



MUSLIMS FOR
PROGRESSIVE VALUES

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

MUSLIMS FOR PROGRESSIVE VALUES (MPV) is an inclusive faith-inspired organization that deems the inherently progressive, universal and egalitarian virtues of Islam as cardinal to the faith. It is this understanding that informs the Ten Principles of MPV, which provide the framework and foundation by which the organization operates.

WE accept as Muslim anyone who identifies as such. The veracity and integrity of that claim is between the individual and God, and is not a matter for the state nor an issue which other individuals can or should judge. Furthermore, MPV affirms the equal worth of all human beings, *regardless of race, sex, gender, gender identification, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, ability, or religious or sectarian affiliation*. Thus we are committed to work toward global societies that ensure social, political, educational, and economic opportunities for all. We believe that the right to self-determination for all people, in a safe and sustainable world, is a prerequisite for freedom, civility, and peace.

IN this vein, MPV seeks to expose and combat the radicalization and polarization of Islam via distorted and fundamentalist Islamic ideologies. These harmful dogmas are often utilized as theo-political mechanisms to establish *theocracies* by which the institutionalization of bigotry and discrimination is wrongfully upheld in the name of Islam. Moreover, it is because of these fundamentalist ideologies and their ubiquitous portrayal in global media that Islam as it exists across the globe has become *homogenized*, directly lending to Islamophobic stereotyping of Muslims all over the world.

TO counter this dynamic, MPV promotes interpretation of Qu'ranic scripture that reflects the *true essence* of Islamic virtues, such as tolerance, inclusiveness, mercy, compassion, and fairness. This is in the effort to shed light on the bastardization and confusion of these virtues with skewed and bigoted conceptions of the Islamic worldview, and to debunk radical misinterpretations of Qu'ranic scripture such as the *theocratic construct* that is Sharia Law.

MPV adamantly affirms that culture is an unacceptable excuse to deny any individual their fundamental Human Rights, as they are defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent covenants, treaties and charters. For this reason, MPV seeks to implore Muslim UN Member States to utilize their cultures and theologies as *vehicles for sustainable development* as opposed to defenses and justifications for bigotry and discrimination.

LASTLY, we at MPV understand the sensitivity and complexity of these matters. Sensitive and complex as they are, we believe that approaching these matters *critically and analytically* is imperative to spiritual, human, and societal development. Freedom of conscience is not only essential to all human societies but integral to the Qur'anic view of humanity. Accordingly, we affirm that *secular government* is the only way to achieve the Islamic ideal of freedom from compulsion in matters of faith, especially if we wish to see a purposeful and *all-inclusive* global sustainable development agenda. We welcome and encourage all who are interested in engaging us in this discussion. Let us reclaim Islam, our faith, and strive for the realization of progressive and humanitarian values.

As-salamu alaykum,

(Ani's Signature)