

MUSLIMS FOR PROGRESSIVE VALUES

A GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
ORGANIZATION



MUSLIMS FOR
PROGRESSIVE VALUES



ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

We advocate for human rights, social justice and inclusion in the United States and around the world by inculcating a culture rooted in human rights through public education, advocacy, and the arts.

WHAT WE DO

We advocate for women and LGBTQIA+ rights, for the separation of religion and state, and for freedom of conscience. In advancing these human rights values, MPV provides an alternative progressive voice to these issues by participating in civil discourse, engaging with the media and government entities, with public educational forums as well as cultural events, and by partnering with both Muslim and non-Muslim progressive organizations. By securing the Department of Public Information, and the Economic and Social Council Special Consultative Status at the United Nations, we challenge much of the human rights abuses in Muslim societies.

WHAT WE BUILD

Starting in Los Angeles in 2007, we have been building a progressive Muslim movement which has now expanded to San Francisco, Washington D.C., Atlanta, New York, Chicago, and Boston. In 2017, MPV founded Alliance of Inclusive Muslims, an umbrella human rights organization with affiliates and partners in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, U.K., Tunisia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia.

FACT SHEET

Our Founder

Ani Zonneveld is a writer, singer/songwriter, founder and President of MPV, a strong supporter of freedom of expression, women's and LGBTQ rights. Ani promotes these values at the United Nations by challenging human rights abuses in the name of Islam and by offering an inclusive understanding based on universal human rights. Ani is on the U.N. Inter-agency's Faith Advisory Council and co-chairs its Gender Working Group. She is the co-editor of MPV's first book, an anthology titled "Progressive Muslim Identities - Personal Stories from the U.S. and Canada" and executive producer of a video series "LGBT+ Rights in Islam". She has a TEDx talk titled - Islam: As American As Apple Pie, and is the subject of a documentary title "al-imam" featuring her activism, screened at the American Pavilion at the Cannes Festival, 2019.



Our Community



21

COUNTRIES
WITH MPV
AFFILIATES

7

CITIES WITH
MPV
CHAPTERS

In Numbers

YEARS ACTIVE:	15 years
ONLINE COMMUNITY:	23,214
SOCIAL MEDIA REACH:	99 countries

Social Links

	@mpvusa
	/mpvusa
	/muslimforprogressivevalues
	/mpvusa
	@mpvusa

Our Issues

WOMEN'S RIGHTS
FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF
CHILD/FORCED MARRIAGES
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

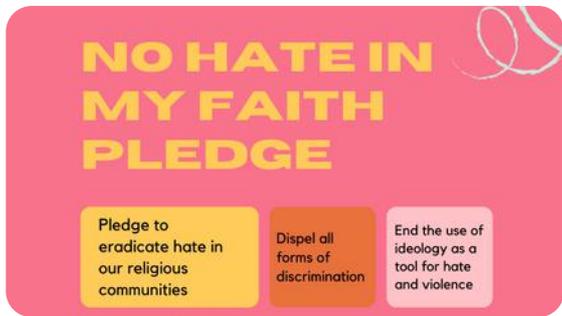
INTERFAITH FAMILIES
LGBTQIA RIGHTS
RACE AND RACISM
SHARI'A LAW

DOMESTIC PROGRAMS



ADVOCACY

MPV is actively engaged in advocacy efforts at the grassroots, and national level. Our advocacy work includes public educational forums and filing amici briefs with like minded organizations on issues against child and forced marriages and female genital mutilation, and in favor of women's reproductive rights, the rights of the LGBTQIA population, and for the separation of religion and state.



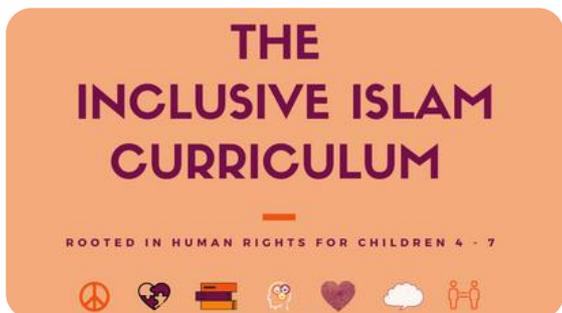
NO HATE IN MY FAITH

After years of homophobic indoctrination, a self-hating gay Muslim killed 49 people at Pulse. #NoHateInMyFaith was launched to proactively advocate against hate on the basis of religion, sexual identity, and race. MPV calls upon ALL people to become proactive advocates within their communities to dispel all forms of discrimination, hate, and violence in the name of religion.



