

MY Spirit

Track : Engagement Through
Religious Education & Institutions

Participants

- Imam Sikander Hashmi – Kingston Masjid
- Br. Omar Zia – Peel District School Board
- Br. Yasin Ahmed – Medina Centre (Mercy Mission)
- Br. Muhammad Haque –
- Sr. Aliyya – Youth Centre
- Sr. Afia Baig – ICNA Sisters
- Sr. Zakiya – ICNA Sisters
- Br. Muhammad Zahid – Shalimar Islamic Centre
- Br. Shahzad Mustafa – Mercy Mission
- Sh. Abdullah Hakim Quick – Al Maghrib

Issue 1: Under-representation of Women on Masjid Boards

- Use competition as a means: a few masajids work together for a community wide event that focuses on this or related issues; other, less involved masjid, will become more intrigued **MASJID, ORGANIZATIONS, COALITION OF MASAJID**
- Making the masjid welcoming for woman (i.e. those who are not as observant) **MASJID, SISTER ON THE SISTER'S SIDE (GRASSROOTS), WEEKLY SOCIAL NIGHT**
- A sister's outreach coordinator as a board member; masjid is accountable **MASJID BOARD, MSA MEMBERS, IMAM'S WIFE, COUNCIL OF IMAMS**

Issue 2: Alienation/Absence of Tolerance within the Muslim Society

- Khutbas and Lectures needs to focus on non-traditional topics and alternative topics that address issues of popular culture, relevant social issues, homosexuality, pornography, women's issues, substances abuse, etc – that uses movies, workshop style teaching **GRASSROOTS LEVEL, ENGAGE WITH THE IMAM'S COUNCIL; IMAMS**
- Use of internet to engage the youth – khutbas online, facebook pages for the imam and masjid, twitter handles for imams and masjid, general online engagement. **IMAMS, MASJID BOARDS**

Issue 2: Alienation/Absence of Tolerance within the Muslim Society

- Youth Workers (aged 21-30) who are permanent fixtures in the masjid; they are trained in communication with teens/youth, and they engage the youth everyday – basketball, camps, talking, hanging out, etc.
UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE STUDENTS, MSA, MASJID TO DEVELOP A YOUTH CORE
- Create an all-inclusive structure/rec centre for Muslim youth; Create goals first, start with programs and then build the centre around the programs/community **A THINK TANK, OR A MASJID THAT RE-INVENTS ITSELF, OR A COALITION OF MASAJID, EXISTING ORGANIZATION**
- Educate Imams on how to connect with teens and how to communicate with teens **GRASSROOTS, IMAMS TEACHING IMAMS, COUNCIL OF IMAMS**
- Focus on at-risk Muslims, choose a non-masjid venue and a young, non-traditional imam **NETWORK WITH FAMILIES TO RECRUIT TEENS, MASJIDS**