



ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

REIMAGINE  **REBUILD**



**REIMAGINE AND REBUILD WITH
RENEWED RESOLVE**
58th Annual ISNA Virtual Convention
September 4-5
PROGRAM

Register Free at ISNA.NET

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58th ANNUAL ISNA VIRTUAL CONVENTION

September 4 - 5, 2021

Theme: Reimagine & Rebuild with Renewed Resolve

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا قَنَطُوا وَيَنْشُرُ رَحْمَتَهُ وَهُوَ الْوَلِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ

And it is He Who sends down the rain after they have despaired, and spreads His Mercy.
And He is the Protector, the Praiseworthy.

Saturday, September 4

Main Session

10:00 AM- 12:30 PM
Session 1A

Opening Ceremony

- ▶ **Recitation from the Holy Quran**
- ▶ **Welcome Remarks**
 - ▷ Safaa Zarzour - ISNA President
 - ▷ Magda Elkadi Saleh - Vice President ISNA US
 - ▷ Mohammed Jalaluddin - Vice President ISNA Canada
 - ▷ Affan Badar - Program Committee Chair
 - ▷ Basharat Saleem - Executive Director ISNA
- ▶ **Messages from Dignitaries and Guests**
 - ▷ Mufti Ekrima Sa'id Sabri - Al Aqsa Mosque Khatib
 - ▷ The Honorable Dick Durbin, United States Senate
 - ▷ The Honorable Keith Ellison - Attorney General of the State of Minnesota
 - ▷ The Honorable Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, United States House of Representatives
 - ▷ The Honorable Fady Qaddoura - Indiana State Senate
 - ▷ Marium Hussain - IMANA President
 - ▷ And Other Guests
- ▶ **Moderator: Azhar Azeez**

Plenary Session

Topic: Lessons in Tribulation for Individual Growth

The implication of faith and personal piety is deeply intertwined in successfully navigating through human difficulty. Especially when challenges are severe, religious education and socio-political awareness can deliver refuge from turmoil. The 58th ISNA Convention begins its discussion on balancing the depth of faith and breadth of continuous education to overcome personal frailties and social challenges in a post-COVID world. Topics will include:

- ▶ Spiritual Dimensions Relevant to Pandemic Adversities
- ▶ Seeking Spiritual & Practical Change to Cure in a post-pandemic environment
- ▶ Education with a Renewed Vision

Speakers: Waleed Basyouni, Ubaydullah Evans, Anse Tamara Gray, Muzammil Siddiqi

Moderator: Fawad Yacoob

Parallel Sessions

<p>12:45 - 1:45 PM Session 2A</p>	<p>ISNA Session Topic: Celebrating Islamic Education: Moving Forward with Renewed Vision In this session, participants will celebrate the progress of Islamic schools in the United States: Where they are now, and how much they have achieved over the years from 1936 until today. What have we accomplished and what plans do we have for the future? Participants will also discover many ways to support the vital need to educate our Muslim children in environments that supports their faith and beliefs. Speakers: Sufia Azmat, Qur'an Shakir, Abdalla Idris, Shaza Khan <i>Moderator: Patricia Salahuddin</i></p>
<p>Session 2C</p>	<p>Youth Session Topic: Your Spiritual Journey Patience is a key virtue often addressed in relation to others, but did you know we also have to be patient with ourselves? This session will explore what it means to have <i>sabr</i> with your own personal development, and we'll discuss how there's no such thing as being static--you either move up or down in <i>Iman</i> with every test. It will also explore blockages we face and the stages of knowledge acquisition. Speakers: Hazel Gomez</p>
<p>1:45 - 2:30 PM</p>	<p>BREAK FOR PRAYER & LUNCH</p>
<p>2:30 - 3:30 PM Session 3A</p>	<p>ISNA Session Topic: Lessons for Strengthening Our Masjids What We Learn from the US Mosque Survey 2020 Top scholars and activists will reflect on the findings of the US Mosque Survey 2020 to draw lessons for our masjids. The Mosque Survey is a comprehensive, decadal study of American mosques which provides a wealth of information to better understand masjids and to better plan for their improvement. Topics from the report will include discussion of young adults, women, governance, fundraising, and involvement in American society. Speakers: Mufti Hussain Kamani, Muhammad Nur Abdullah, Dalia Mogahed, Ihsan Bagby</p>
<p>Session 3B</p>	<p>Organizations Session Topic: The Story of ISNA (IIIT) This session will focus on IIIT and its initiative on Advancing education reform in Muslim societies and communities. Dr. Hisham Altalib will open the session by sharing a valuable account of the historic connection between The Islamic Society of North America and The International institute of Islamic Thought as told by the founders. Dr. Ilham Nasser, a senior researcher at IIIT will present the results of a two year study focused on participants' attitudes in schools and universities in 15 Muslim countries regarding 21st century values and competencies. The results and implications of surveying close to 50,000 people will be shared. The session will conclude with recommendations for future research studies. Speakers: Hisham Al-Talib, Ilham Nasser</p>

