



Michigan Makes History Electing Not One But Three Muslim Mayors As ‘Firsts’



From left to right: Abdullah Hammoud, Bill Bazzi, and Amer Ghalib

By: Aysha Qamar

The cycle repeats itself. Last year, hundreds of Muslim Americans made history as the firsts in their respected towns and states. This year more join with historic wins as elected officials. Michigan specifically makes history with not one but three firsts for the Muslim community. Three Michigan towns—Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Hamtramck—elected

their first Muslim mayors Tuesday. While both Dearborn and Dearborn Heights have a high Muslim population, neither town has seen a Muslim mayor before. Tuesday’s results now reflect the towns’ demographics and show the reality of a change in demographics in Hamtramck as well.

In Dearborn, state legislator Abdullah Hammoud has become the city’s first Arab mayor.

“While the night marks the first of many, we never ran

to be the first, we ran to be the best,” Hammoud said during his victory speech acknowledging his historic win but noting his candidacy was not just about diversity.

Hammoud defeated Gary Woronchak, a former state representative and former Wayne County commissioner, with 54.6% of the vote, the Detroit Free Press reported. The 31-year-old succeeds John “Jack” O’Reilly Jr., mayor since 2007, whose administration faced criticism over its handling of flooding last sum-

mer. When Hammoud takes office early next year, the House lawmaker will become the first Muslim and the first person of color to lead the city’s 110,000 residents as their seventh mayor.

Hammoud’s win is historic not only because of his identity, and the fact that it reflects the demographic of the community he will be representing, but also in light of the town’s history of racism.

According to Al-Jazeera, Dearborn’s

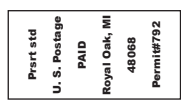
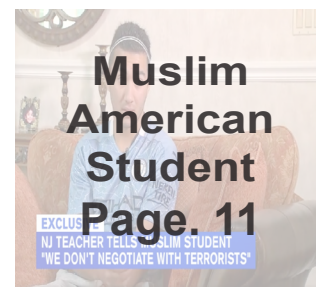
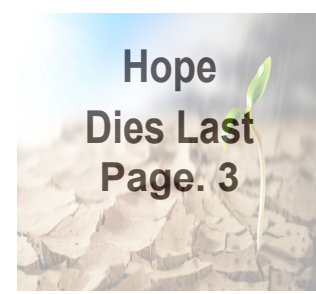
longest-serving mayor, Orville Hubbard, was known nationally for his racism against minority groups. While the town is now heavily Arab populated and houses one of the largest Arab American communities in the nation, the census does not reflect this because Arab Americans are classified as white.


“We finally have Arab Americans speaking for themselves, being elected to office, representing their communities, gaining recognition for this population,

gaining a voice for them,” Sally Howell said, director of the Center for Arab American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

“To the young girls and boys who have ever been ridiculed for their faith or ethnicity. To those of you who were ever made to feel that their names were unwelcome and to our parents and to our elders and to others who are humiliated for their broken English and yet still persistent, today is proof that you are


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Shama Haider Makes History As First Muslim Elected To NJ Legislature

By: TMO Staff

New Jersey's Muslim community has made strides in local politics in recent years, winning seats across the state as mayors, council members and school board commissioners.

Despite their growing political power, no Muslim has ever served in the state Legislature.

That changed on Election Day, however, when former Tenafly councilwoman Shama Haider won the race for state Assembly in the 37th District in Bergen County.

"I am extraordinarily proud of our campaign," Haider, a Democrat, said Wednesday morning. "I'm grateful to my historic running mates, who have been an immense support through these months, and I am immeasurably grateful to all the people who worked and volunteered to make this victory possible."

Haider was part of a



groundbreaking Democratic ticket in the 37th, which covers eastern Bergen County. Voters also chose Gordon Johnson to be the first African-American state senator from New Jersey's most populous county and Ellen Park as what's

believed to be the first Korean American woman in the Assembly.

While acknowledging the historic nature of her victory as a Muslim woman, Haider also said that should not define her.

"I don't want to be this token Muslim woman in

the Assembly," she said. "No, I want to be known as an effective legislator."

Haider, 72, has been active in local politics for over two decades, serving on the Tenafly Borough Council twice in terms beginning in 2001 and in

2015. While the events of the Sept. 11 attacks spurred many Muslims to get involved in politics and reach out to their communities, Haider said, she had already been deeply involved in local issues at the time.

Her activism dates back to her youth in Pakistan when she was a college student protesting against military dictatorship as part of the progressive Pakistan People's Party. Later, she became secretary to the first lady of Pakistan, Begum Nusrat Bhutto.

Haider came to the U.S. in 1977, settling in Bergen County. She is a former fundraiser for a nonprofit that supports arts in schools and is the chairwoman of the Tenafly Democratic party. Over the years she has also served on county and borough commissions focused on women, human services, the environment and business development.

Sadaf Jaffer Declares Victory In New Jersey's 16th District

By: TMO Staff

The running mates of Senator-elect Andrew Zwicker – Assemblyman Roy Freiman and former Montgomery Mayor Sadaf Jaffer – declared victory over Republicans Vincent Panico and Joseph Lukac in Tuesday's 16th District Assembly race Friday in New Jersey.

Jaffer previously made history as the state's first Muslim woman mayor.

She attributed her win to the support of community and volunteers.

"I am truly honored that our team has earned the support of the voters in the 16th district," said Assemblywoman-Elect Jaffer. "Thank you to all of the volunteers who knocked on doors, made phone calls, and encouraged civic engagement in the community. I am grateful for our campaign staff and supporters with whom we share this vic-



tory tonight. My election to the General Assembly brings us closer to having a State Legislature that reflects the diversity of

our state, and I hope this inspires people from diverse backgrounds to get more involved in public service. I am looking

forward to working with Senator-Elect Zwicker and Assemblyman Freiman to serve the people of New Jersey and build

a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous future."



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Hope Dies Last: Why Hope Matters for America's Future



By: Frank Islam

We have spent the past two years impaled in partisan political conflict aimed at blocking problem solving, collaboration, and compromise. This conflict has increased citizen skepticism and cynicism and reduced hope.

