



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
(Partnership Center)

The Impacts of Islamophobia and Substance Use Disorder on Muslim Communities

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW | Washington, DC 20201
Room 800

Meeting Focus: This meeting will explore ways to best address the impact of trauma experienced by communities affected by acts of hate and violence with a specific focus on substance use disorder (SUD).

Motivating Questions:

1. Profile: How can we effectively incorporate cultural and religious sensitivities when developing strategies to address the effects of Islamophobia on substance use disorders (SUDs) within Muslim communities? What are the unique challenges faced by Muslim communities in accessing mental health and substance use disorder services, and how can these barriers be overcome?
2. Toolkit: How can we ensure that HHS Partnerships Center's substance use disorder toolkit is both accessible and effective for diverse segments of the Muslim community, including youth and women? What are the key components that should be included in a substance use disorder toolkit tailored for the Muslim community to ensure it addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by this group?
3. Solutions: How can we develop and implement strategies to effectively address and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorder within Muslim communities, considering the cultural and religious contexts that influence perceptions and attitudes toward mental health and addiction? What successful approaches or best practices have been used to address Islamophobia, and its impact on substance use within your community?
4. Alignment: What aligned actions can HHS and other key stakeholder groups take to best assist progress in addressing the effects of Islamophobia on substance use disorders? How can government and the Muslim community collaborate to provide support and resources to individuals experiencing the effect of Islamophobia on mental health and/or substance use disorder?

Desired Outcomes:

1. Gather and document best practices from community leaders, experts, and organizations that successfully address Islamophobia and substance use disorders within Muslim communities.
2. Identify and propose solutions to overcome barriers faced by Muslim communities in accessing mental health and substance use disorder services.
3. Create a culturally sensitive and effective toolkit specifically designed for the Muslim community to address substance use disorders. Ensure the developed toolkit and resources are widely accessible and utilized by diverse segments of the Muslim community.

AGENDA

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM: Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome Remarks
 - Ben O'Dell, Management Analyst, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Overview of Meeting Objectives and Agenda
 - Rev. Dr. Que English, Director, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Remarks
 - Dr. Neeraj Gandotra, Chief Medical Officer, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Introduction of Participants
- Opening Reflection
 - Imam Mohamed Hag Magid, Executive Imam, ADAMS Center

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Setting the Context

Understanding the Experience of Islamophobia and Substance Use Disorders in Muslim Communities

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Que English

Speakers

- Zachary Markwith, Deputy Director, Islamic Networks Group (ING)
- Joshua Salaam, Muslim Chaplain, Center for Muslim Life, Duke University
- Abdul Malik, Executive Director, Families United for Social and Educational Development

Reactor Panel

- Dr. Nauman Ashraf, Program Director, Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program; Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, Ozark Center, Freeman Health System; Kansas City University
- Aref Nagi, Program Coordinator, Steps2Change

Discussion

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM: Break

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM: Session 1 - Cultural Sensitivities and Challenges

Questions

- How can we effectively incorporate cultural and religious sensitivities when developing strategies to address the effects of Islamophobia on substance use disorders (SUDs) within Muslim communities?
- What are the unique challenges faced by Muslim communities in accessing mental health and substance use disorder services, and how can these barriers be overcome?

Moderator: Ben O'Dell

Presentations

- Dr. Sarah Mallik, Attending Physician, Montefiore Medical Center
- Dr. Farha Abbasi, MD, Assistant Professor, Muslim Mental Health Consortium, Michigan State University
- Yussuf Shafie, CEO, Treatment Director, Alliance Wellness Center
- Dr. Madiha Tahseen, Research Director, The Family and Youth Institute

Reactor Panel

- Rawha Abouarabi, Project Manager, Health Navigation Program, ACCESS Community Health and Research Program
- Bilal Ansari, Assistant Vice President, Associate Professor, Director Chaplaincy, Hartford International University, William's College, Institute for Muslim Mental Health

Discussion

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Networking Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM: Session 2 - Developing an Effective Toolkit

Questions:

- How can each component in the HHS Partnerships Center's SUD toolkit be tailored to the Muslim community to ensure it addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by this group? What other components should be included?
- How can we ensure that HHS Partnerships Center's SUD toolkit is both accessible and effective for diverse segments of the Muslim community, including youth and women?

Facilitator: Heidi Christensen, Public Affairs Specialist, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Activity: Participants work in small groups around each SUD Toolkit Section to brainstorm and discuss how to best adapt that section to the unique challenges experienced by Muslim communities. Additional components may be introduced.

Group Presentations and Feedback

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM: Break

2:30 PM - 3:45 PM: Session 3 - Sharing Best Practices and Successful Approaches

Questions

- How can we develop and implement strategies to effectively address and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorder within Muslim communities, considering the cultural and religious contexts that influence perceptions and attitudes towards mental health and addiction?
- What successful approaches or best practices have been used to address Islamophobia, and its impact on substance use within your community?

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Que English

Case Studies Presentations

- Dr. Tayeba Shaikh, Clinical Psychologist, Muslim Wellness Foundation
- Javeed Sukhera, Chair, Chief of Psychiatry Founding Director, Center for Research on Racial Trauma and Community Healing
- Mona Abdallah-Hijazi, Public Health Manager, ACCESS
- Dr. Amer Raheemullah, Ph.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University
- Tabari Zahir, Associate Clinical Social Worker, Lamps of Light Project

Reactor Panel

- Dr. Hanan Hashem, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology Department, William James College, Michigan State University
- Shaykha Dr. Rania Awaad, Director, Stanford Muslim Mental Health and Islamic Psychology Lab and President, Maristan

Discussion (32 minutes)

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM: Session 4 - Aligning Actions and Collaboration

Questions

- What aligned actions can HHS and other key stakeholder groups take to best assist progress in addressing the effects of Islamophobia on substance use disorders?
- How can government and the Muslim community collaborate to provide support and resources to individuals dealing with the effects of Islamophobia and substance use disorder?

Moderator: Ben O'Dell

Roundtable Discussion with Government Officials and Community Representatives

Discussion

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM: Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Summary of Key Insights and Takeaways, Heidi Christensen

Outline of Next Steps and Action Items, Ben O'Dell

Closing Remarks, Rev. Dr. Que English and Dr. Neeraj Gandotra