Session 3C**Youth Session****Topic: Being a 21st Century Muslim**

Our friends are taking off their hijabs. Jihad becomes Joe. We answer the phone with "Hello?" Someone demonizes us about our faith, and we react aggressively or with violence, which distorts the tradition of Islam and is preyed upon by the media. The adults in our lives struggle to understand our lives as well. As youth, it can be difficult to navigate. This session will tackle the concept of being a "21st century Muslim." How do we react to xenophobic comments? Where can we pull inspiration from our Islamic history? How do we balance being strong while being soft? How can we, as representatives of Islam, uphold our perfect traditions? These are just some of the questions that youth face when it comes to being spiritually sound in today's world.

Speakers: Habeeb Quadri

Special Events**3:45 - 5:00 PM****Session 4A****ISNA: 58 Years of Service to the Muslim Community**

- ▶ Quran Recitation
- ▶ Welcome & Program Introduction - Rashed Nizam
- ▶ Welcome from ISNA President - Safaa Zarzour
- ▶ Keynote Address - Ingrid Mattson
- ▶ Welcome from ISNA Treasurer - Azhar Azeez
- ▶ Thank you and conclusion by Rashed Nizam

Parallel Sessions

5:15 - 6:45 PM

Session 5B

Global Issues

Palestine: Injustice and Oppression in Holy Land

This session will educate the audience about injustice and violations of human rights that are ongoing in Palestine. Israel continues to impose institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians living under its rule and in the Occupied Territories. It has displaced hundreds of Palestinians as a result of home demolitions and imposition of other coercive measures. Israeli forces continue to use excessive force during law enforcement activities and have killed many Palestinians, including young children, in the Occupied Territories. Israel also restricts freedom of movement of Palestinians through checkpoints and roadblocks, while also using a range of measures to target human rights defenders, journalists, and others who criticize its occupation and human rights violations. The Speaker, Miko Peled, is considered by many to be one of the clearest voices calling for justice in Palestine, support of the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) and the creation of a single democracy with equal rights in all of historic Palestine. He travels regularly to Palestine where he speaks and works with the popular resistance, the BDS movement, and other justice groups.

Speaker: Miko Peled

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Unprecedented Humanitarian Crisis in Syria

The Syrian crisis is the worst humanitarian disaster since WWII. The brutal response of the Assad regime to the early peaceful demonstrations of the Syrian youth seeking dignity has led to the displacement of more than half of the population has been displaced. One out of five refugees in the world is from Syria. More than 600,000 people were killed and many more were injured. What happened in Syria caused a global refugee crisis that destabilized Europe and created anti-refugee and anti-immigrant sentiments in the US. It also fueled Islamophobia, the rise of hate groups and populist political parties throughout the West. Muslims in the US should know more about this catastrophe in order to advocate on behalf of refugees and victims of war who are suffering in silence in refugee camps and destroyed neighborhoods.