Those are lines from a Huff-Post blog titled "Hope Dies Last" that we posted in October 2012. Now, nearly a decade later, that citizen skepticism and cynicism has turned to anger and hostility. And, with the perpetuation of the Big Lie, the anti-vaccination movement, and the assault on the U.S. Capitol, this contentious conflict has been pushed to the verge of a civil war.

Hope is on trial. The question is will it be given the death sentence? That is up to all of us who believe in truth and the future of our great nation to decide.

In doing this, we should remember that hope may not make something so. But a lack of hope makes accomplishing anything virtually impossible. Hope is essential.

Studs Terkel, America's greatest oral historian, understood this when he named his last book, published in 2004, *Hope Dies Last*. Terkel got the idea for that title from Jessie de la Cruz, a founding member of the farmers' union, who insisted, "If you lose hope, you lose everything."

America has not lost everything yet, but it is threatened. We must not let this happen, because for hundreds of millions of people in this country and around the world America is hope.

As we stated in 2012: "America is a nation founded on hope. America is in the business of hope. America is dedicated to perfecting hope. America is committed to innovating hope. America is the world's best hope."

We provided reasons for that assessment in our earlier blog. In this blog, we provide the perspectives of others that are relevant to the need for and importance of hope.

To begin, we turn to Ronald Reagan from the right side of the aisle, John Kennedy from the left side of the aisle, and the recently departed Colin Powell from the center.

President Reagan called upon us to renew America:

I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing. So, with all the creative energy at our command let us begin an era of national renewal. Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope.

President Kennedy asked us to get educated to pursue the American dream:

Let us think of education as the

means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope or dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our Nation.

And General Colin Powell closed his commencement address to the graduating students at Howard University by urging them to use their education to get civically engaged:

I want you to fight racism. But remember, as Dr. King and President Mandela have taught us, racism is a disease of the racist. Never let it become yours. ...

Above all, never lose faith in America. Its faults are yours to fix, not to curse. America is a family: There may be differences and disputes within the family, but we must not allow the family to be broken into warring factions. From the diversity of our people, let us draw strength and not seek weakness.

Believe in America with all your heart and soul, with all of your mind. Remember, that it remains the "last, best hope of Earth." You are its inheritors and its future is today placed in your hands.

Although not specifically focused on the United States, renowned British primatologist and anthropologist Dame Jane Goodall provides encouraging words for all of us around the

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Op Ed: Why The Recent Ruling By The EU On The Hijab Ban Is So Problematic

By *Jamilah Moktadir*

It's no secret that The EU has a problem with Muslim women, a bold statement I know, but its animosity runs deep into the surface. Recent rulings via The EU's highest courts allow companies, under 'certain conditions,' to ban against visible religious and political symbols. This legislation was triggered by two German Muslim women who were demanded to remove their hijab in the name of neutrality in the workplace. What a lack of forbearance! This is an excuse for the EU to continue its history of prolifically breeding islamophobia, and we are no longer accepting it.

This so-called 'neutrality' is to 'prevent social disputes,' as put by the Court of Justice of the European Union. The problem with neutrality is that it ardently cannot be achieved, it will simply be avoided. So, the way I see it, the EU is actively contributing to institutionally oppress Muslim women in oppose to fighting the rising Islamophobia. The court is aggressively reinforcing the oppression Muslims face on a daily in Europe, insinuating a Muslim woman's choice of wearing a hijab is political. The Hijab is not a playground for legislation and debate, the EU is purposely isolating millions of Muslims, almost into second-class citizens. This ban will disproportionately affect Muslim women, and therefore is an Islamophobic attack.

This legislation is even more disheartening given the context. Although the courts enforced similar Islamophobic ratifications in 2017, this ban comes at a time of growing anti-Islamic hate. The hypocrisy of Europe is astonishing, politicians outright spill Islamophobic oratory, rarely being held accountable. For example, Austrian official Sebastian Kurz stating, "Turkey is a better place for Afghan Refugees" a not so surprising view, this is a too



common theme of Muslim migrants often being scapegoated and loaded into turkey due to certain 'cultural alliances.' But Turkey fails to possess the capacity, they have been pleading with the EU since 2016 to share the responsibility of these innocent individuals, yet EU states seem to only fetishize the cheap labour and completely disregard the human that comes alongside it.

There is no denying that Islamophobia and orientalism are synonymous. Whilst the majority of migrants are in fact Muslim, the categorification of refugees into a single religion subsequently leads to these individuals being subjected to dehumanisation and discrimination, not only by state officials but individuals too. Taking away the individuality of a refugee certainly helps them to be manipulated, then legislation like this is easier to pass as their cultural differences were never encouraged to be respected. It also contributes to the erasure of culture, the forced nature of an asylum seeker to feel grateful to a nation that caused their suffering is incredibly shameful, they should not be belittled into hiding their culture or religion in the name of hospitality. Your liberal

'tolerance' should be accepting and welcoming. Similarly, for the Muslim populations, the orientalist view that classifies Islam as oppressive and 'backward' definitely has not been revoked. The idea that Muslim women need saving from the oppression of eastern men is astonishing since Islam was one of the earliest religions to provide women with religious and social rights — owning land, access to their own money and even keeping their own last name — we do not fall under our husbands' ownership. This positive narrative did not fit the colonial west, and we can so zealously see in the attitudes of the EU that this orientalism is being upheld. We cannot

expect to decolonise the mindsets of individuals when legislators inject islamophobia in the west like the British with opium in the east, but it is difficult to understand the EU's validity when they stand for progression and female liberation; it seems the tables have turned.

Rumki C, an advocate for the #Handsofmyhijab campaign adds to this idea:

The European Ban on the Hijab has been a slow progression over the years as the hijab ban, itself, has been a topic of debate in many European countries including Sweden, where I am based. As a matter of fact, there are also cities in Sweden where hijab has already been banned.

This all seems to have been inspired by other countries having banned hijab, including Germany, France and Switzerland. Only recently, in June of this year, France banned the hijab whereby women under the age of 18 are forbidden from wearing the headscarf and mothers with headscarves from accompanying their children on school field trips. So, I joined a movement: the "#Handsofmyhijab" campaign was begun by Somali-Norwegian Hijabi model, Rawdah Mohamed. I was honoured to have my image featured alongside hers, on The Guardian's Instagram page.



