The 3rd Annual Black American Muslim Conference
"Reclaiming Our Youth"

Dates: 10/16/20 – 10/18/20
Location: www.lamppostedu.org

The 3rd Annual Black American Muslim Conference is a 3-day gathering of national and local leaders, educators, activists, and achievers united by the concern for the future of Islam in the black American community. The conference will consist of multiple online panel discussions, lectures, and presentations. The conference is open to all registrants regardless of ethnicity or religion.

Confirmed Panelists: Abdullah Ali, Dawud Walid, Ubaydullah Evans, Jamillah Karim, Yusef Wiley, Dawood Yasin, Atiba Jones, Nuh Saunders, Nadeem Ali, Faatimah Knight, Nuriddeen Knight, Yaseen Dwyer, Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Zaid Shakir, Siraj Wahhaj, Fode Drame, Aisha Al-Adawiyyah, Marc Manley, Muhammad Sa'id Hunafaa, Fatimah Lette, Abu Qadir al-Amin, Aminah McCloud, Anwar Muhaimin, Hamza Abdul Tawwab

DAY 1 Friday

12:00 – 12:05 Qur'anic Recitation (Hamza Abdul Tawwab)

12:05 – 12:20 Welcome & Opening Remarks (Abdullah Ali)

12:30 – 1:00 Opening Lecture (Jamillah Karim)

1:00 – 1:30 Second Lecture (Aminah McCloud)

1:30 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:45 1st Panel: "Where Are the Youth?"

No community survives that has not passed on its cultural legacy to its youth. And, when regular mosque attendees are largely middle aged and seniors, there is serious reason to worry that a community is dying. Traveling throughout cities historically considered black American Muslim strongholds like Detroit, Philadelphia, LA, and Oakland one observes the conspicuous absence of young Muslims in their teens, twenties, and early thirties. Why is this? Where are the youth? What has alienated them from the religious life of the community? And, how can we bring them back?

Panelists: Ubaydullah Evans, Faatimah Knight, Fatimah Lette

Moderator: Yasin Dwyer

5:00 – 6:30 2nd Panel: "A Conversation with Youth: Challenges, Promise, and More"

Ameena McElroy, Yaseen Mahmoud, Tariq Ali, Jennah Sellars

Moderator: Abdullah Ali

6:30 – 7:30 Break

7:30 – 9:30 3rd Panel: "Responding to Pan African Contentions"

The black American community has always been religiously diverse. Most blacks have historically been Christian, while conversion to Islam has steadily increased in influence over the past century. Yet, another pseudo-religious ideology known as "pan-Africanism" has had an influence on the religious understanding of many black Christians and Muslims. One of the main assertions of Pan-Africanists is that neither Christianity nor Islam are suited for the African American, since, according to them, both religions have enslaved, exploited, and marginalized black people. How does one respond to these and other allegations made by Pan-Africanists against Islam?

Dawood Walid, Abdullah Ali, Khalil Abdur-Rashid

Moderator: Dr. Jamillah Karim

9:30 – 9:45 Songs of Prophetic Praise (Muhammad Sa'id Hunafaa)

Day 2

11:30 – 11:35 Qur'anic Recitation (Yaseen Mahmoud)

12:00 – 2:00 1st Panel "The Qur'an, the Streets, and Keeping it Real"

It has often been said that Islam is the only religion that can save the black man. But, what happens when Muslim youth not only abandon the masajid but take charge of the streets and its corrupting influences? What role can learning the Qur'an play in bringing Muslim youth back to the community and contributing to it in a healthy way? What can mosque-goers do to accommodate and facilitate the reentry of wayward Muslim youth? What are some of the causes of youth alienation from religious life? How can we combat those factors? In what ways can we help our young people emerge as leaders who serve society and bring their peers back to straight way?

Hamza Abdul Tawwab, Anwar Muhaimin, Fatimah Lette

Moderator: Faatimah Knight

2:00 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:00 Presentation: "SAVE Institute" (Atiba Jones)

4:30 – 5:00 Lamppost Special Presentation (Abdullah Ali, Khalil Muhsin)

5:00 – 6:30 Break

6:30 – 7:00 Lecture: "I'm Black. But Do I Think Like a Muslim?" (Khalil Abdur-Rashid)

7:00 – 8:30 Break

8:30 – 9:15 Lecture: Imam Siraj Wahhaj

9:15 – 9:30 Songs of Prophetic Praise (Muhammad Sa'id Hunafaa)

DAY 3

11:30 – 11:35 Qur'anic Recitation (Hamza Abdul Tawwab)

11:45 – 1:45 1st Panel ""Sex & Gender Identity"

Do blacks have good reason for concern about the spread of feminist and non-normative ideas about sexuality? Or, are such concerns negligible? If worthy of our concern, in what ways may the community be threatened? How widespread is homosexual behavior and the embrace of LGBTQ norms in the black community? Can we compromise on the use of gender-neutral pronouns? Should we embrace gays and transgendered people as allies in the struggle for social justice? How should we deal with Muslims struggling with such issues or those seeking to normalize the culture in our mosques?

Abdullah Ali, Dawud Walid, Marc Manley

Moderator: Nuriddeen Knight

1:45 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 3:15 Lecture (Fode Drame)

3:30 – 5:30 2nd Panel "Redemption, Acceptance, and Deterrence"

That blacks are disproportionately incarcerated is not a new revelation. Racism, structural and otherwise, have historically contributed to this phenomenon. Gang violence, the drug trade, drug use, and the breakdown of family are also believed to be factors that incentivized law enforcement efforts to employ harsh policing tactics. For Muslims, the important questions are whether or not and how should we reincorporate our formerly incarcerated brothers and sisters into communal life? What strategies can be employed the reach the youth before they become wayward? What sort of preparations should we make for their return, if any? Then, what of those suffering from substance abuse or who were convicted of socially irredeemable acts when they were young? Does the black community have a moral obligation to do more to curb violence and address corruption originating from its own?

Yusuf Wiley, Aisha Al-Adawiyyah, Dawood Yasin

Moderator: Nadeem Ali

6:30 – 7:30 Lecture (Imam Abu Qadir)

7:30 – 8:00 Break

8:00 – 8:45 Lecture (Imam Zaid Shakir)

8:45 Closing Remarks