

2023

# Message FROM THE Executive Director



**D**ear ISNA Family,  
I extend my sincere gratitude to you, our valued donors and supporters, for your unwavering commitment to the Islamic Society of North America. Your generosity has been pivotal to our success this year, enabling us to advance our mission of fostering unity, promoting understanding, and serving the needs of the Muslim community in North America.

A significant highlight of this year was the 60th Annual ISNA Convention held in Chicago over the Labor Day weekend. This gathering brought together over 20,000 community members from across the country, featuring distinguished speakers, more than 60 sessions, a vibrant expo with 500 booths, MSA and MYNA youth programs, and various special events. Additionally, we organized two major education forums for teachers nationwide, attracting hundreds of Islamic school educators and thought leaders in the fields of Islamic studies, educational leadership, and curriculum development.

ISNA has also been active in delivering youth programs through the Muslim Youth of North America, conducting camps, retreats, and seminars nationwide. We provided scholarships to Muslim youth and shared captivating stories, coverage, and analysis of local and global challenges facing the Muslim community in our award-winning, bi-monthly magazine, Islamic Horizons. Our advocacy efforts included statements, public events, and webinars addressing human rights issues facing Muslims globally, with a particular focus on Palestine. Furthermore, our commitment to supporting chaplains in colleges, hospitals, and the military continued through our chaplaincy training programs.

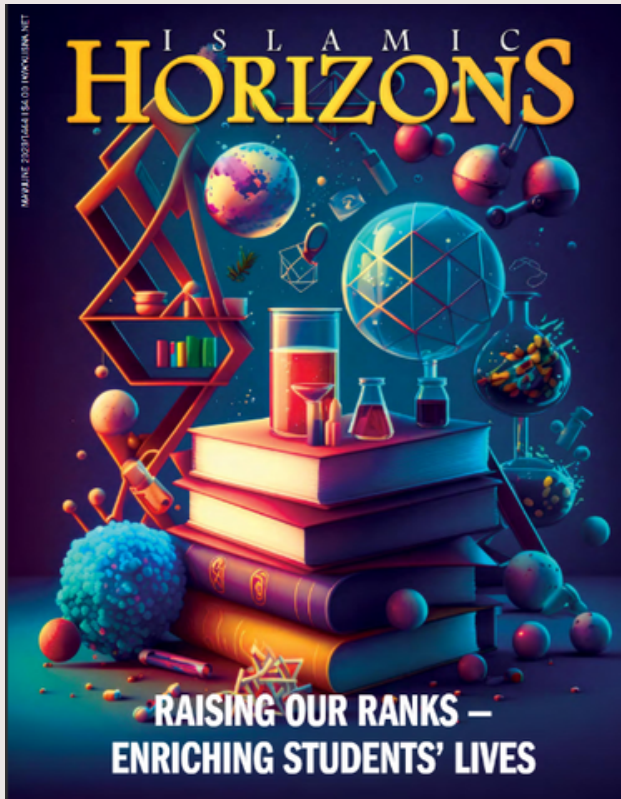
As we look ahead to the coming year, we are excited about the opportunities that await us. With your continued support, we are confident in building on the successes of this year and reaching new heights in serving the needs of our community, inshaAllah. Your engagement with our work is crucial, and we invite you to join us in making 2024 an exciting and memorable year. Jazakullah hu khairun!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Basharat Saleem".

Basharat Saleem  
Executive Director

ISNA

# 2023



## ISLAMIC HORIZONS

Islamic Horizons, in its steadfast commitment to providing insightful content, has once again delivered its customary six magazines, covering a diverse array of topics relevant to the global Muslim community.

In the March-April edition, Islamic Horizons spotlighted Anwar Ibrahim, centering its coverage on his vision for fostering an inclusive Malaysia. This particular issue delved into the intricacies of Ibrahim's influential work, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of his significant contributions aimed at creating a more inclusive and harmonious society in Malaysia. Later in the year, the November-December edition shifted its focus to address the critical situation in Palestine, maintaining the publication's commitment to diverse and relevant content throughout the year.



## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE: ISNA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION

More than 20,000 people converged in Chicago from September 1 to 4 for the Islamic Society of North America's (ISNA) 60th Annual Convention, making it the largest gathering for the American Muslim community. This year's convention, themed "60 Years of Service: Navigating the Way Forward," highlighted ISNA's substantial contributions to American Muslims over the past six decades and outlined its plans for a better future. The event featured a multitude of activities, including a colossal bazaar with 550 booths, an art exhibition, encounters with creators, a film festival, a women's fashion show, a banquet for young professionals, a photography exhibit, a Qirat competition, and matrimonial counseling.