MARRIAGE SERVICES

Since the founding of MPV, we have helped hundreds of couples of diverse faith backgrounds formalize their marriage vows while incorporating the traditions of Islam. Our services include a consultation, a custom marriage ceremony, for interfaith as well as same sex couples, a personalized *nikah* contract, and a beautifully designed marriage certificate.



CURRICULUMS

Inspired by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, we collaborated with partners in the U.S. and in Burundi to develop two set of curriculums that are specific to their communities. Each curriculum utilizes a student-centered Whole Child Approach that inculcates human rights values, the environment, critical thinking, and for freedom of belief.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

UN ADVOCACY



In 2018, MPV secured Economic and Social Council Special Consultative Status at the United Nations elevating recognition and support for MPV's work to new levels. Through various UN legal mechanisms, MPV challenges various human rights abuses perpetuated by Muslim majority countries in the name of Shari'a law. MPV's areas of focus are gender equality, LGBTQIA+ rights, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion and belief.

#IMAMSFORSHE



#ImamsForShe is a global MPV initiative launched in March 2015 to address misogynist interpretations of Islamic scripture and traditions that have led to women and girls rights violations and their sub-human status across Muslim-majority countries and within Muslim communities in the West. With 548 #ImamsForShe Champions in our network in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, we have impacted positively thousands of lives.

ALLIANCE OF INCLUSIVE MUSLIMS



MPV is a founding member of Alliance of Inclusive Muslims (AIM), a collective of progressive Muslims across all nationality, race and sectarian affiliations, spanning six continents. As a member of AIM, MPV helps to consolidate and amplify thematic issues of human rights, freedom of expression, and freedom of/from religion and belief.

NGO COLLABORATION



MPV collaborates with other human rights organizations in various forms including but not limited to organizing forums and contributing to research studies. We focus on issues of apostasy and blasphemy laws, and countering radicalism, and is a member of number of committees and working groups including Global Campaign for Family Law Reform, the UN's Faith Advisory Council, ERA Coalition, and End FGM/C Network.

OUR BOARD



MALIHA KHAN

Maliha Khan is native New Yorker, based in Washington D.C. Maliha has been involved with MPV since 2011 and serves as the head of MPV's DC chapter as well as Co-Chair of the MPV Board of Trustees. In college, Maliha established the Pace University chapter of Project Nur – a student-led initiative promoting principles of human and civil rights in the U.S. and around the world. She also worked on civil rights issues as a law clerk for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). Maliha received her JD and Masters in International Affairs at American University. In 2016, Maliha joined the U.S. Department of Commerce to work on international trade law and policy matters. In 2020, she joined the law firm Kelley Drye & Warren where she practices international trade law.



KEVIN JENNINGS

Kevin Jennings is the Chief Executive Officer of LAMBDA Legal. A First-Generation college graduate, Jennings received his B.A. magna cum laude in History from Harvard in 1985 and then became a high school history teacher. In 1988, he helped students at Concord Academy to create the nation's first Gay-Straight Alliance, leading him two years later to found the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). In 2009, Jennings was named Assistant Deputy Secretary for Safe & Drug-Free Schools in President Obama's Education Department. In 2011, Jennings left the Obama Administration to become Executive Director of the nonprofit Be the Change and to help launch its Opportunity Nation campaign, aimed at reducing economic inequality and promoting social mobility in America. Jennings has a long record of community leadership. He is the author of seven books, including the 1997 Lambda Literary Award-winner *Telling Tales of Out School*.



ZARA BARI

Zara Bari is a corporate lawyer with Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles, California. Zara's practice encompasses a wide variety of business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and private and public financings, in a variety of industries. Zara graduated with honors from the University of Chicago School of Law and holds a Master in Professional Accounting and Bachelor in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Zara practiced at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP in New York City as a corporate lawyer. Prior to law school, Zara worked for a few years at Deloitte Tax LLP.