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The Logic Of Vaccine Mix N' Match

by **Abdul El-Sayed**

This article was first published on The Incision

Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Disease Control and Prevention authorized and recommended boosters of both the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines. Moderna's booster comes in just a half dose, and is recommended for people over 65, people over 50 with certain conditions, and people who work in high exposure jobs. For J&J vaccine recipients, boosters were recommended for everyone over 18.

Though the CDC recommended that people boost with the vaccine they started with, they also endorsed a "mix n' match" approach. This is particularly salient for Americans who received the J&J vaccine, considering its laggard performance in preventing breakthrough delta

infections relative to its mRNA cousins.

Indeed, a recent National Institutes of Health study found that among people whose first vaccination was with J&J, receiving a second J&J dose led to a four-fold increase in antibody reactivity in a test-tube. But boosting with Pfizer led to a 35-fold increase — and boosting with Moderna led to a 76-fold increase.

A different U.K.-based study showed that among recipients of the AstraZeneca vaccine (which, like J&J, uses an adenovirus vector rather than mRNA), boosting with the Pfizer vaccine increased in vitro antibody reactivity vastly more than a second dose of AstraZeneca.

One study looked at whether these in vitro studies translate into real protection from infection. This study, out of Umea, Sweden found that AstraZeneca recipients who crossed over

to Pfizer boosters had a 67% lower infection rate while those who took Moderna boosters had a 79% lower infection rate than AstraZeneca double-vaxxers.

There's a good biological reason why criss-crossing vaccines could be beneficial. Consider the (admittedly ableist) old proverb about blind men identifying an elephant. If each of them has only ever felt a part of the elephant, each leaves with a different sense of what the elephant is. If he was introduced to a different part, he might mistake it for something else. It's a helpful analogy for understanding how our immune systems identify the virus. Every time we receive a vaccine, we're showing it one part of the proverbial elephant. But if you show it different parts, it gets a better picture of what the thing is — and can fight it off faster.

That said there's a curious thing about booster crossover. Though stud-

ies show that receiving an mRNA vaccine after an adenovirus vaccine improves antibody reactivity, the opposite isn't true. In the U.K. study I mentioned earlier, those who received two Pfizer vaccines had a higher reactivity than those who received AstraZeneca after Pfizer. It may just be that the mRNA vaccines are simply better over the long term against delta.

But there's a bigger issue here. In the grand scheme of the COVID-19 pandemic, which boosters people receive — let alone if they receive boosters at all — is less important than if those who have yet chosen to remain unvaccinated get vaccinated in the first place. The whole conversation about boosters highlights a broader tale of two pandemics. There's the pandemic of the unvaccinated, among whom delta has torn, killing thousands upon thousands of unvaccinated people who by dint of

political sorting have the misfortune of also living among other unvaccinated people. And there's the pandemic among the vaccinated, among whom a relatively small number of breakthrough delta cases have mostly led to short-lived mildly symptomatic illness, but which have also driven the clamor for boosters. While boosting is probably a good choice for individuals, let's not assume that it's the solution to COVID-19.

So go on and get your booster if you're eligible — but unlike your first doses, don't assume that the booster's going to change the course of the pandemic. To do that, you're better off trying to convince that friend or family member who hasn't gotten their first dose yet.

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Why Are Americans Obsessed With Guns And Pay A High Price For Them?

By: M. Basheer Ahmed M.D.

I was 5-years-old the first time I saw a gun. Growing up in Hyderabad, India, the only times I even really heard guns discussed were in conversations about hunting. My family was visiting a relative, an avid deer hunter, when I took note of the unloaded rifle, hanging on the wall and safely out of reach.

In January 1968, I landed in the country of my dreams after completing my post-graduate studies in psychiatry at Glasgow University, Scotland. I became fascinated with the United States as a teenager after visiting the US Information Center in my hometown of Hyderabad, India.

I was impressed by how immigrants of different cultures, religions, ethnicity, and languages came from all over the world and lived together in peace and harmony in the US. I learned that in this country of opportunity people could pursue their goals and achieve their dreams. During the 1960s when I was studying in the United Kingdom, President John F. Kennedy made America popular for its democracy, religious tolerance, freedom of speech, and opportunity for self-actualization.

Despite more than four decades as a proud US citizen and passionate Texan, I don't think there will ever be a time I will become desensitized from news coverage of gun violence. It is tragically unsurprising that — in a country where guns cause 40,000 deaths and 100,000 injuries annually — Americans possess more guns per capita than any other country.

In all my decades experience as a physician, before I retired in 2015, I had pledged to be there for my patients however I could, to do everything in my power to improve and save lives. As a psychiatrist, I've seen firsthand the ghastly toll gun violence, physically and emotionally, has

taken on patients of mine — both physically and emotionally — as well as their communities.

Unfortunately, our lawmakers and the general population appear to share a great tolerance for this mayhem. I have read hundreds of articles written by well-respected journalists and professionals who repeatedly recommend monitoring gun control through background checks. Most countries of the world follow this basic principle of gun control, except the US.

I wrote this article based on my own conclusions about the causes for the American obsession with gun ownership and recommend an entirely different approach to controlling this deadly Menace

It was just in Summer of 2019 when more than 26 mass shootings gripped the United States: in May, a disgruntled worker enters a Virginia Beach municipal building and fatally shoots 12 people; in August, a 21-year-old is accused of massacring nearly two-dozen shoppers at a Walmart in El Paso; the next day, a gunman opens fire on a crowded street in downtown Dayton, killing nine.

The survivors of those horrific tragedies whose pleas for change and legislative action to keep guns out of the hands of potentially dangerous people have seemingly fallen on deaf ears.

Just before the deadly shooting in El Paso, Governor Greg Abbott had signed ten pro-gun bills into law, which made it easier for Texans to buy military-style arsenals for self-defense, like those soldiers use to fight in hostile countries.

It is not simply anger or any other motivation that is the real problem. It is the easy availability of a gun which kills people.

With the inauguration of the new president, we have reason to be cautiously optimistic. President Joseph R. Biden

rightfully characterizes gun violence in the US as a “public health epidemic.” In the early 1990s, during his tenure in the U.S. Senate, Biden helped pass the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act as well as a 10-year ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in 1994.

A recent poll by the Pew Research Center revealed that 79 percent of Republicans favored protecting gun ownership rights over imposing limitations to gun access.

