

[DoSomething.org](http://DoSomething.org) has teamed up with Shoulder to Shoulder, the Muslim Student Association, Muslim Youth of North America, and Celebrate Mercy, to help coordinate non-Muslims (with a special focus on youth) to visit mosques (including for Iftar meals) during Ramadan 2017 in order to foster relationships and solidarity in an era of increased anti-Muslim sentiment in the United States.

**WHEN?** Ramadan 2017: May 27-June 25

**HOW?** Is your masjid open to having people of other faiths visit the mosque during Ramadan in some capacity, whether for a group visit, to attend an Iftar or Eid celebration, or something else? Please [register the masjid here](#), and you can indicate what sort of visits you're interested in hosting. Additionally, be sure to put down a contact person who will respond quickly to inquiries!!

Is your masjid already planning to host an Iftar that is open to people of other faiths? Talk to masjid leadership about having it included in this campaign, and make sure to note that in the above registration!

If your masjid is **not** already planning an interfaith Iftar this year, can you talk to your masjid leadership about helping to make it happen? Once you have coordinated this, register it!

**Some tips to make an Iftar welcoming to people of other faiths:**

- Design a short program before the breaking of the fast that is geared toward a religiously mixed audience.
  - One idea is to have approximately 4 masjid members (including youth) be on a talk show-style panel about what it is like to celebrate Ramadan in America. Have a "host" ask the questions, and have each panelist speak for just a couple minutes in response to some of the questions, to give guests a window into the various experiences Muslims have in America and why this month is so important to Muslim life. For any program, keep it short and interesting- everyone will be hungry, so you don't want anything that goes on too long.
  - This campaign is especially geared toward youth, so think about that in program design!
- During the meal, try to get guests to sit at different tables so that they're mixed up with the mosque attendees for conversation. Designate a couple people from the masjid for each table to help make sure the guests are including in conversation. You might consider having some guiding questions (written on notecards or similar) at each table to help facilitate conversation- i.e., What is your favorite religious holiday and why? Where did you grow up? What place on earth feels most like 'home' to you? Etc.

- Have a “welcoming committee” (of youth and adults, mixed genders) to greet guests at the front of the mosque and to offer to guide them through the program (i.e., help them know where to remove shoes, where to sit, etc.)
- While this is a good opportunity to share about Islam with your guests, don’t go overboard in trying to tell them everything about every aspect of the religion! They may have some questions, but mainly, they are there to get to know people, so design the program in a way that facilitates that, rather than trying to make it an Islam 101 session. They’ll come back with more questions later if that’s what they are looking for.
- Consider printing out info cards that explain some of the key elements of the Iftar to guests, and pass them out as guests come in.

**WHY?** Non-Muslims across the country are often curious about Muslims and Islam, but may not know how to learn more, or how to meet Muslims in their community. This provides an excellent “entry-point” for starting these relationships and conversations! And who doesn’t love a great meal?!

**Checklist for before hosting an interfaith iftar at your masjid:**

- ☐ Confirm the date and purpose of this with masjid leadership
- ☐ Form a core team to carry out the planning
- ☐ Design and organizing a short program for the event
- ☐ Print out table conversation discussion questions, if you are using them
- ☐ Print out informational cards, if you are using them
- ☐ Decide on a welcoming committee and orient them to their roles
- ☐ Show up and have a great time!