Speaker: Zaher Sahloul

Moderator: Umbereen Nehal

Session 5C

Organizations Session (IMRC)

Topic: India's Muslims at risk: Impending Economic and Social Crisis

Muslims are facing increasingly difficult circumstances under the dual assault of the rise of Hindutva ideology and the second wave of Covid pandemic. Their situation is drastic and rapidly reaching a critical point. Scholars and prominent journalists of Indian Muslims provide a briefing on this crisis in making.

Speakers: Ghazala Wahab, Amirullah Khan, Muqtedar Khan

ISNA Main Session

7:00 - 8:15 PM

Session 6A

ISNA Presidential Award Ceremony (7:00 - 7:15)

- ▶ Welcome remarks from ISNA President Safaa Zarzour
- ▶ Presentation of award to Dr. Bassam Osman
- ▶ Dr. Bassam Osman's remarks
- ▶ Fundraising appeal from Azhar Azeez

Plenary Session

Topic: Convention Theme: Reimagine and Rebuild with Renewed Resolve

The COVID-19 era is a moment of reckoning, rendering from individual to global affairs, and ISNA 58th convention intends to reflect on those myriad lessons to stir up our adaptive awareness not only to re-envision a new post-pandemic life, but also to provide a personalized roadmap to rebuild it with renewed commitment.

Topics will include:

- Advancing Social Justice and Equality in America
- Countering Contemporary Community Challenges
- Promoting Sacred Activism

Speakers: Zaid Shakir, Dalia Mogahed, Yasir Qadhi

Moderator: Magda Elkadi Saleh

8:30 PM

Maghrib Prayer

9:00 - 10:30 PM

Entertainment

Entertainment by Preacher Moss, Kashmir Maryam, and Mecca 2 Medina



IMRC

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Sunday, September 5

Main Session

11:00 AM -
12:30 PM
Session 7A

Plenary Session

Topic: Empowering Communities with Extended Solidarity

Individual faith reaches maturity through community empowerment that is sustained by a strong sense of solidarity. Reflections from this pandemic can leverage the core of Islamic wisdom by extracting instrumental, intrinsic, and transformative aspects of advancing the highest degrees of solidarity among communities for the overall benefit of humanity. Topics will include:

- Family: Nurturing the Value of Togetherness
- Communities: Social, Civic and Political Engagement
- Social Services in Professional Capacity

Speakers: Aneesah Nadir, Siraj Wahhaj, Yasmin Mogahed

Moderator: Susan Labadi

12:45 - 5:00 PM

Parallel Sessions

12:45 - 1:45 PM
Session 8A

ISNA Session

Topic: Strengthening the Family Institution: Focusing on Mental Health

The institution of family is the foundation of our community, but mental health problems are becoming increasingly prevalent in Society. These include suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. In fact, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people between 10 and 34 years of age. Mental health problems often lead to problems in families and careers as well. Speakers will address risk factors and ways in which our community may effectively fight the stigma surrounding mental health concerns from a psycho-spiritual perspective and in a preventative manner.

Speakers: Fahad Khan (Khalil Center), Rukhsana Chaudhry (AMHP), Shady Shebak, Mohamed Magid

Moderator: Sufia Azmat

Session 8B

ISNA Session

Topic: Collaboration Between Faith Communities for the Common Good & Nurturing Compassion through Interfaith

Time and time again, the message of love and unity prevails over the caustic rhetoric of those who peddle in hate and fealaaar. Join us as we explore how religious leaders from different faith traditions are working together to put an end to anti-Muslim sentiment and drowning out divisive language with unrelenting peace and love.

Speakers: Jim Winkler, Nina Fernando, Suhail Khan, Rabbi David Saperstein

Moderator: Mohamed Elsanousi

Session 8C

Youth Session

Topic: Learning From a Legacy of Hardship

Can wisdom be learned? Can wisdom be taught? We as the Muslim youth are being told to strive towards acting like the Prophet (PBUH), but his wisdom seems unattainable. We would like to implement our knowledge through the *Seerah* of our Prophet (PBUH) but we don't know where to begin. We will explore this concept and will discuss how we can attain some level of wisdom as youth. Let's dive in to understand the ways in which the Prophet (PBUH) can be closer to us in our daily lives and struggles.