The Second Amendment protects the use of weapons for lawful purposes only, including self-defense. Machine guns and similar weapons of mass destruction may be useful in war, but I can't imagine the framers of the Constitution imagined civilians roaming about with machine guns.

Rapid-fire weapons may prove effective in a war zone — but I can't imagine the framers of the Constitution imagined civilians roaming about with machine guns during peacetime. Nonetheless, owning guns like these remains an obsession for countless Americans. Look no further than the 17-year-old accused of gunning down three people (killing two of them) at a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Kenosha this Summer. The gun he was brandishing. A military-style, semi-automatic AR-15.

Religious leaders from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu communities shared the impact of gun violence based on years of experience counseling the victims and their families. They spoke against the gun violence plaguing their communities as they have witnessed the grave impact that gun violence has on families, schools, houses of worship, and neighborhoods

Even corporate America has spoken in favor of strong measures for gun control.

Dick's Sporting Goods overhauled its gun sales policies, stopped selling

guns in 200 of its new stores, and destroyed about \$5 million worth of weapons, turning them into scrap metal. Dicks also pulled all military-style weapons from its stores, banned high-capacity magazines, and will not sell firearms to anyone under the age of 21. Edward Stack, Dick's CEO, publicly criticized Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for withholding gun control legislation in Congress. Not surprisingly, the NRA, Republican lawmakers, and customers chastised Stack for his sensible decisions. Mr. Stack has set an example for other gun sellers to put saving lives above bottom-line profits.

In 2015, the American College of Physicians (ACP) joined 52 health organizations to address gun violence as a public health threat. The recommendations include encouraging physicians to discuss with patients the risks associated with keeping a firearm in the home along with methods for mitigating the risk. ACP also strongly recommends the sale of firearms be subject to completion of an educational program on firearm safety, universal background checks, banning assault weapons with large-capacity magazines, closing the gun show loophole (private sales at gun shows), and prosecuting people who sell firearms illegally or purchase firearms for anyone banned from gun possession (straw purchases).

There is an abundant need for public education in the US about gun violence, our obsession with gun ownership, regulating gun sales, closing loopholes in existing laws, and implementing a nationwide gun licensing system. It is our responsibility as citizens to make people aware of the consequences of gun obsession and ineffective gun laws. Because our knowledge of human behavior is not advanced enough to predict behavior — nor is it reasonable

that every purchaser receives a certification from a behavioral scientist to buy a gun — I believe public education is the best way we have to change the behavior. I strongly encourage physicians, clergy, and teachers to take responsibility for educating the public about the dangers of owning a gun, the impact they have on innocent victims, and the traumatic effects gun violence has on thousands of survivors.

These three groups—health professionals, faith leaders, and schools and colleges—have access to most people living in US, and they are compassionate, care for and value human life, and, for the most part, are concerned about the high incidence of death from gun violence.

I strongly recommend that all organizations that support gun control add a robust public education component to their mission. I am confident we can control the epidemic of gun violence if we intervene early in a young person's life by insisting health professions, faith leaders, and teachers do their part to challenge the unexamined assumptions that for too long have governed the rationale for gun ownership in America.

Dr. M Basheer Ahmed, a former professor of psychiatry in South Western Medical School, is chairman emeritus of Muslim Community Center for Human Services in North Texas. He can be reached at mbahmed05@yahoo.com

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State Legislator Abdullah Hammoud Named Dearborn's First Arab Mayor.

By: TMO Staff

In Dearborn, state legislator Abdullah Hammoud has become the city's first Arab mayor.

"While the night marks the first of many, we never ran to be the first, we ran to be the best," Hammoud said during his victory speech acknowledging his historic win but noting his candidacy was not just about diversity.

Hammoud defeated Gary Woronchak, a former state representative and former Wayne County commissioner, with 54.6% of the vote, the Detroit Free Press reported. The 31-year-old succeeds John "Jack" O'Reilly Jr., mayor since 2007, whose administration faced criticism over its handling of flooding last summer.

When Hammoud takes office early next year, the House lawmaker will become the first Muslim and the first person of color to lead the city's 110,000 residents as their seventh mayor.

Hammoud's win is historic not only because of his identity, and the fact that it reflects the demographic of the community he will be representing, but also in light of the town's history of racism.

According to Al-Jazeera, Dearborn's longest-serving mayor, Orville Hubbard, was known nationally for his racism against minority groups. While the town is now heavily Arab populated and houses one of the largest Arab American communities in the nation, the census does not reflect this because Arab Americans are classified as white.

"We finally have Arab Americans speaking for themselves, being elected to office, representing their communities, gaining recognition for this population, gaining a voice for them," Sally Howell said, director of the Center for Arab American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"To the young girls and boys who have ever been ridiculed for their faith



or ethnicity. To those of you who were ever made to feel that their names were unwelcome and to

our parents and to our elders and to others who are humiliated for their broken English and yet

still persistent, today is proof that you are as American as anyone else, and there is a new era in

Dearborn," Hammoud said during his victory speech.

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Mayor Bill Bazzi Elected To Continue To Serve As Mayor In Dearborn Heights,

By: TMO Staff

Bazzi was appointed in January to serve following the death of Mayor Daniel Paletko.

While already known as the town's first Muslim mayor, on Tuesday he became the town's first elected Muslim mayor after beating Council Chair Denise Malinowski Maxwell. A Marine Corps veteran and immigrant from Lebanon, as the town's mayor, he is not only the first Muslim but the first Arab American to serve.

According to the Detroit Free Press, about one-third of Dearborn Heights is Arab American, making Bazzi's historic win an accurate representation of the community.

During his campaign, Bazzi frequently clashed with Malinowski-Maxwell—who once accused Bazzi of faking his 21 years of service with the Marines. But despite the hate he received and the conflicts with other politicians, Bazzi succeeded in his reelection and made



history once again.

When asked about his historic win, he acknowledged it but shared similar sentiments with other "firsts," who noted it was not about them.

"It feels great," he said. "But I don't look at any of this as making history. I'm looking at it as I'm serving the people and serving Dearborn

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"The sky's the limit," he said. "If you work hard and do the right thing and stay focused, you can achieve anything, you just need a dream and a passion. If I can do everything in my life that I've done, including this, then anyone can. I am grateful when I see youth involved in civic

duties and serving the community, as it serves as an inspiration to even younger generations and comes full circle. I'm proud of them and there's a good process of caring about each other and about our community. This really brings us all together and shows that we are and have one strong community."

