



MUSLIMS FOR PROGRESSIVE VALUES

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025 - 2027

Background

Too often Muslims in America are asked, “where are the progressives Muslims? Aren’t there any Muslims who are for women’s reproductive rights, for LGBTQ+ rights, for the separation of Religion and State?”

18 years on, that question is obsolete. Nowadays, to identify oneself as a progressive Muslim seems to be a favorable label, and yet, there are still those who are closeted progressive Muslims for fear of reprisals from conservative family members and communities, while some conservative Muslims identify themselves as progressive as that is the politically expedient position to be in. Moreover, while many mainstream Muslims support progressive causes on specific issues such as immigration and civil rights, they typically do not embody progressive values in their broader worldview. This was made evident where mainstream Muslims increasingly voted for Trump in each Presidential election.

MPV asserts that Islam is inherently progressive, inclusive, and egalitarian; an understanding upon which our community is built and that informs the ten principles of MPV. Our goals are to educate and advocate for women and LGBTQIA+ rights, for freedom of conscience, and for the right to express oneself freely.

Our programming is also geared towards producing positive social change that yields healthier relationships for Muslims, and between Muslim and non-Muslim communities, nationally and abroad.

Mission

Muslims for Progressive Values advocates 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.

Vision

We envision a world where regardless of culture, religion, race, or creed, humans uphold the values of dignity, justice, compassion, and love for all.

Guiding Principles



The ten tree branches of Muslims for Progressive Values' logo represent our ten principles. They are:

1. Identity

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. We welcome all Muslims and non-Muslims who share our belief in a world where each person has value and deserves respect.

2. Equality

We affirm the equal worth of all human beings, regardless of race, sex, gender identity and expression, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or belief, or ability. We are committed to working toward societies that ensure social, political, educational, and economic opportunities for all.

3. Separation of Religious and State Authorities

We believe that freedom of conscience is not only essential to all human societies but integral to the Qur'anic view of humanity. We believe that secular government is the only way to achieve the Islamic ideal of freedom from compulsion in matters of faith.

4. Freedom of Speech

We support non-violent forms of expression and freedom of dissent, and believe no one should be prosecuted, imprisoned, detained, or persecuted for exercising their right to free expression in ethical manners. We simultaneously rebuke expressions and narratives of discrimination and bigotry, hate speech, and incitement to violence, and affirm that the rights to free expression and freedom of religion or belief cannot be invoked to justify such narratives.

5. Universal Human Rights

We are committed to social, economic, and environmental justice. We believe that the full self-realization of all people, in a safe and sustainable world, is a prerequisite for freedom, civility, and peace. We support efforts and policies for universal health care, public education, dismantling structural anti-Black racism, the protection of our environment, and the eradication of poverty.

Guiding Principles



6. Gender Justice

We support women's agency and self-determination in every aspect of their lives. We believe in women's full participation in society, economically, politically and socially, and at every level. We are committed to reproductive justice and empowering women to make healthy decisions regarding their bodies, sexuality, gender identity, and reproduction

7. LGBTQI+ Inclusion

We support full equality and inclusion of all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, in society and in the Muslim community. We are committed to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We proudly advocate for the human and civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) individuals.

8. Critical Analysis and Interpretation:

We believe that critical thinking is essential to spiritual and social development. We promote interpretations that reflect traditional Qur'anic principles of inclusiveness, mercy, compassion, and fairness. We call for critical engagement with Islamic scripture and traditional jurisprudence in current Muslim discourses, and denounce the persecution of those who engage in critical dialogue as heretics or apostates.

9. Compassion

We affirm that justice and compassion should be the guiding principles for all aspects of human conduct. We repudiate the use of violence on all levels.

10. Diversity

We embrace pluralism and the diversity of inspirations that motivate people to embrace justice. From our local communities to our international coalitions, we affirm that one's belief system is not the exclusive source of truth. We engage with a diversity of philosophical, spiritual, and non-spiritual traditions to pursue a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

The Strategic Plan

The following Strategic Directions will guide Muslims for Progressive Values' work and priorities over the next three years. These strategic directions will anchor the organization's program priorities & annual budget.

Strategic Directions

1. Advocacy
2. Arts
3. Public Education
4. Development
5. Community Building & Community Planting

Strategic Direction 1: Advocacy

Build a progressive movement that is not tied to one single location but rather has universalist roots, which enables a replication of the movement regardless of geographic location.

Goals

- Advocate for universal human rights values, including freedom of religion and belief, women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, bodily autonomy, and freedom of expression.
- Increase visibility of the work that MPV does within the U.S. and international human rights community.
- Expand the development of our Chaplain Endorsement Program to 10 new Chaplains a year to encourage the dissemination of Progressive Islam across the country.

Strategic Direction 2: Arts & Culture

MPV utilizes artistic mediums like music, theater, story-telling, film, and skits to raise awareness, nurture empathy, challenge authority and promote sustained activism. In addition to developing our own productions and art programs, we also support the production of films and theater that promote universal human rights values.

Goals

- To empower diverse and inclusive Muslim artists to tell their stories in a way that challenges stereotypes, promotes justice, and inspires positive change.
- Offer individuals a safe space to establish an unique Muslim identity through the use of artistic creation. Leverage our chapters in a more coordinated way to this end.
- Develop a celebrative musical theater piece specifically for Eid that encompasses various art forms to share stories of progressive values in Islam that are rooted in tradition and relevant to contemporary times.

Strategic Direction 3: Public Education

MPV produces educational resources and toolkits to promote freedom of expression and belief, and challenge misogynistic and homophobic teachings and harmful cultural practices justified in the name of religion.

Goals

- Increase knowledge of progressive Islam as an alternative progressive teaching and its values within the Muslim and the non-Muslim community.
- Increase the accessibility of teachings on Progressive Islam by translating works produced by MPV into other languages.
- Work with chapters to start “Sunday Schools” for children, young people, and other people new to being Muslim

- Promote the Inclusive Islam Curriculum Rooted in Human Rights across the United States and other Western Countries for Muslim children
- Continue to scale up the distribution of the Children's Human Rights Curriculum in Africa, while adapting the curriculum to adhere to specific cultural considerations.
- Work on basic education on Islam for converts and other adults interested in Islam, as well as the public. An "Islam 101" program for building understanding and respect for Islam.

Strategic Direction 4: Development

Goals

- Develop an earned income stream through "fee for service" programs - officiant services, chaplaincy, toolkits, and curriculum sales.
- Build the Board's capacity to raise funds by growing the skills of the Board members and improving their engagement with MPV activities.
- Create enduring and branding material reports, tools, books, curriculums, and guides to ensure a sustained legacy that measures the impact that MPV has within the greater advocacy community.

Strategic Direction 5: Community Building & Planting

Goals

- Annual National Conference (in-person)
- Virtual Conference - quarterly, open to the public ("opportunity for chapters to share what they have been doing and to help people feel they are connected to something larger"; organized by chapters)
- Train and support Chapter leadership and help them formalize and document processes
- Help chapters develop new leadership for continuity & capacity building
- Develop and establish at least three more chapters:
- Help chapters build more space for religious and spiritual practice