

LAJNA IMA'ILLAH·USA

Lajna Matters

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LAJNA IMA'ILLAH

1922-2022



SPECIAL ISSUE: Highlights of Centenary Celebrations • Oct. 1, 2022 - Sep. 30, 2023

Lajna Matters
Celebrating 100 Years of Lajna Ima'illah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

OCTOBER 1, 2022 TO
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Special Features

Holy Qur'an

Hadith

Quotes by Hazrat
Khalifatul Masib II^{ra}

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Centenary Celebration: A
journey of women's
empowerment

During the Pandemic

African Model Village

Holy Qur'an

Chapter 110, Surah An-Nasr

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿١﴾
إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ﴿٢﴾ وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ
اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ﴿٣﴾ فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ
تَوَّابًا ﴿٤﴾

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful (1).
When the help of Allah comes, and the victory (2),
And thou seest men entering the religion of Allah in
troops (3), Glorify thy Lord, with His praise, and
seek forgiveness of Him. Surely, He is Oft-
Returning with compassion (4).

Hadith

Prayer For Being Grateful and Doing Good
Deeds

Hadrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that he learnt this
prayer from the Holy Prophet^{sa} and never
forgets to repeat it:

*“O Allah, make me such a person who thanks You
immensely, remembers You a great deal and
follows the path of Your pleasure. Enable me to
safeguard Your important injunctions (with my
actions).”*



Quotes by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} Regarding Lajna Ima'illah

Respect the Law and Do Not Be Afraid of Differences of Opinion

The Lajna members should remember that there is a vast scope of work before them. There are such tasks which await them, that as of now they are unable to comprehend. (1929)

Duties of Lajna:

1. They should make sure whether or not all Ahmadi women in their chapter know the Kalima [Shahada] and Salāt. They should administer a test annually and submit a report. There should be no negligence in this regard.
2. Participate in tabligh. Arrange meetings everywhere and invite women. Lajna should pay prompt and immediate attention to this matter. When we preach to non-Ahmadi women and they convert, then they will also persuade their men to accept Ahmadiyyat.
3. Organize the system of chanda. The purpose of chanda is not to fulfill our needs, for God's work never comes to a halt. The purpose of chanda is to strengthen faith. (1929)

The Purpose of Establishing Lajna Ima'illah

It is a grave mistake indeed for Muslims to have failed in placing responsibility upon women; hence leaving their inherent qualities unnurtured. I established Lajna Ima'illah in order to instill a sense of responsibility in women. Consequently, the result is that one is now the president, while another is the secretary, another is designated to collect chanda, and someone else is assigned to oversee affairs. Similarly, they hold their own Jalsas, which they themselves organize, in which they present their own speeches, advocate purdah, undertake the elimination of disputes and arguments, and gather women in one place to offer prayers in congregation. Likewise, there are many other sorts of religious tasks which women are fulfilling most effectively, as a result of having responsibility placed upon them. By assigning them responsibilities, some women have developed the ability to become judges, some to become auditors, others have developed the ability to carry out administrative work, and still others have cultivated the ability to become teachers. (1945)

Reference:

Flowers for the Women Wearing Veils Vol 1: A Collection of Addresses to Women, delivered by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifat-ul- Masih II ra

Excerpt from 2023 Lajna Ima'illah UK Ijtema Address by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Vaba

You cannot rest easy until all members of Lajna seek to convey Islam's teachings and fulfil their duties to ensure the moral and spiritual training of the next generation. Only when you reach such heights will you have fulfilled your objectives, and only then will you be truly able to celebrate 100 years of Lajna Ima'illah. Otherwise, merely reaching 100 years is meaningless and not a measure of any success. Furthermore, as you strive to achieve your religious objectives, never be embarrassed, or fall prey to any inferiority complex. Instead, take pride in your faith and religious conviction. Likewise, if your husbands ever prove an obstacle in the fulfilment of your religious duties, you should tell them without any fear or hesitation that you will never take a backward step when it comes to the fulfilment of your religious obligations. If you manifest such courage and firm faith, you will come to reform Ahmadi men so that they also prioritize their faith over all worldly matters. As the *ijtema* concludes and you return to your homes, every one of you should inculcate within yourselves a firm determination to act upon Islam's teachings at all times.