The convention boasted a packed schedule of lectures, panel discussions, debates, and entertainment, with prominent speakers, academics, and activists addressing a range of topics. Religious seminars were complemented by discussions on pressing issues such as mental health, climate change, and international conflicts like Kashmir, Rohingya, and the Palestinian situation.



Notable moments included Dr. Ihsan Bagby receiving the ISNA lifetime achievement award and Shaykh Hamza Yusuf delivering a keynote lecture. Sara Minkara, the keynote speaker at the ISNA interfaith banquet, emphasized the value of accessibility for all.

The convention also attracted numerous prominent scholars and figures, including Miko Peled, Khizr Khan, Sr. Leasha Prime, Sheikh Zaid Shakir, Sheikh Sayyed Hossein Nasr, Imam Mohamed Majid, Sr. Yasmin Mogahed, and several members of the US Congress and State officials.

The entertainment segment of the convention was a spectacular finale, featuring performances by the Jesse White Tumbling Team, Nasheed singers, spoken word performers, and stand-up comedians. Preacher Moss, Native Deen, Mo Sabri, Kashmir Maryam, and Alman Nusrat left the audience inspired and uplifted, marking a memorable conclusion to ISNA's 60th Annual Convention.



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## EDUCATION FORUMS

Over the course of the past year, ISNA has been actively involved in promoting educational initiatives through various events. Two notable Education Forums took place, one in Chicago and another in San Jose, earlier in the year. In October, ISNA organized a compelling education seminar in Dallas. The discourse at these events encompassed pivotal subjects, including the transformation of Islamic schools, navigating the challenges posed by artificial intelligence in education, and implementing strategies to enhance the lives of students.



## MYNA PROGRAMMING

Throughout this year, MYNA curated a diverse array of events, exemplifying its steadfast commitment to the growth and development of Muslim youth. A significant highlight was the organization of approximately 18 camps, each meticulously designed to offer distinctive and meaningful experiences for young Muslims. In the summer months, MYNA further facilitated a three-week retreat in Flint, Michigan, in collaboration with Hira Intensive. This retreat, specifically tailored for high school youth, aimed at fostering personal development and a vibrant community spirit. The organization also played a pivotal role at the ISNA convention, overseeing various sessions and workshops that engaged participants in insightful discussions and knowledge-sharing. In the fall, MYNA collaborated with Miftaah to conduct a session on tahara and purification, adding another dimension to its impactful initiatives.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, ISNA actively participates in awarding scholarships to students across various categories, encompassing fields such as journalism, finance, and mathematics. Among these scholarships are:

Dr. Abdulmunim A. Shakir Scholarship  
The Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh Scholarship  
Amana Mutual Funds Scholarship  
Plainfield Muslim Women for Better Society Scholarship



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## MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial events stand as one of our most cherished and highly sought-after services. Throughout the years, ISNA's matrimonial events have played a pivotal role in connecting numerous Muslims and Muslimahs across the country, facilitating meaningful connections with their life partners. At this year's ISNA convention, we hosted a significant matrimonial banquet, bringing together Muslims from various regions to explore and foster potential connections.



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## OTHER EVENTS

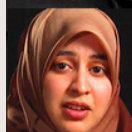
In addition to the wide array of programs and events mentioned earlier, ISNA also spearheaded specialized initiatives throughout the year, catering to diverse interests and pressing issues. For instance, in February, ISNA hosted a focused session aimed at securing funding for mosques to bolster sustainable practices and environmentally conscious spaces. This initiative sought to enhance awareness and commitment to green practices within the community. In November, ISNA organized a webinar addressing the complex Palestine and Israel issue, fostering dialogue and understanding on this critical matter. These specialized events represent just a glimpse of ISNA's commitment to addressing nuanced topics and providing platforms for education, awareness, and meaningful discussions throughout the year. Numerous other events were orchestrated to ensure a comprehensive and impactful engagement with the community.

## ISNA WEBINAR

## SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS IN GAZA

### Featuring:

Muslema Purmul  
Director of the  
Majlis



Miko Peled  
Son of Former  
Israeli General



Mohammad Qatanani  
Member of  
Fiqh Council



Azhar Azeez  
Former ISNA  
President

