

MPAC Los Angeles
3010 Wilshire Blvd, #217
Los Angeles, CA 90010

MPAC Washington D.C.
994 National Press Bldg
529 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20045

MPACnews

Briefings about Islam and Muslims in America

from the Muslim Public Affairs Council

The Muslim Public Affairs Council has prepared a statement, talking points, and a national prayer in commemoration of the terrorist attacks of September 11th. The purpose of providing these points is to help amplify the voice of the American Muslim community during these challenging times.

The criminal attack on our country on 9\11 was the most painful event ever experienced in the modern history of our nation. However, with all the pain and grief, it brought out the best of our nation showing our true strength. We will never forget the victims, nor will we diminish our resolve to work in full partnership to protect our country together with all who cherish and appreciate freedom, decency and the value of human life.

Preventing future crimes of similar magnitude is the responsibility, not only of the government and law-enforcement, but of each citizen. We should all diligently take on that task of preventing attacks against our nation. As we protect our country against such outrage, we should understand that the soul of America is what has made America the inspiration, sometimes the envy or even the target of different groups in the world. This is due to its liberties, the dignity and the civil rights granted to all Americans by the constitution and the bill of rights. It is our duty as patriotic citizens to uphold the civil rights of all and to maintain the noble principle of peace. God Bless America.

TALKING POINTS

- Muslims memorialize the victims by keeping their souls and their families in our prayers
- Muslims condemn the outrage of loss of human life and will continue to highlight the Islamic teachings that honor human life, preaches peace and harmony within the human family, and stand upright for freedom of religion and dignity of all human beings.
- We consider ourselves partners with law enforcement, interfaith groups and civil society groups to keep our country safe and the rights of all citizens protected.
- Extremism is an aberration in all religious groups, as it leads to the exploitation of religion and to self-destruction.
- In Islam the concept of Jihad is broad and noble concept to reconcile life to the spiritual model. It starts within ones self for purification, extends to intellectual endeavors of

productive discourse using wisdom, kindness and preaching, to spending resources equitably and justly way to help the disadvantaged, to fighting as a last and hated resort against oppressors who use force to compel people to leave their religion or drive them out of their homes. However if the oppressor inclines to peace, peace should be given a chance, even if this means taking a risk.

- The practices of so-called Muslim governments do not represent Islam, they represent dictatorship.
- The guidance of Islam on governments is the same as the principles and mechanics that govern democracy.
- The so-called “violent” verses in the Quran, are actually verses about rules of engagement not principles of human relations, they are limited to their history and should be read within the general context of the text. This is no different than the verses in the Bible that espouse violent acts.
- Islam promotes complete equity and mutual partnership between men and women. Deviations from this model reflect patriarchal tribal tradition.

An American Muslim Prayer To Remember September 11th, 2001

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Dear God, as our country remembers the heartbreaking events of September 11th, 2001, we humbly turn to You in prayer. At a time where our nation is facing unprecedented challenges, we need Your Spirit, Mercy, and Strength, now more than ever, to guide us down the right path.

Dear Lord, we pray that you have taken under Your Merciful wings those who innocently perished on that tragic day. We are grateful they were once a part of our lives. We thank You for the love and joy they gave their parents, spouses, children, friends, and co-workers. We thank You for the testimony of their faith in their churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples. We thank you for the comfort and courage they extended to others in their last moments. Dear God, with Your compassion, please answer our prayer.

Dear Almighty, shower Your comfort upon the families of the victims. We pray for all who searched the streets and hospital rooms and rubble with fading hopes of finding a dear one alive. Replace the pain in their hearts with the knowledge that their loved ones are in an abode of peace. We pray their tears of grief are replaced with a tranquility of the soul that only You can bestow. Dear God, with Your compassion, please answer our prayer.

O, our Sustainer, bless the children of the victims. Bless them with bountiful lives, with direction and remembrance, with discipline and virtue. Bless them with all that is good, and protect them from all that is evil. May the loss of one or both parents be replaced by Your

Merciful and Blessed guidance. For You are the best of all guides. May the country do what it must to ensure their future. Dear God, with Your compassion, please answer our prayer.

Dear God, we pray for the rescue workers and volunteers from across the nation, who worked faithfully and tirelessly to find survivors and cleared the debris. Sustain them all, dear God and please answer our prayer.

O, Lord strengthen our nation and protect us from evil. Guide our leaders, elevate our society, and enrich the fabric of the country. Dear God, with Your compassion, please answer our prayer.

O, Most Merciful, we have seen the very worst that we are capable of vengeance, greed, and murder. But we have seen the very best that we are capable of - courage, compassion, service, faith, heroism, community, love. Strengthen us and make us better people who will choose the latter and better way.

Dear God, it is in You that we place our ultimate trust; it is to You that we pray; it is to you that we ask for guidance.

Dear Almighty, please bless the victims; Dear Sustainer, please bless the families; Dear God, please bless America.

Amen.

(The prayer was composed by Khadija Abdullah and Omar Ricci, Los Angeles, California, August 2002)