As the page turns on the first century of Lajna Ima'illah, a blank page now lies before you in the shape of the coming century. And your conduct and standard of faith will determine what is ultimately written upon it. May it be that your sacrifices and unwavering loyalty to your faith come to be recorded in the history of Islam, just like those women who accepted Islam in the time of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. May it be that when the time comes to write the history of this era, the blank page of which I spoke is decorated with stories of countless Ahmadi women from this era who proved that they were ready for every sacrifice for the sake of their faith and who gloriously fulfilled their responsibilities to their religion. May it be that history bears witness to the fact that Ahmadi women were at the vanguard of establishing the Oneness of God in the world, and may we soon come to witness the momentous spiritual victory of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}, where the people of all nations and races spiritually unite and embrace Islam's true teachings. Surely, only in that lies the salvation of the world.

May Allah the Almighty bless you all and may the dawn of the second century of Lajna Ima'illah prove a means of eternal progress for the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah^{as}. *Amin*.



The Significance of Women in Ahmadiyyat

During Jalsa Salana USA 2023, National Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA described what a servant of Allah looks like and behaves like in her concluding address of the Lajna program. Below are excerpts from this address that highlight the significance of women in Ahmadiyyat, and demonstrate how the celebration of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary is an honor bestowed on us by Khilafat.

Khalifatul Masih I Hazrat Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen^{ra} wrote a letter of advice to his daughter: “My child, always put your trust in the Almighty and recognize His presence ... Make prayer a regular habit... make the recitation of the Holy Qur'an a habit... do not sit in the company of such women engaged in vain talks. ...teach the Holy Qur'an to small girls. Speak softly and keep your manners polite. Observe the veil.” – Hakeem Noor-ud-Deen, Khalifatul Masih I, The Way of the Righteous, pg.41

Khalifatul Masih II Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad^{ra} stated: “In order to fulfill the aim and objective of the purpose of our creation, the efforts of women are as necessary as those of men.”

Lajna Constitution

Khalifatul Masih III Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad^{rh} stated: “It is time to serve Islam and Ahmadiyyat. If men and women do not work together and do not struggle for the conquest of Islam, then Islam will never spread in the entire world. You should recognize your status and while keeping your responsibilities in view, should serve the religion as much as possible.”

Khalifatul Masih IV Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh} stated: “According to Islam, women must be emancipated from exploitation and playing a role of being mere instruments of pleasure. They must have more time to themselves to discharge their responsibilities towards their homes and future generations.”

Islam's Response to Contemporary Issues, pg.81

Khalifatul Masih V Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba} stated: “In the establishment and development of any nation or community, the women play a fundamental and vital role, as the responsibility for the training of the future generations lies in the hands of mothers. They are the nation builders.”

Address at National Waqifat-e-Nau Ijtema, February 24, 2018

Message from Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA, Dhiya Bakr Sahiba

In the Name of Allah, The Gracious, The Merciful
Dhiya Tahira Bakr-Sadr, Lajna Ima'illah-USA



October 1, 2022,

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatahu.

Dear Lajna Ima'illah USA,

Today, October 1, 2022, is the beginning of our Lajna Ima'illah Worldwide Centenary, Alhumdulillah.

In 1922; Khalifatul Masih II Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad rh established Lajna Imaillah. He felt that a vigorous participation of Ahmadi women was as essential for the success of the Community, as that of men..." (Lajna Constitution). It has now been 100 years and many achievements have occurred and many tasks are yet to be fulfilled.

Our Centenary will be celebrated from October 1, 2022, to October 1, 2023, around the world. At the national level, we are planning some activities and will provide guidance for local and regional activities.

To initiate this grand Lajna Centenary:

1. I am sending to your majlis, as a gift, the book "Hijab". It is an awesome read that presents the beauty and empowerment of the Hijab. Please receive this book in the spirit of promoting the identity and liberation of Muslim women. You can create study groups. There are not enough books for everyone, but it is also available online and can be download from the lajna website under the Tarbiyyat section. [Tarbiyyat \(Moral Training\) | Lajna Ima'illah USA \(lajnausa.net\)](#)
2. We have been invited to participate in an international volleyball tournament, MashaAllah, to be held in the UK. Each majlis should determine if you have good volleyball players to represent Lajna Ima'illah USA *and practice*. The details will be forthcoming.