Amer Ghalib Becomes First Muslim And First Non-Polish Mayor Of Hamtramck Michigan

By: TMO Staff

Three Muslim mayors were elected in Michigan this week making history as the most Muslim mayors elected at once in one state.

In Hamtramck, Amer Ghalib defeated Mayor Karen Majewski to become not only the city's first Muslim mayor, but the city's first non-Polish mayor in a century.

According to the Detroit Metro Times, Ghalib, a health care worker and immigrant from Yemen, defeated opponent Majewski by a landslide.

Hamtramck has historically, for the last 100 years, always had a mayor of Polish descent. While it used to be dominantly Polish, Polish-Americans today make up less than 7% of the city, according to census reports.

As mayor, Galib will be



the first Arab American and the first Muslim to serve, in a town that has the highest percentage of immigrants among cities in metro Detroit. Approximately half of the city's population identifies as Muslim.

Advocacy groups, including the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR), acknowledged the historic wins in Michigan. "We congratulate Mr. Hammoud and Mr. Ghalib on their historic victories in Dearborn and Hamtramck and for be-

coming the first Muslims to hold mayoral office in those cities," CAIR-Michigan Executive Director Dawud Walid said in a press release. "Their victories are signs of not only the increased political engagement of Muslims in our region but

also the comfort fellow Michiganders of other faiths have in supporting Muslim candidates."

While he was campaigning, many criticized Ghalib for opposing flying an LGBTQ Pride Flag in the city and for his disapproval of marijuana dispensaries. But Ghalib told the Detroit Free Press that he would not impose his beliefs on others.

"People think because of my background and my religious beliefs that I will be anti-LGBT or something, but we are in America," Ghalib said. "The same Constitution that allowed me to practice my religion here, to pray the way I want, it gives others the same freedom to practice their beliefs and express their values the way they want."

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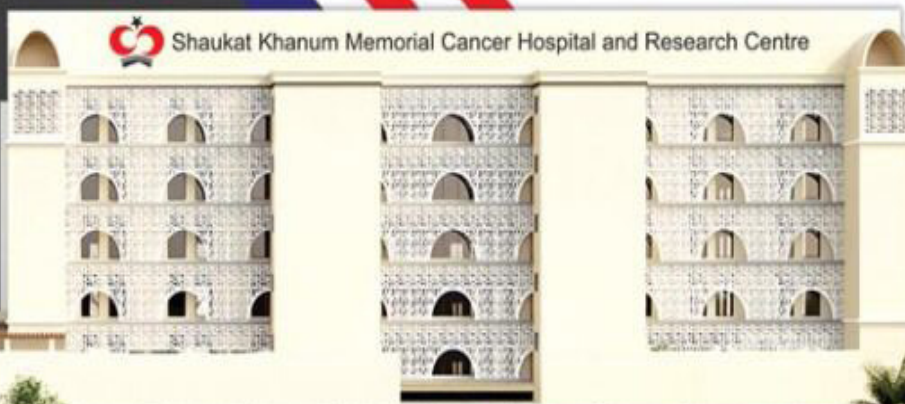


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'We Don't Negotiate With Terrorists,' High School Math Teacher Tells Muslim American Student



by *Aysha Qamar*

A Muslim Arab American high school student was left “in shock” after a teacher responded to his question about math homework using the term “terrorists.” According to WABC, the teacher from Ridgefield Memorial High School in Bergen County, New Jersey, made the insensitive comment following a question from Mohammed Zubi, a senior student, regarding his math work. Zubi had asked his teacher if he could finish an assignment at home on Tuesday.

“He responded saying, ‘We don’t negotiate with terrorists,’” Zubi told WABC. “So I look around in shock, there’s people laughing, and there’s other people in shock, and I turn around and ask my friend, ‘Did he really just say that?’ and she said yes.”

The teacher’s name has not been released, but the comment has made its way all over social media, with individuals of all races demanding justice for the 17-year-old student, who now feels uncomfortable returning to class.

According to WABC, Zubi—who is the captain of the school’s soccer team—has not returned to school since the incident last week.

“I don’t feel like going back, I’m really uncomfortable,” Zubi said, “I don’t want to see anyone, and I’ve been in my room all day—don’t want to see my friends, especially after what that teacher said to me.”

Shortly after making the comment and noting the shock on students’ faces, the teacher allegedly told Zubi he did not “mean it like that.” However, other students, including one named Vuk Tomasese, noted that they not only heard the comment but that the teacher knew Zubi was both Muslim and of Arab descent. “The teacher got close to him and said, ‘We don’t negotiate with terrorists,’ knowing that Mohammed is Arabic and Muslim,” Tomasese told WABC.

Additionally, Zubi’s family is well known in the community and high school as his mother previously worked there and his elder siblings graduated from the school as well.

“It hurt my heart to hear such a comment from my younger brother, a 17-year-old minority,” Anas Zubi, the student’s elder brother, said upon hearing the statement.

When the district was initially asked about the situation, a spokesperson called it a “personal matter” and said there was

nothing more to say. It wasn’t until the situation became well known on social media that school board members took it more seriously. In a statement Friday, the district shared it is conducting a full investigation and that the teacher in question has been suspended until further notice.

“The Ridgefield School District has absolutely no tolerance for any sort of discrimination against any student or staff member,” Letizia Pantoliano, interim superintendent of Ridgefield Public Schools, said in a statement. “The District strives to create an inclusive environment where students’ and staff members’ race, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation are embraced. While the District cannot legally comment on personnel or student matters, the public should be aware that the District immediately suspended the staff member while it is conducting a full investigation. Additionally, the District has notified law enforcement for its assistance. The District fully intends to pursue any and all legal remedies against the staff member as any discriminatory conduct has absolutely no place in our District.”

The story went viral

on Twitter Friday after Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) New Jersey Director Selaedin Maksut shared the incident.

“A New Jersey teacher allegedly told a Muslim student ‘we don’t negotiate with terrorists’ after he asked for an extension. This type of language is unacceptable from an educator. The school must investigate and take appropriate action.”

In a statement, he added: “It’s almost unbelievable. We’re left speechless. Why would a teacher say this to a student?”

