In this together.
Since mid-March, many of us have been sheltering in place, distance learning with our children, delivering groceries to our most vulnerable, or on the frontlines caring for the sick. It’s been tough navigating this new norm. We are facing collective trauma. We are experiencing collective grief. And, together, we are committing to collective healing.

Here's what we're doing.
RISE had to shut our offices on March 12, 2020, but we haven't stopped doing work to amplify the voice and power of Muslim women. We asked our community what they needed and also asked for advice on how to pivot our work. So, here’s what we’re doing.

Muslim Sheroes of Minnesota
We've had to put a pause on all of our Sheroes interviewing, recording, and filming as events have been cancelled, social distancing norms put in place, and stay at home orders implemented. We are now shifting this work by leveraging the stories and the relationships we have, with special attention to ideas our community indicated support for in our survey.

- **Sheroes Live!** We’re launching a new series this summer and hosting some of our past Sheroes for an online show to learn where they are now and how COVID-19 has impacted their work. This series will feature an open Q&A section and offer an opportunity for our audience to engage directly with our Sheroes. Six shows are being scheduled starting in June.
- **Sheroes Book** - We’re taking all the content from our writings, photography, and illustrations and creating a coffee-table book to celebrate the powerful changemakers in our community. This collection will bring these stories together to tell a larger narrative about a growing collective of Muslim women who are changing our world for the better.
- **Sheroes Documentary** - Our plan was to release a feature-length documentary about Muslim women who are civically engaged throughout the 2020 election cycle. We were able to film only three Sheroes and only half of our content before distancing measures were put in place. So, we’re back to the storyboard and are looking at creating a shorter film about three women standing up and stepping up to political action.

Leadership Development
In the survey, you shared with us that wellness and spiritual self-care are critical in carrying our community through this time. We know how much our folks love to be in physical space with each other, and not having that now has been challenging for all of us. But, we’re committed to providing digital space for healing and human connection.
Sisterhood At Home - We launched this digital series with local therapists, life coaches, and artists. Sisterhood at Home events are co-facilitated by guest community leaders and provide weekly opportunities for Muslim women to connect with, support, and affirm each other. This virtual gathering addresses the mental health needs of the women in our community to cope with the stress of COVID-19.

Entrepreneurial Series - We are in the planning stages of hosting a training series around economic empowerment through entrepreneurship. With over 100 million people applying for unemployment benefits, we’re here to leverage the talent and the wisdom of local entrepreneurs in our community so Muslim women and their families can sustain themselves.

Civic Engagement

We are in the middle of the 2020 presidential election cycle and the 2020 Minnesota legislative session. Everything related to the election has been moved online, postponed, or cancelled. And only legislation that addresses COVID-19 impact or has bipartisan support is being considered.

Days at the Capitol - We were fortunate our Muslim & Jewish Women’s Day at the Capitol happened in January. After the stay at home order came into effect, we attended CAAL’s Asians at the Minnesota Capitol Day, Moms Demand Action, MN Interfaith Power and Light, and Muslim Day at the Capitol — all via Zoom calls.

Hate Crimes Bill - Working with Outfront MN, CAIR-MN, JCA, and 11 other partners, we are asking for better data collection on bias-related crimes and better training for law enforcement to identify bias-related crimes. In partnership with CAAL, the MN Dept of Human Rights launched a dedicated hotline to report hate crimes, which we are sharing with our network.

Accountability Roundtable - We’re coordinating meetings between Muslim women and elected officials to hold them accountable on issues that matter to us. We successfully hosted our first this year with Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, with over 100 attendees talking to her about COVID-19, stimulus packages, and racial inequities.

GOTV Phone Banking - With the 2020 election upon us, the Muslim community is gearing up for another fight for our humanity at the polls. We will provide virtual, culturally relevant spaces for Muslim women to phone bank and get involved in Get Out The Vote activities.

Statewide Issue-based Candidate Report Cards - We will educate Muslim women about candidates and where they stand on critical issues that impact their everyday lives.

Census - We’ve released three videos in Dari, Urdu and Somali reminding our community to take the survey. Four more videos in Pashto, Kutchi, Bengali, and Arabic are coming soon. We have phone banked and texted community members and are rolling out a Ramadan social media campaign. Everyone counts!

Youth Civic Engagement - Each week, our Advocacy Director does video check-ins with her students from Como Park Senior High. Her students are all young Muslim women
that felt left out of the Como Park community, and they are now involved in digital civic engagement efforts, self-care sessions, and culturally relevant mediation sessions.

COVID-19 Website

There are a lot of resources out there about COVID-19, and we are pulling together those most relevant to our community. Check out our new webpage: revivingsisterhood.org/covid-19.

Resources include:
- Resource kits in 13 South Asian languages
- Tools for reporting racial discrimination
- Our joint statement on condemning Asian American discrimination
- Low cost mental health therapy options
- Wellness activities and apps

As we change strategies and create innovative programs, we need you to be on this journey with us. Support the Sisterhood during this challenging time, knowing that the Sisterhood provides a digital space for healing connections, an outlet to tell our inspirational stories ourselves, and a platform to fight for social justice.

Join us in cultivating space for healing, human connection, and collective care for Muslim women. Let’s build a sustainable movement to carry our community and our Sisterhood through this moment of isolation into a future of radical togetherness.

The Sisterhood is committed to being with you in community, and even though being together may look different in this moment, that commitment is stronger than ever. We are here for our sisters, sending all of you peace, joy, and love. Feel free to reach out to us anytime at contact@revivingsisterhood.org.