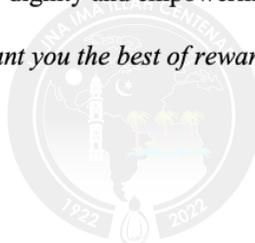
I am happy to be a part of this Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. It is a milestone and very exciting to be celebrated. There is one major point that we must remember as we begin our celebrations: **Khalifatul Masih V Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad aba guidance**. He said: "What truly matters is that upon the fulfillment of 100 years of Lajna Imaillah, every single member of Lajna and Nasirat should be fully involved in the affairs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. And should be acting upon its teachings. Every single one of them should be regular in the worship of Allah. And in reciting and acting upon the Holy Quran. Every member should have the strongest possible bond with the Jamaat." (Hazrat Khalifa-tul Masih V aba address to Germany's National Amila meeting, March 27, 2021).

WE, Lajna Ima'illah USA are so blessed to begin the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary with our beloved Huzoor aba in the USA. ALHUMDULILLAH!!! I pray that we rise to the expectations of our Khalifa, are steadfast in our faith and demonstrate the dignity and empowerment of the Hijab. Ameen.

JazakAllah Ahsan Al Jaza/May Allah grant you the best of rewards.

Wa Alaikum Salaams,

Dhiya Tahira Bakr humbly serving as
Sadr, Lajna Ima'illah USA



National Correspondence

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**OFFICE OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO
HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASHIH V**

Assistant Private Secretary (Honorary)
LAJNA SECTION

Email: office@centrallajna.org

Circular LS: 2812

Date: 15th June 2021

Respected National President, Lajna Imaillah,
Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatohu

Circular: Period of Lajna Imaillah Centenary Celebrations

With gratitude to Allah for His Grace and Blessings, Lajna Imaillah Worldwide shall, Insha' Allah, celebrate its Centenary next year.

In accordance with the directive of Huzoor Anwar^(aba), the period of celebration of the Centenary shall be from **1st October 2022 to 1st October 2023.**

May Allah enable us all to witness this historical event with His blessings, and by way of showing gratitude to Allah the Almighty, enable Lajna members of every country to fulfill their responsibilities with ever greater zeal and enable them to instill the sense of responsibility among their progeny. Ameen.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely,

Rehana Ahmad
Rehana Ahmad

In-Charge Lajna Section



Lajna Centenary Celebrations Committee

In 2020, Lajna Ima'illah USA started to plan for the celebration of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. National Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA Dhiya Bakr Sahiba appointed Mubarika Shah Sahiba as Chair, Lajna Centenary Celebrations Committee USA to establish a committee and to make a plan for the celebration of 100 years of Lajna Ima'illah. The committee was established primarily from members of the National Amila..

In April 2021, a directive was received from Wakil Aal'a Sahib of Anjuman Tehrik Jadid Rabwah, through Amir Sahib USA, describing the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} for the celebration of the Lajna Centenary year. The committee quickly changed its course and started to plan according to the guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. The following goals were established directly on the basis of the statements in the guidelines provided by Huzoor^{aba} .

Goals of the Lajna Centenary Celebrations

1. "Every single one of them should be regular in the worship of Allah...":
Strive for 100% Lajna members' regularity in 5 daily prayers.
2. "...and in reciting and acting upon the Holy Qur'an, observance of purdah, and fulfilling the rights of humans":
All Lajna members should recite the Holy Quran daily, learn the translation and follow its teachings emphasizing purdah and serving humanity.
3. "Every member should have the strongest possible bond with the Jama'at.":
Increase the love of the jamaat, and Khilafat among Lajna members and increase participation in Lajna Ima'illah activities.

Implementation of Goals

In adherence to the advice and directions of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}, the Centenary Celebrations Committee created a plan for the programs and activities for Lajna Ima'illah USA. Seven sub-committees were established and made detailed plans of the activities and implemented them throughout the year. These sub-committees involved additional Lajna members for various tasks to execute their plans.