But unfortunately, such incidents of allegedly Islamophobia are not new to either New Jersey or the U.S. Earlier this month, another incident from a New Jersey school went viral on social media in which an elementary school teacher “forcibly” removed a second-grade student’s hijab. While the teacher later denied removing the hijab, claiming she thought it was a hoodie, reports indicate she told the student, “Your hair is beautiful,” prior to doing so. According to WABC, the student even protested the removal of the hijab multiple times before the teacher violently ripped it off.

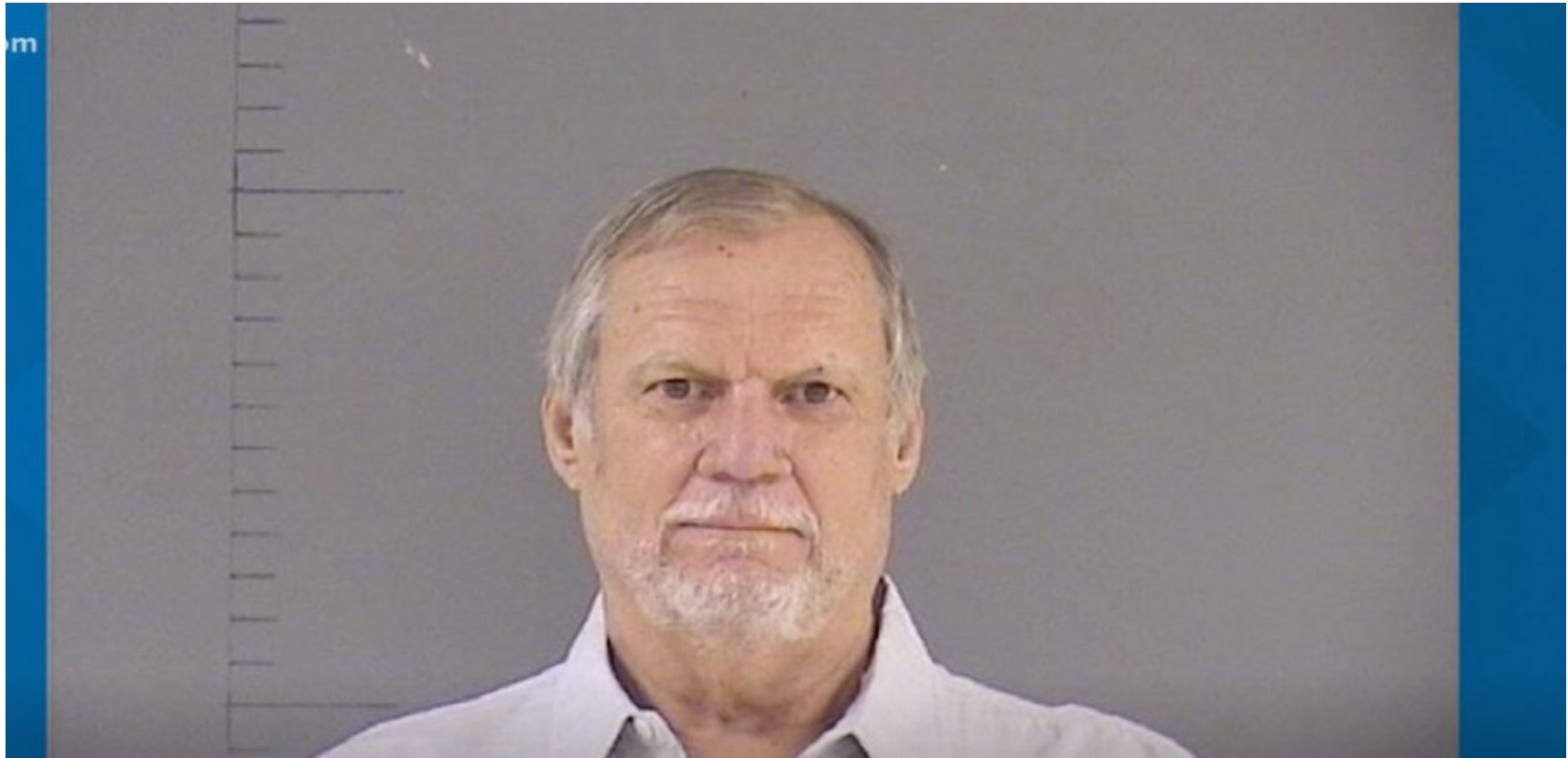
After 9/11, Muslim Amer-

icans and people of color have reported a surge in hate incidents. Multiple reports have found that Muslim Americans have experienced alarming rates of Islamophobia, with a string of hate crimes against them surging in the months of September and October.

According to the latest research exploring the lives of Muslim Americans, more than two-thirds of U.S. Muslims have personally experienced Islamophobia, Daily Kos reported. Additionally, the survey found that this rate was higher in Muslim women, with nearly 75% of participants believing women are more at risk of experiencing Islamophobia. It follows similar research in which data found Muslim children are more likely to be bullied in school than children of other faiths.

The disparities are so high that in Massachusetts alone, 60% of Muslim youth surveyed reported being mocked, verbally harassed, or physically abused because of their Islamic faith. About 17% reported other forms of physical harassment, including having their hijab pulled on. As a result, many students stated they have altered their appearance or hidden their name.

Texas Man Arrested 11 Days After Committing Killing Muslim Man



By: TMO Staff

A Texas man was finally arrested and charged with murder Friday after walking free for more than a week after killing a person of color. Eleven days after shooting and killing Adil Dghoughi, an unarmed Moroccan citizen living in the country, in an unprovoked attack on Oct. 11, 65-year-old Terry Turner was arrested Friday. The arrest follows an uproar on social media and growing questions on what happened to Dghoughi, whose murderer was not arrested or investigated prior.

According to the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, a warrant for Turner's arrest was issued on Thursday and by Friday morning, he turned himself in. While Turner was charged with murder, it will be up to a grand jury to decide whether to indict him. Court records indicate that while arrested Friday, Turner was released from custody after posting bond the day of his arrest, The Washington Post reported.

Before Turner was taken

into custody, few to no details on the incident were released. Advocates and family members demanded answers about why local authorities decided against arrest charges, and they begged to know what happened that night.