OUR BOARD



TOM MCDONALD

Tom is a partner in the Vorys Washington, D.C. office and leads the firm's administrative and regulatory law, and governmental policy practice. He effectively mixes his high level legal and lobbying experiences on a daily basis for his clients. A former U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, he provides strategic business and government relations counsel both in Washington, D.C. and internationally. Tom regularly advises corporate CEOs and chief legal officers on a variety of government relations issues in Washington, internationally, and in major U.S. state capitals. He has an active federal agency and Capitol Hill practice. Tom is a registered lobbyist before the U.S. Senate and House. Additionally, he is a registered lobbyist in several states including New York and California.



JAMAL MAHMOOD

Born in the Netherlands of Pakistani and Dutch heritage, Jamal grew up in the New York area before receiving his BA in Leadership Studies from the University of Richmond, VA. From there, Jamal gained experience as an equities trader before joining his father's financial services practice in 2003. He is currently a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) with Main Street Financial Solutions, LLC. Jamal became acquainted with MPV at the Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, and has been a supporter and member ever since. Among the issues Jamal is most passionate about are those pertaining to freedom of speech and human rights. Jamal is a highly sought after wedding qazi on behalf of MPV since 2016, officiating approx. 25 nikahs per year. He is a Certified Life Cycle Celebrant through the Celebrant Foundation and Institute.



MARINA AHMAD

Marina Ahmad is a corporate lawyer who works at Goodwin Procter LLP in Santa Monica, California. She advises her clients on a wide range of corporate matters, including company formation, venture capital financings, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate and securities law, especially in the life sciences and tech industry. Marina also has an active pro bono practice, having assisted the wrongfully convicted in exoneration petitions and detained immigrants in removal proceedings and citizenship applications. Prior to moving to California in 2014, Marina practiced as a lawyer in Islamabad, Pakistan, where she grew up. Marina holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of London (2011) and a Master of Laws from Berkeley, School of Law (2016).

OUR BOARD



ATIF OSMANI

Atif Osmani was raised on the north side of Chicago, in the city's South Asian enclave. He was awarded the Chicago Public School Scholarship and Odyssey Scholarship to attend the University of Chicago. As an undergrad he studied Public Policy and specialized in health policy. A desire to learn about the private sector's place in the health field led him to intern with Microsoft, where he focused on the Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare. Atif has continued to work for Microsoft post graduation to learn more about the private sector's role in advancing technologies that can dramatically improve human life. Muslims for Progressive Values is an organization Atif had known about since college because it was one of the few Muslim organizations he could find that aligned with his values around equality.



SHAZEEN MUFTI

Shazeen Mufti is a change management consultant who helps nonprofit leaders develop strategies, set up systems and streamline operations to cultivate diverse, equitable and inclusive organizations. She is a fierce advocate for social justice and her passion, humor and straight-forward style make her a sought-after trainer, advisor and coach. Previously, Shazeen served as the chief operations officer for Developments in Literacy (DIL), an international organization that educates over 16,000 low-income students in Pakistan. Shazeen is an alum of the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University and holds a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Chapman University.

ADVISORY BOARD



REZA ASLAN

Dr. Reza Aslan, an internationally acclaimed writer, scholar of religions and TV producer, is author of the #1 New York Times Bestseller *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*. He is the founder of *AslanMedia.com*, an online journal for news and entertainment about the Middle East and the world, and co-founder and Chief Creative Officer of BoomGen Studios, the premier entertainment brand for creative content from and about the Greater Middle East. Aslan's first book is the International Bestseller, *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*, which has been translated into thirteen languages, and named one of the 100 most important books of the last decade.

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KARIMA BENNOUNE

Karima Bennoune is a professor of international law at the University of California–Davis School of Law. She grew up in Algeria and the United States and now lives in northern California. She has published widely in many leading academic journals, as well as in the Guardian, The New York Times, Comment is Free, the website of Al Jazeera English, The Nation and is a Dayton Literary Peace Prize award winning author of ‘Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here’. She has served as a member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law and on the board of directors of Amnesty International USA. She has also been a consultant on human rights issues for the International Council on Human Rights Policy, the Soros Foundation, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, and for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.