Centenary Celebrations Committee Members - Lajna Ima'illah USA

Name	National Office – 2022
Dhiya Tahir Bakr	Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA
Mubarika Shah	Honoray Member & Chair Lajna Centenary Celebration Committee
Attiya Salik	Secretary Lajna Centenary Celebration Committee
Mahmooda Rehman	Naib Sadr I
Mabroor Jattala*	Naib Sadr II
Dr. Aziza Rehman	Naib Sadr III
Amatul Hai Ahmad	Naib Sadr IV
Sabahat Ali	General Secretary
Sahar Choudhry	Assistant General Secretary
Dr. Amtul Rehman Ahmad	Secretary Taleem
Zuna Ahmad	Secretary Tarbiyyat
Nurjamila Bahri	Secretary Nasirat
Dr. Amtul Quddus Ayaz-Shams	Secretary Tabligh
Musawir Ahmad	Honorary Member
Noor Bhatti	Muavina Sadr Office
Laeeqa Mirza	Secretary Nau Mubaiyat
Dr. Khadijat Ogunbiyi	Secretary Sihate-Jismani
Aziza Rana Sahiba	Secretary Ziafat
Cassandra Sayles Shafeek	Secretaray Khidmat-e-Khalaq
Ruqaiya Asad*	Secretary Isha'at
Nakasha Ahmad	Secretary Muhasiba Maal
Shahina Bashir	Muavina Sadr Media Watch
Shazia Sohail	Muavina Sadr Public Affairs

*These members could not continue their responsibilities during the Lajna Centenary year

Submitted by Mubarika Shah

Chair, Lajna Centenary Celebrations Committee – Lajna Ima'illah USA



Lajna Ima'illah USA National Conference Center

In October 2022, Lajna Ima'illah USA had the honor and blessing to host Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} during his most recent visit to the United States, which took place during the historic Lajna Ima'illah Centenary year. During the tour in Maryland, National Lajna Ima'illah USA Sadr requested Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} to perform *dua* at the site of the future Lajna Ima'illah USA Conference Center, adjacent to Baitur Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland. On October 16, 2022, Huzoor^{aba} visited the site, which had been marked with a special banner for this occasion and performed *dua*.



Lajna Majlis-e-Shura 2022

Lajna Ima'illah USA was confronted by immense challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its restrictions, and the civil unrest sparked in response to racially motivated violence and police brutality, during the three years prior to the 2022 Lajna Malis-e-Shura. These challenges propelled Lajna USA to broaden its intellectual and social horizons under the guidance of Beloved Huzoor (aba). [See 'During the Pandemic' section starting on pg. 58]

On December 2-4, 2022, after a period of three years, Lajna Majlis-e-Shura was the first national event to be held in the newly inaugurated Fath-e-Azeem Mosque in Zion, Illinois.

During this Lajna Majlis-e-Shura, a sub-committee deliberated on the following proposal: **Initiative to Reach 100% Holy Qur'an Recitation, Salat and Purdah Observance for the 100th Anniversary of Lajna Ima'illah.** They made recommendations to ensure that 100% of Lajna Ima'illah implement the three practices: daily recitation of the Holy Qur'an, offering the five daily prayers, and observance of purdah. These recommendations were submitted to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} for review and approval. Alhumdolillah, they were approved and are now being implemented through the National Lajna Ima'illah USA program and activities.

LAJNA IMA'ILLAH USA
SERVANTS OF ALLAH
National Program
2023-2025

OUR FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen our regular worship
- Strengthen our daily recitation of Holy Qur'an
- Strengthen our modesty/purdah
- Strengthen our bond with Khilafat

TALEEM (EDUCATION)

