



June 19, 2023

Juneteenth was first celebrated in 1866 to honor and mark the 1865 emancipation of the last African Americans who remained enslaved in Texas in the years following the US Civil War. However, it was only in 2021 that legislation was finally signed making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

It is essential to acknowledge how important Juneteenth is to both Black history in the United States and the history of the first Muslims in America. It is a day to reflect on race, the meaning of freedom, and the experiences and struggles of Black Americans—and what their struggles for equality, equity, and egalitarian values say about shared humanity as Americans, Muslims, and a country.

As a heavily immigrant group, we are conscious of how much we owe the struggle for civil rights in this country—a struggle led by the Black community and rooted in faith. It is a leadership and legacy that consciously made decisions benefitting generations of immigrants.

It is a reminder of the work that remains to address and dismantle racism, anti-Blackness, and colorism in our communities, America, and the globe. At MPV, we honor the history, liberation, and legacy of Black people in this country—today and every day and we commit to ensuring that true freedom for all can be achieved in this country. We look forward to continuing to support, learn from, and collaborate with our Black siblings.

Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV), advocates for human rights, social justice, and inclusion, both in the United States and around the World. We envision and work towards a future where Islam is a wellspring for dignity, justice, compassion, and love for all humanity and the world. A core part of our work is establishing and nurturing vibrant progressive and inclusive Muslim communities worldwide. More information about our work can be found on [our website](#).