According to family members, Dghoughi had spent the weekend before his death with his girlfriend, Sarah Todd. After Dghoughi left Todd's place, he ended up in the driveway of Turner's home. While it's unclear what led him there, Todd and his family members believe he may have been lost and trying to get signal, a difficult task in some parts of Texas. The affidavit notes that when Turner saw the car he ran for his handgun, attempted to chase the car as it reversed into the street, and opened fire.

Turner had called 911 the night of the incident, but not before he had already shot Dghoughi in the head. "I just killed a guy," Turner told the 911 operator, according to the affidavit. Despite a search revealing Dghoughi had

no firearm, Turner even claimed Dghoughi "tried to pull a gun on me."

"At end of the day, I don't think this is about anything else other than a human being losing his life outside of a home of someone who decided they're not going to call law enforcement, not going to call 911, and instead going to take matter into their own hands," said Mehdi Cherkaoui, an attorney representing Dghoughi's family.

Despite the evidence and calls to 911 in which Turner admitted killing Dghoughi, local authorities—which are suspected to be friends of Turner's—did little to nothing.

"He was not of any threat to this person," Todd told The Washington Post. "And whatever is twisted in this man's mind, for some reason he thought that he could do this. And it's not okay. It's just not okay."

The family then turned to the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR) for help. The council called for an in-

dependent investigation into the shooting.

"The more I learned about what transpired, the more I was shocked and even angered," said Faizan Syed, executive director of CAIR-Austin. "Here's this young man who's bright, is a financial analyst, and is really pursuing the American Dream. For him to be shot and killed in this manner — almost as if he's nothing — really hurt me, and we wanted to make sure we took action to raise awareness."

While advocates and others welcomed Turner's arrest, they noted the length it took for it to occur and the state's problematic "no duty retreat" law, which they feared would impact the case. "Why did it take them 10-days to make the arrest?" Dghoughi's brother, Othmane Dghoughi, asked KXAN. Texas' "no duty retreat" law, commonly known as the "stand your ground law," allows individuals to use deadly force when they "reasonably believe" they need to defend themselves. According to Chapter 9 of the

Texas Penal Code, an individual has the right to self-defense "to the degree the actor reasonably believes the force is immediately necessary to protect the actor against the other's use or attempted use of unlawful force." Reports indicate that it disproportionately impacts people of color and encourages "illegitimate uses of deadly force" in situations that could have otherwise been prevented.

Cherkaoui told CNN he could think of "1,001 things" Turner could have done differently to avoid the fatal shooting and believes that a claim of self-defense doesn't apply in this case.

"I pray that when a grand jury hears this case, they will agree," he said.

Family members and friends shared similar sentiments, noting that they knew this arrest was "just only the beginning."

"We're going to continue to fight until there is justice for Adil," Todd said.

**If you want to write for TMO, Please email:
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Op Ed: Marriage! When Does It Become A Menace?



by *Dr. Aslam Abdullah*

In most cultures and religions, marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman. It is an institution that promotes love, compassion, caring, and sharing. However, several cultures view it as a union between two families and regard it as a religious deed of transfer of ownership of girls. For example, in South Asian and Middle Eastern cultures, the daughters belong to the bridegroom's families as their ownership changes at marriage.

In these cultures, a bride is financially dependent on their husband or his family. She serves as a domestic servant for her new family for food, clothing, and intimacy. A husband and his family always have the trump card of divorce. Anytime she asserts her identity as a dignified human being with her personality, someone in her in-law's family reminds her that the exit doors are always open.

That someone could be either her parents-in-

law, her husband or husband's brothers or sisters, or other relatives. If the bride happens to be from a different caste) even though in Islam there is no such thing), linguistic group or different ethnic cultures, she faces extra ordeals as everyone in her new home expects her to comply with even the minutest traditions of the husband's family. The way she should dress or eat or live must be according to her parents-in-law's ideals. Otherwise, she is a deviant, non-Islamic daughter-in-law. They always put pressure on her, and if she defies on her husband, and often demands that divorce is a man's right if she does not comply.

The name of the game is ego. It has ruined millions of marriages and caused scores of women to live in a state of helplessness for a long. Often, these girls do not tell their stories to even their parents. They feel ashamed or embarrassed to talk about it. They also know if they mention their ordeal to their par-

ents or anyone else, their in-law's family would become upset and create more problems for her, leading to physical abuse and slow death.

There are several reasons for this helplessness of daughters-in-law:

Most of them are financially dependent.

Even if they have their earning, their husbands or parents-in-law have more rights on it.

Muslim men generally believe that they are controllers or superior to their spouses because God has given them this right.

Most South Asian and Middle Eastern cultures consider women inferior in intellect and status.

Most men believe that it is his wife's duty to serve him food, iron his clothes, buy groceries, wash and clean house and produce children (male) for her husband's family.

Even though these are ridiculous ideas and practices, religious scholars have perpetuated it throughout

the centuries because they were all men. The creator cannot do injustice to the creation he designed and fashioned. All deserve a dignified existence, and family is the first institution to live a dignified life. The creator calls marriage a union to strengthen the bond of love and compassion. What happens in most cases goes against the religious dictates. What happens is a clear manifestation of a male chauvinistic attitude that wants to subdue women in every sense of the term.

How should we deal with the situation?

The daughters-in-law should understand that they are not commodities and, as human beings, have their dignity. Neither their parents nor their parents-in-law own them.

They should work to be financially independent. Without this, they cannot get dignity in their new homes. No matter what assurance their husbands give them, the finances will always be a factor in

determining the nature of relations. If they face injustice, verbally, emotionally, or physically, they should immediately seek help. They should record abuse and report it when necessary. They should avoid pregnancy in a situation where they realize that their husbands are using them as sex objects. Many a time, husbands play pregnancy games to make wives more dependent on them.

They should also seek help from licensed family therapists. An Imam or a religious scholar is not the right person to consult in these situations. He is also a male chauvinist. He caters to institutions that men support. To expect him to rise above traditions and religious dogmas is futile. It is better to live alone than be in a relationship where one has to live in indecency and humiliation forever.

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**Cont. from page 1.
Michigan Makes
History**

as American as anyone else, and there is a new era in Dearborn,” Hammoud said during his victory speech.

**In Dearborn Heights,
Mayor Bill Bazzi was
elected to continue to
serve as mayor.**

Bazzi was appointed in January to serve following the death of Mayor Daniel Paletko.

