islamic Society of Kingston
21. Tefvik al Jerrahi, Shaikh, Canadian Sufi Cultural Center
22. Timothy J. Gianotti, Dr., Professor of Islamic Studies and Noor Cultural Centre Khateeb
23. Yahya Fadlalla, Dr. & Imam
24. Yusuf Badat, Imam, Islamic Foundation of Toronto
25. Zahir Bacchus, Imam & Principal, Lote Tree Foundation \*

26. Zia Ullah Khan, Imam \*
27. Ziyad Delic, Dr. Imam, Ottawa

## **Community Leaders**

1. A.Q. Mufti
2. Abdur Rafey Faruqi, President, UTM MSA; Director of Operations, Naseeha Muslim Youth Helpline
3. Adam Gilani, President, Muslim Students' Association, University of Ottawa
4. Amjid Iqbal
5. Anela Jadunandan, Community Development Worker \*
6. Asma Elliot, President, Canadian Council of Muslim Women, Brampton-Mississauga Chapter \*
7. Elizabeth F. Rahman, Translator & Writer \*
8. Emdad Khan, Dr., President, South Nepean Muslim Community
9. Farheen Khan-Umer, Development Coordinator, Interim Place (Women's Shelter) Peel; Chair, Council for the Advancement of Muslim Professionals - Canada Network
10. Farina Siddiqui, Community and Social Activist
11. Fauzia Mazhar, Coordinator, The Coalition of Muslim Women of KW
12. Fatima Omar Khamissa, CEO & Founder, God Conscious Women's Institute, [www.godandenergy.com](http://www.godandenergy.com) \*
13. Haji Muhammad Saleem Shaikh, Retired high school teacher \*
14. Hanny Hassan, C.M., former President, Council of Muslim Communities of Canada
15. Ibrahim Danial, Board member, Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association (CMLA) and Muslim Association of Professionals (MAP) \*
16. Ibrahim Hayani, Ryerson University
17. Idrisa Pandit, Coordinator, Muslim Social Services of Kitchener-Waterloo \*
18. Irfan Khurshid, Executive Director, ICNA Relief Canada
19. Jeewan Chanicka, Community Activist & Youth Worker
20. Johnny Roberts, Human Rights Activist \*
21. Kassim Ebrahim, Marriage Officer - Province of Ontario \*
22. Kathy Bullock, Dr., President, The Tessellate Institute
23. Mariam Bhabha, founder and former chair of the Federation of Muslim Women and co-founder and former chair of the Bosnian-Canadian Relief Association \*
24. Mohammed Azhar Ali Khan, C.M., O. Ont., Community worker, retired journalist, civil servant and Refugee Judge \*
25. Muneeb Nasir
26. Rabia Khedr, Disability and Human Rights Activist
27. Reza Rizvi, Co-Founder and Past President, Children of Hope
28. Saleha Khan, Human Rights & Hate Crimes Consultant \*
29. Samira Kanji, President, Noor Cultural Centre
30. Sandra Noe, Mediator & Human Rights Advocate, Navigation from Conflict to Resolution – [www.resolvedisputes.org](http://www.resolvedisputes.org) \*

31. Shawana Shah, Neighbours Friends and Families Muslim Project (NFF - Ottawa) \*
32. Sukaina Dada, Occupational Therapist, Smile President \*
33. Suleiman Gardee, Dr.
34. Taha Ghayyur, Sound Vision & TorontoMuslims.com
35. Wahida Valiante, Chair and National President, Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC); Chair, Islamic History Month Canada

**NOTE**

To add your name and/or organization to the list of endorsers, please email CAIR-CAN at: info(@)caircan(.)ca . Please indicate “Call to Eradicate DV Endorsement” in the subject line.

Be sure to include your, and/or your organization's full name, your title, and telephone number for verification.

\* Indicates signatory was added after the Call was released