



*Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance*

IJMA: Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance  
Statement on Relations between Muslims and Jews  
3 December 2019

MUSLIM JEWISH ALLIANCE CALLS FOR ACTION ON INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS

IJMA (underscore with our website going live next week), the Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance, announced its formation at a public event today, December 3, 2019 at the Newseum.

IJMA is an independent non-profit organization of over 30 American Muslim and Jewish communal leaders and allies who support this coalition. We are determined to pursue actions to further the rights of all Americans to freedom of religion and conscience. Working together and in coalition with others we aim to protect and expand these rights while embodying the ideals of pluralism and equality for all. We believe in focusing first inward on the tensions between our two communities and addressing bigotry within each of our two communities towards the other.

Misunderstanding and distrust between Jews and Muslims often arise from lack of knowledge. We intend to improve intercommunal relations by focusing on outreach and education, even as we acknowledge that there are also longstanding diverging perspectives on some issues. We therefore call on our communal organizations to expand education about the other. We need to develop materials about Islam and Muslims for Jews and about Judaism and Jews for Muslims, building on existing programs such as the partnerships of the Islamic Society of North America with the [Union of Reform Judaism](#) and the [Jewish Theological Seminary](#). IJMA is committed to promoting this outreach and we pledge to advocate for it within our own communities.

We are also prepared, as a Muslim–Jewish alliance, to counter voices of hatred and bigotry within our communities and to work together for our common interests.

American Muslims and Jews share much in common. We are religious minority communities with shared values and traditions. We are Americans inspired by the ideals of our country, including a respect for political differences.

We see IJMA as an expression of our common humanity and the fulfillment of the promise of America to unite people as equals across lines of difference in order to improve our shared society and form bonds of friendship.

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Members of IJMA:

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Mohamed Abubakr, President, African Middle Eastern Leadership (AMEL) Project

Eftakhar Alam, CEO of Alam Strategies Group

Majid al-Sayegh, Board Chair of the Dialogue Institute

Wa'el Alzayat, CEO of Emgage Foundation

Dr. Georgette Bennett, President of the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees

David Bernstein, CEO of Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Marshall Breger, professor at Catholic University Law School

Susan Canter, Managing Director of JB Capstone Enterprises

Rabia Chaudry, attorney and author

Richard Cohen, President of Walden Group Investment Banking and Consulting

Richard Foltin, Senior Fellow of the Religious Freedom Center

Amb. Rashad Hussain, attorney

Rizwan Jaka, President, ADAMS Center

Suhail Khan, External Affairs Director of Microsoft Corp.

Imam Mohamed Magid, Chairman of Interfaith Peace Corps

Rabbi Jack Moline, President of Interfaith Alliance

Melanie Nezer, Senior Vice President of HIAS

Dean Obeidallah, writer and host of SiriusXM's talk show

Carly Pildis, Director of grassroots organizing at Zioness

Daphne Price, professor and woman's advocate

Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Director of Interreligious Engagement, ADL

Amb. Rabbi David Saperstein, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

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Imam Talib Shareef, Masjid Muhammad, the Nation's Mosque