Speakers: Mufti Abdul Wahab Waheed

1:45 - 2:30 PM

BREAK FOR PRAYER & LUNCH

<p>2:30 - 3:30 PM Session 9A</p>	<p>ISNA Session Topic: A Comprehensive Strategy for Countering Islamophobia Islamophobia manifests through many different anti-Muslim activities that take various forms: structural, individual, and dialectic Islamophobia. These forms include harassment and violence, anti-Muslim hate groups, anti-Muslim rallies, organized anti-mosque activities on the community level, and institutionalized anti-Muslim legislation on a structural level. At this session, panelists will discuss a new strategy along with resources and proven best practices. This session will empower individuals and communities to understand and effectively counter Islamophobia in its various forms. Speakers: Wael Alzayat, Azka Mahmood, Salam Al-Marayati <i>Moderator: Rashed Rabbi</i></p>
<p>Session 9B</p>	<p>ISNA Session -Urdu Presentation: Sh. Javed Ahmed Ghamidi's perspectives on adhering to the principles of Islam in Western Societies <i>Moderator: Affan Badar</i></p>
<p>Session 9C</p>	<p>Youth Session Topic: Living Life by the Book The Quran is a complete code of life and guidance for mankind. The Qur'an is essential to the life of every Muslim. It is a living reality. Just as it was for those who heard it for the first time from the lips of the Prophet (SAW), it is a communication from God directly addressing every person. Its words are timeless and eternally valid. It transforms events from a particular time and place into a great and complete lesson, which is not limited by the specific circumstances in which they were revealed. Every word of it is deeply relevant to our concerns and experiences and is to be fully integrated into our lives. Together, we will explore the importance of the Quran, and we will help youth understand ways to implement it in their daily lives. Speakers: Saad Quadri</p>
<p>Special Events</p>	
<p>3:45 - 5:00 PM Session 10A</p>	<p>ISNA Session Topic: A Renewed Commitment to Promote Global Harmony Neither our allies are eternal, nor our enemies are perpetual; rather, our interests are eternal and perpetual, and the pandemic taught us to promote our shared interests efficiently. By extending similar wisdom, the 58th convention plans to address some of these interests, such as the climate crisis, threats of nuclear weapons, growing geopolitical tensions, new forms and patterns of violence, and divided interest with growing worldwide unrest to further global harmony. Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Preserving Environment for Future Generations is a Religious Obligation ▶ Advancing Human Rights ▶ Addressing Global Conflicts <p>Speakers: Ebrahim Rasool, Ameena Jandali, John Esposito <i>Moderator: Haroon Imtiaz</i></p>

Parallel Sessions:

5:15 - 6:45 PM

Session 11A

Global Issues

Kashmir: Resistance Against Indian Reign of Terror (WKAF)

Two years ago on August 5, 2019, the Modi Regime snatched away what little constitutional rights were left for the 14 million people living in Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir was placed under an unending series of lockdowns and blackouts which remains in place till today. Kashmir is facing a state of terror and an economic and humanitarian disaster, in addition to ethnic cleansing to bring in and settle Indian Hindus to affect a permanent demographic shift. But the 74 year long resistance to achieve the right to self-determination wages on despite Indian terror.

Speaker: Ghulam Nabi Mir

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Persecution and Violence: The Blueprint of Rohingya Genocide in Burma/ Myanmar

The genocide of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar dates back to over half a century with persecution policy institutionalized by the Burmese military junta. It began with major human rights violations and revocation of citizenship. The junta used various means of violence such as using militia, mobs, and military assault against the Rohingya population. Over 1.2 million Rohingya were forced out of their homeland, which has become one of the world's largest refugee crisis. Additionally, over half-a-million Rohingya were internally displaced in Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar is facing a genocidal court case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague. The Government of Myanmar was ordered by the ICJ to provide protection of Rohingya in its first ruling on implementation of provisional measures.

