

List of Challenges Faced by Muslim Youth in Canada



Brainstormed at the "Thinking Retreat" on December 16, 2012, Toronto

TOP 10 CHALLENGES VOTED BY RETREAT PARTICIPANTS:

- Absence of halal entertainment for youth
- Identity crisis for youth
- Lack of youth & women representation in masjids
- Absence of tolerance within Muslim community
- Generational and cultural gap
- Lack of funding for non-Masjid projects / youth organizations
- Lack of mentorship & role models
- Absence of counseling for youth
- Irrelevant Khutbas & Islamic Institutions
- Lack of unity and networking among Muslims

100 PLUS CHALLENGES BRAINSTORMED BY RETREAT PARTICIPANTS:

Islamic Education & Masjid	Identity & Spirituality	Muslim Community	Relationships / Family	Media & Entertainment
Having a hard time applying Quran to their	Identity crisis	Lack of unity in the Muslim community	Tough questions not answered	Access to "halal" fun
Too much content, less relationship	Confusion around remaining faithful to one's beliefs and	Lack of central access to resources	Heard, but not listened to	Addiction to pornography
Irrelevant Khutbas / lectures	Dealing with Peer pressure	Lack of mentorship for youth	Elders not giving youth chance to express themselves	Lack of media outlet for youth's needs

Confusion about which Muslim group / ideology to follow	Apathy	Descrimination and intimidation	Emotionally neglected by family and community	Illeteracy of media
Lack of islamic relevance and practicality	Culture vs faith divide	Public school not accommodating practicing Muslims	Cultural gap between parents and teens	Faith not fun and attractive enough
Lack of sisters' access to scholars	Mental health challenge	Dominance by Muslim adults	Disconnect between generations	Combatting negative stereotypes about Islam
Lack of Quran and Sunnah as it relates to	Lack of motivation to do anything positive	Lack of funding for non Masjid projects	Broken family presence	Dealing with Islamophobia
Lack of knowledge of baisc rights	Fear of exposure	Ignoring the muslim women	Lack of support for parents to deal with youth issues	Hyper-violent movies and games
Lack of access to islamic knowledge	Fear of condemnation	Self-proclaimed leaders in socitey	Domestic violence	
Irrelevant Islamic insitituions	Isolation / Loneliness	Lack of business or job opportunity for youth	Lack of understanding popular culture by parents	
Challenge of how to engage and mobilize the youth	Lack of ownership	Lack of coordination between MSAs	Lack of knowledge about ways to communicate with our neighbours	
Lack of role model	Lack of purpose & vision	Disconnect between MSA's / youth groups and Masjids	Child abuse	
Domination by elders	Embarassment to show their Muslim identity	Lack of inclusion and discussion regarding youth disability	Alienation from family for newly practicing Muslim youth	
95% youth not having access of Islamic	Us vs. Them mentatlity	Lack of Internship opportunities for youth	Gender relations	
Lack of young women rep on Masjid board	Youth leaving Islam	Lack of support for new muslim youth immigrating	Discrimination and racisim among muslim youth	
Absence of youth counselling in Masjid	Lack of spirituality	being judgemental of each other	Lack of openness to accept counselling	

Lack of youth rep in Masjid community	Poor nutritional health	Incarcerated Muslims integrating back into society	Difficulty with discussing family issues	
Masjids not inviting to our neighbours	Isolation vs healthy integration	People convert and revert support	Getting married / finding righteous spouse	
Lack of balanced discussion around terrorism & extremism	Substance abuse in school	Lack of young Muslims engaged in politics		
Feeling of alienation while being in Masjids	Homosexuality	Non representation of Muslims in power structures		
	Sexual identity	Discomfort of diversity within Muslim community		
		Generational and cultural gap		
		Identifying community resources		
		Counselling for mental issues		
		Lack of coordination with other faith groups		