AMBASSADOR RODERICK VAN SCHREVEN

Roderick van Schreven was the former Permanent Representative to the United Nations and WTO in Geneva, appointed in March 2006 to Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in The Hague. As a career diplomat, Van Schreven served from 2002 to 2006 as the Netherlands Ambassador in Damascus (Syria) and was previously posted in different diplomatic levels at the Netherlands Embassy in Caracas (Venezuela) and the Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels. He was also Deputy Director for European Integration at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in The Hague. He gained an MBA at INSEAD and holds a degree in Economics from the University of Geneva.



SAMINA ALI

Samina Ali is an award-winning author, curator, and popular speaker. Her debut novel, Madras on Rainy Days (Farrar, Straus, Giroux), was the winner of France’s prestigious Prix Premier Roman Etranger Award and a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award in Fiction. Poets & Writers Magazine named it a Top Debut of the Year. The recipient of fiction awards from the Rona Jaffe Foundation and the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, she has been featured in The Economist, The Guardian, Vogue, National Public Radio (NPR) and elsewhere. Continuing in the spirit of her widely popular Tedx talk, “What Does the Qur’an Really Say about a Muslim Woman’s Hijab?”, Samina is currently writing a nonfiction book that weaves her personal story with a passionate appeal for women’s equality and justice.

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SALEEMAH ABDUL-GHAFUR

Saleemah Abdul-Ghafur is currently the Director and Chief of Staff in the Office of the Chief Communications Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. For eight years, she was the Director of The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), a first-of-its-kind leadership coalition comprised of all African heads of state, working to eliminate malaria. Saleemah was part of a national movement to end gender discrimination in the American Muslim community by participating in a civil action to give women space and voice in American mosques where they have traditionally been banned. Abdul-Ghafur edited *LIVING ISLAM OUT LOUD: American Muslim Women Speak*, the first anthology collecting the voices of American Muslim women.



AMIR HUSSEIN

Dr. Amir Hussain is Associate Professor in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he teaches courses on world religions. His own particular speciality is the study of Islam, focusing on contemporary Muslim societies in North America. Although born in Pakistan, Amir immigrated to Canada with his family when he was four. His academic degrees (BSc, MA, PhD) are all from the University of Toronto where he received a number of awards, including the university's highest award for alumni service. Amir's PhD dissertation was on Muslim communities in Toronto. In 2008, Amir was chosen by vote of LMU students as the Professor of the Year. Amir's new book is an introduction to Islam for North Americans entitled *Oil and Water: Two Faiths, One God* (Kelowna: Copper House, 2006).



BLAIR IMANI

Blair Imani is a critically-acclaimed historian, social activist, public speaker, educator and influencer. She is the author of two historical books *Modern HERstory: Stories of Women and Nonbinary People Rewriting History* (2018) and *Making Our Way Home: The Great Migration and the Black American Dream* (2020). Blair Imani educates using a variety of social media platforms in addition to speaking at universities and organizations around the world. Hailing from Los Angeles, California, Blair Imani attended Louisiana State University where, in 2014, she founded Equality for HER, a non-profit organization that provided resources and a forum for women and nonbinary people to feel empowered. A highly sought-after public speaker, Blair Imani has appeared on FOX News and MSNBC and has presented at colleges and universities, at progressive conferences around the world.

MPV IN THE MEDIA

RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

Muslims in interfaith bonds are proliferating. Imams willing to marry them are not.

FREE MALAYSIA TODAY

The misunderstood concepts of progressive and liberal Islam

THE ATLANTIC

Ihlan Omar's Opportunity: The Minnesota congresswoman could take a bolder stand for some of her most vulnerable constituents

NEW YORK TIMES

The Creeping Liberalism in American Islam

VOYAGELA

Meet Ani Zonneveld of Muslims for Progressive Values

FIVETHIRTYEIGHT

American Muslims Are A Diverse Group With Changing Views

THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR

Pro-LGBT Muslim Group Kicked Out of Muslim Conference Where Linda Sarsour Spoke

NBC NEWS

Muslims for Progressive Values is Challenging the Mainstream Narrative

FOX 11 LOS ANGELES

Founder of group 'Muslims for Progressive Values' discusses homophobia in the Islamic community

EGYPTIAN STREETS

Muslims for Progressive Values: Promoting Progressive Islam in Modern Societies