<p>First Quarter ; Servants of Allah April-May-June 2023 Servants of Allah Shura Proposal 2022 Goals #1 Recitation fuels my soul Theme Fuel your soul with daily recitation of the Holy Quran Activity Workshop/Discuss how to overcome the challenges in daily recitation; ways to remind us to recite. Books Magnificent Qualities of the Holy Quran Poem by Promised Messiah ^{as} https://www.alislam.org/books/Essence-1.pdf</p> <p>April:2023 Blessings of daily recitation Holy Quran: 2:98, 2:186, 16:103, 17:83, 17:90, 54:41 Hadith: Reciter of the Holy Quran vs a non-reciter. Malfoozat: (Malfoozat Vol. II p. 122) Tarteel: Recognition of Dots in Arabic Alphabets Arabic Grammar: introduction to verbs in Arabic parts of speech</p> <p>May: 2023 Commandments of Allah to recite the Holy Quran Holy Quran:16:99, 17:79, 73:5-6, 73:21 Hadith: Case of the one who knows no part of Quran Malfoozat: [Kashti Nuh, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 19, pp. 26-27] Tarteel: Phonetics and pronunciation of Arabic alphabets Arabic Grammar: Trilateral Verbs in Arabic Past perfect. <i>Tail Maadi</i></p> <p>June: 2023 Blessings of Teaching the Holy Quran to others Holy Quran:2:130, 3:80, 3:165, 47:25, 55:2-3, 62:03 Hadith: Best among you is one who learns and teaches the Holy Quran Malfoozat: (Malfoozat Vol III page 10) Testimony of the Holy Quran 82 Tarteel: Change in letter form while joining together Arabic Grammar: Past Perfect Verbs of the Holy Quran</p>	<p>Second Quarter: July-August-September 2023 Servants of Allah Shura Proposal 2022 Goals # 2, Cultivate a relation with Allah: Salat Theme: Watch over Salat, say it separately, on time and with concentration, repeat words of Salat Activity: Virtual Salat booster camp, correlate with members: Reminders like alarm, azan, prayer rugs Books: https://www.alislam.org/library/books/BasicsReligiousEducation.pdf https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Salat-The-Muslim-Prayer-Book.pdf https://www.alislam.org/book/online-salat-guide/ July 2023 Commandments of Allah regarding Salat Holy Quran:2:4, 2:44, 20:133, 24:57, 4:104 Hadith: Case of the one who takes a bath five times a day Malfoozat: Vol I page 161-162 Tarteel: Practice joining letters Arabic Grammar: Trilateral Verbs and their forms in the Holy Quran Salat: memorize with translation August 2023 Significance of observance of Salat Holy Quran: 10:88, 29:46, 62:10-11 Hadith: Allah removes our faults when we observe prayers Malfoozat: Malfoozat Vol 10 pg314 Tarteel: Practice to pronounce Arabic Alphabets with and without dots Arabic Grammar Trilateral with additions in Verbs in the Holy Quran Salat: memorize with translation September 2023: Allah desires Ease not discomfort Holy Quran:4:44, 4:102, 5:7, Hadith: Wudu of the Holy Prophet ^{smw}. Malfoozat: <i>Ruhani Khaza'in; Kashti Nuh</i> Vol 19 pages 69-70 Ease not hardship vol II page 21 Tarteel: Practice Allah's attributive names by joining letters Arabic Grammar: Verbs with weak letters, in the Holy Quran Salat: memorize with translation</p>
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Centenary Exhibition at Jalsa Salana 2023

As part of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebrations, Lajna Ima'illah USA organized a special exhibition at Jalsa Salana USA in July 2023.

The exhibition was designed to highlight the status of women in Islam, and the contributions of Ahmadi Muslim women throughout history. Quotes from the Promised Messiah^{as} pertaining to the role of women, emphasizing their status and importance in society, were highlighted. A brief history of the inception of Lajna Ima'illah as an auxiliary by Khalifatul Masih II Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad^{ra} was depicted. Another section displayed the journey of African American Lajna who initially began as sewing circles, and later laid the foundation for Lajna Ima'illah in the United States.



The exhibition also featured an interactive map displaying all Lajna chapters across the country, along with highlights of their recent activities. There was a display of Lajna Ima'illah USA's participation in the first International Lajna Volleyball tournament in London. A model of the future Lajna Ima'illah Conference Center was presented, along with footage of Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} performing dua at the future conference site in 2022.

Centenary National Lajna Ijtema

The National USA Lajna Ima'illah and Nasirat Ijtema was held on August 26-27, 2023 at Baitur Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland. There were approximately 1200 attendees on Saturday, and an estimated 800 attendees on Sunday. The morning program, on Saturday, included a Lajna workshop on "Sisters of Faith: Stronger Together Embracing Diversity & Unity" and competitions on recitation and memorization of the Holy Qur'an. The afternoon session included many enjoyable activities for attendees, including a volleyball tournament, a meena bazaar, indoor and



and outdoor recreational activities, and a field trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C. There was also a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary exhibition and booths from the Wasiyaat department, the Ahmadi Muslim Women's Scientists Association, and the Rishta Nata department for attendees to visit. The concluding session on Sunday included a Lajna workshop on "Holding Fast to the Rope of Allah", a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary video viewing, an award ceremony, and closing remarks from National Sadr Sahiba.

The Lajna Ima'illah Centenary Celebrations pamphlet was prepared by the Lajna Centenary Committee, and distributed at the 2023 National Lajna Ima'illah USA Ijtema as a gift to all the attendees.

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT LAJNA IMA'ILLAH USA

 Aliyya Ali was the first African American woman to embrace Islam in 1921.

 Ahmadi women 'Sewing Circles' were officially named Lajna Ima'illah in 1935.

