



Los Angeles, October 23, 2022 - Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV) stands in solidarity with the Queer Muslim community in Dearborn, Michigan, across the United States, and across the greater Muslim world. For 15 years, MPV has been devoted to promoting the rights of Queer people both within and outside the Muslim community in accordance with God's command to celebrate the diversity in Their creation and to follow the way of love and acceptance of all Their creations. With the recent pamphlet distributed by CAIR Michigan, we recognize the limitations that 15 years of grassroots advocacy and education has on such a virulent and unfounded hatred that has been allowed to persist within the American Muslim community for far too long.

We condemn the pamphlet distributed by the Michigan Chapter of CAIR at a local school board meeting in Dearborn, Michigan as inhumane and un-Islamic in a multitude of ways. To attempt to restrict knowledge and ban books is to disregard the Islamic right to freedom of expression and the promotion of critical thinking. It is also dishearteningly similar to the actions of a group of parents in Florida who, in 2020, sought to ban books in schools claiming they "promoted Islam" to schoolchildren, which only further serves to demonstrate that to ban books is an act of both intolerance and ignorance.

The content of the books these Muslim parents sought to ban in Michigan was decidedly different from what the Florida parents were fighting against, which brings us to another point. The blatant and violent homophobia rooted in the distribution of the pamphlet goes against the very tenants of Islam, including teachings from the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), both which acknowledged and accepted sexual diversity as a part of humanity, regardless of religious affiliation.

To end, we want to remind Queer Muslims everywhere to know their rights in the face of such hatred and gross misuse of faith. Remember that your rights come, not from other humans, but from God. Therefore no one on this earth can take away your rights, including your right to express yourself, to love others in a compassionate and tender way, to enter into a consensual relationship filled with mutual respect and love, and finally, to both love and accept yourself, which is what God intended you to do.

We invite readers to check out our resources on [LGBTQIA+ rights in Islam](#) and to use them in defending your rights as a Muslim and as a human being. For those who seek to better understand the relationship that Islam has with sexual diversity, we invite you to visit our page on [Sexual Diversity in Islam](#), which offers an indepth and easy to read breakdown of the topic.