While already known as the town’s first Muslim mayor, on Tuesday he became the town’s first elected Muslim mayor after beating Council Chair Denise Malinowski Maxwell. A Marine Corps veteran and immigrant from Lebanon, as the town’s mayor, he is not only the first Muslim but the first Arab American to serve.

According to the Detroit Free Press, about one-third of Dearborn Heights is Arab American, making Bazzi’s historic win an accurate representation of the

community.

During his campaign, Bazzi frequently clashed with Malinowski-Maxwell—who once accused Bazzi of faking his 21 years of service with the Marines. But despite the hate he received and the conflicts with other politicians, Bazzi succeeded in his reelection and made history once again.

When asked about his historic win, he acknowledged it but shared similar sentiments with other “firsts,” who noted it was not about them.

“It feels great,” he said. “But I don’t look at any of this as making history. I’m looking at it as I’m serving the people and serving Dearborn Heights. I’m here for the residents and I have an open-door policy always to residents, staff, everyone. My goal and mission is for the residents and for the city of Dearborn Heights.”

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As mayor, Galib will be the first Arab American and the first Muslim to serve, in a town that has the highest percentage of immigrants among cities in metro Detroit. Approximately half of the city’s population identifies as Muslim.

Advocacy groups, including the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR), acknowledged the historic wins in Michigan. “We congratulate Mr. Hammoud and Mr. Ghalib on their historic victories in Dearborn and Hamtramck and for becoming the first Muslims to hold mayoral office in those cities,” CAIR-Michigan Executive Director Dawud Walid said in a press release. “Their victories are signs of not only the increased political engagement of Mus-

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**Congratulations to
Michigan’s three
firsts— here’s to
more to come!**

**Cont. from page 3.
Hope Dies Last**

globe in her new publication, *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*. Richard Schiffman of the Washington Post writes that in the book “...she spells out her four reasons for hope: the amazing human intellect; the resilience of nature; the power of young people; and the indomitable human spirit.”

Turning to young people and hope, there are Greta Thunberg and Amanda Gorman.

The 18-year old Thunberg is a Swedish environmental activist who has campaigned in the U.S. and around the world for climate change mitigation. In a recent video she said, “All political and economic systems have failed, but humanity has not yet failed.”

Amanda Gorman, a 23-year old poet, became a celebrity thanks to her reading of her powerful poem, “The Hill We Climb,” at the inauguration of Joe Biden as President.

In the poem, Ms. Gorman declares:

*We will not march back
to what was, but move to
what shall be:*

*A country that is bruised
but whole, benevolent but
bold, fierce, and free.*

*We will not be turned
around or interrupted by
intimidation because we
know our*

*inaction and inertia will
be the inheritance of the
next generation.*

Finally, there are those who give us hope through their actions, rather than their words; for example, USA Olympic 800 meter runner Isaiah Jewett and Brandon Schutt, a high school cross country runner in Nebraska, who showed us that there is more than one way to be a winner in a race.

At the Olympics in Tokyo this August, Jewett was running in a semifinal heat when he tripped and fell mid-race with Nijel Amos, a runner from Botswana. As they got back up, he and Amos extended a hand to help one another and they jogged with hands together to the finish

line.

In an interview, Jewett said, “I didn’t come as far as I wanted to, but I had a second to show everybody that I’m here and that’s what I hope that I did. I showed that I’m here and I’m going to stay here and show that you can do it if you truly believe in your dreams.”

In a high school cross country district final meet this October, Blake Schutt of Bellevue High School came up to Blake Cerveny from Omaha Burke High School, who had collapsed just short of the finish line. He stopped, helped Cerveny up, and pulled/carried him across the finish line. It dropped Schutt three spots in the race’s final standings.

Afterwards, Schutt said that he himself had collapsed in a race a month earlier, and then stated, “When I saw him on the ground, I knew what I had to do: I picked him up and did whatever it took to get him to the finish line.” He added, “Even if it’s an individual sport, you’re still in this together with your

teammates and your opponents.”

Each and all of these perspectives speak to who we are or should be as Americans. As Americans, we should commit ourselves to renewing America and creating the future for the USA by drawing upon our shared humanity and the understanding that democracy is not a winner-take-all game, but a platform where all should have the opportunity to win.

As Americans, we must also remember that this country has always been and is the land of hope. “The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World” was a gift of friendship from the people of France dedicated on October 28, 1886.

Since then, the magnificent statue with the lady holding the torch has shone and been the light of hope for many. In this 21st century and especially over the past four years, that light has begun to flicker and so has hope.

That light can still be seen, though. And, those who see that light and

who are committed to hope will come together so that hope will not die in this land of hope.

Recognizing this, we conclude our blog with the closing lines from poet Amanda Gorman’s “The Hill We Climb”:

*In every known nook of
our nation, in every corner
called our country,*

*our people, diverse and
beautiful, will emerge,
battered and beautiful,*

*When day comes, we step
out of the shade, aflame
and unafraid.*

*The new dawn blooms as
we free it,*

For there is always light,

*If only we’re brave
enough to see it.*

*If only we’re brave
enough to be it.*

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AFMI



The last year was a tough one for many people around the world. For the second time in a row, we will be observing Ramadan in a pandemic. Millions have been left destitute & without income because of the pandemic & its effect on the Indian economy.

In this last year, AFMI has been reaching out with support to the neediest in India

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- ❖ Provided safe drinking water to thousands of flood-affected families in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Launched safe drinking water facility in Rajasthan which currently supports twenty-two villages.
- ❖ Provided meals to thousands of families across India.
- ❖ Helped teaching and other staff of schools with income supports.
- ❖ Provided scholarships to students.
- ❖ Helped schools with construction projects in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and elsewhere.
- ❖ Provided ventilators to hospitals in Gujarat.
- ❖ Provided shelter and clothing to families affected by the pandemic and economic distress.



The need is great, & our resources limited. Let us come together & resolve to do whatever we can to improve the conditions of the needy. Through our collective efforts, we can work wonders.

Please donate generously to AFMI's projects which have real-life impacts on thousands of lives. Donations can be made securely online at www.afmi.org

May these blessed days be a means for us to connect with our Lord and our community, & to share together in gratitude.

Ramadan Mubarak!

Thousands of orphans
are forgotten because of
the way they look.



We ask you to
choose **with love**