Speaker: Wakar Uddin

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Uyghur Muslims Suffering Under Chinese Oppression

Freedom of the Uyghur people is as old of a struggle as the struggle of Palestine and Kashmir. Uyghurs are forced into the largest concentration camps since the Nazis. However, the Muslim world has started seeing Uyghur struggle more in the context of geopolitical conflict between the United States and China. They therefore either ignore their struggle or reject it as fake news. This eyewitness account will make a pointed effort to liberate this human rights crisis from the geopolitical context.

Speakers: Serwi Huseyin, Malik Mujahid

Moderator: Rifat Malik

Session 11B

ISNA Session

Topic: Environmental Social Justice - Challenges and Responsibilities

Environmental social justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Muslim organizations and scholars are getting together to establish a platform to deal with sustainable development issues from an Islamic perspective to enrich human knowledge and to inspire actions by all believers. Speakers will emphasize on principles and values that govern our relationships with humans and other living and non-living creations.

Speakers: Huda Alkaff, Uzma Mirza, Saffet Catovic, Nana Firman

Moderator: Saiyid Masroor Shah

Session 11C

Organizations Session (AMSET)

Topic A: Ethics in AI: What, Why and How?

The proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) based systems in the decision making roles in various industries resurfaced the discussion of AI ethics among its various stakeholders, including scientists, policy-makers, and most importantly, the people. However, the ethical aspects of AI applications such as bias and fairness, trustworthiness, and transparency of AI-powered decision making, and predicting human health and behavior are still not well established which may lead to discrimination. To alleviate these concerns, AI scientists are now playing an active role; significant development has been made in making AI systems self-explainable, trustworthy, and fair. This talk will cover some of these recent developments.

Speakers: Mohammad Al-Hasan

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Topic B: Conversational AI Application in Natural Language Processing and Impact on Privacy

Alexa, Siri, and Google chatbots with or without video interface process human commands and act on them to provide the service requested. AI is heavily used for the natural language processing to interpret the commands. However, there are concerns if these chatbots would transmits data without the owner’s consent to the manufacturer who could use the data for purposes not consented by the device owner. This talk will focus of this aspect of the AI based data collection and analysis and possible breaches of privacy and data security.

Speakers: Aatif Belal.

Moderator: Sohel Anwar

Main Session

7:00 - 8:15 PM

Session 12A

Plenary Session

Topic: Comprehensive Vision for Holistic Transformation

Each individual action can have larger consequences. As we plan to retain our post-COVID life, we must be able to infer holistically the lasting impact of individual action for a comprehensive transformation. Based on that complete picture, our social and political participation must be purified by profound spiritual and psychological self-awareness and rooted in divine truth, wisdom, and compassion. Topics will include:

- Embracing Challenges with Optimism
- Creating a Roadmap for Success
- Relying on Faith to Facilitate Transformation

Speakers: Habeeb Quadri, Ingrid Mattson, Ieasha Prime, Magda Elkadi Saleh

Moderator: Affan Badar

8:30 PM

Maghrib Prayer

Entertainment

Session 13A

Entertainment by Preacher Moss, Mo Sabri, and Raef

9:00 - 10:30 PM

Closing remarks by ISNA President, Safaa Zarzour



The Story of ISNA and IIIT As Told by the Founders

This session will focus on The International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) and its history with ISNA. It will also share information on IIIT's initiative on Advancing education reform in Muslim societies.

First Dr. Hisham Altalib will open the session by sharing a valuable account of the historic connection between The Islamic Society of North America and The International Institute of Islamic Thought as told by the founders.

Second, Dr. Ilham Nasser, a senior researcher at IIIT will present the results of a two-year study focused on participants' attitudes in schools and universities in 15 Muslim countries regarding 21st century values and competencies. The results and implications of surveying close to 50,000 people will be shared. The session will conclude with recommendations for future research studies”.





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