 Aliyya Muhammad was the first elected Local Sadr Lajna Pittsburgh in 1936.

 The first National Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA, Amatul Hafiz Nasir, was appointed in 1949, and elected in Jalsa Salana USA.

 Jameela Hamid served as the first National Nasirat Secretary from 1961.

 Lajna USA raised \$1.7 million for construction of the Fath-e-Azeem Mosque in Zion, IL.

- 18 National Sadras have served Lajna Ima'illah USA since 1949.
- The English Translation of Lajna Ima'illah Constitution was introduced in 1961.
- The First Lajna Ijtema was held in 1964.
- Lajna Ima'illah USA regions were established in 1973

CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LAJNA IMA'ILLAH

1922 - 2022



IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF THE PURPOSE OF OUR CREATION, THE EFFORTS OF WOMEN ARE AS NECESSARY AS THOSE OF MEN.

—Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}, The Constitution of Lajna Ima'illah




[@lajnamediausa](https://www.facebook.com/lajnamediausa)
[@lajnausa](https://www.instagram.com/lajnausa)

Historical Facts about Lajna Ima'illah

 Lajna Ima'illah was established in 1922 in Qadian, India by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}.

 Lajna's first meeting was held on December 25, 1922, in Darul Masih (the house of the Promised Messiah^{sa}), under the supervision of Hazrat Nusrat Jehan Begum Sahiba^{ra}, the wife of the Promised Messiah^{sa}.

 The first magazine of Lajna Ima'illah, "Mishbah," was introduced in 1926.

 Lajna Ima'illah's first significant financial sacrifice was to build the Fazal Mosque in London, UK.

 Nasiratul Ahmadiyya was established in 1928.

 During Jalsa Salana in December 1939, the Lajna flag was raised for the first time by the blessed hands of Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION PROGRAM GOALS - LAJNA IMA'ILLAH USA

- ❖ Inspire and motivate Lajna members through National Sadr Sahiba's messages.
- ❖ Strive for 100% of Lajna membership being regular in the 5 daily prayers, recitation of the Holy Quran, and practicing its commands and researching its insights.
- ❖ Increase Lajna participation in Wasiyyat.
- ❖ Reconnect with inactive Lajna members, inspiring a love for the Jama'at, Khilafat, and participation in Lajna and Jama'at activities.
- ❖ Create a Lajna Centenary Celebration logo for this historical milestone and increase Lajna's awareness on the importance of being a Lajna Ima'illah member.
- ❖ Hold celebration events in 2022-2023 at the National, Regional, and Local levels.
- ❖ Prepare a documentary on the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah, blessings of Khilafat, and sacrifices of pioneer Lajna members of USA.
- ❖ request to HSpecialazrat Khalifatul Masih^{sa} for dua (prayers) at the future site of Lajna Ima'illah•USA Conference Center.
- ❖ Post motivational messages on Social Media.
- ❖ Serve humanity through community gardens, with Lajna and Nasirat working together in each majlis.
- ❖ Hold Lajna centenary exhibition at Jalsa Salana 2023; display Nasirat banner competition.
- ❖ Make Ijtema program on centenary goals, the wisdom behind purdah, faith affirmed, and awareness of pioneer Lajna Members.
- ❖ Special Publications:
 - Souvenir on the history of Lajna Ima'illah USA
 - Biographies of Lajna USA pioneers
 - Special edition of The Ayesha
 - Centenary issue of Lajna Matters
 - Lajna History book

Comments from Participants

As-Salamo 'Alaikum Dear Sadr Sahiba,

Alhamdulillah for a most successful Ijtema! Jazakumullah to you and all who worked so hard to make this wonderful Centenary National Ijtema! It was a real pleasure to be there and participate. The workshops were excellent and most thought provoking and engaging, the Centenary video very moving, and the standard of participants in the competitions was very good, I thought. May Allah bless you and all the workers and enable us all to truly embrace and nurture in ourselves the gems of wisdom and loving energy that we shared. It would be so wonderful to have a National Ijtema every year, InshaAllah!!

Was-Salam,

Saliha



Assalamo Alaikum.

I pray you are well by the grace of Allah. JazakAllah for your kind words. We are grateful to Allah and Sadr Sahiba to have had an opportunity to attend and do a workshop at the Centenary National Ijtema. This was my first time attending a National Ijtema and it was a great experience especially coming together as we celebrated 100

years of Lajna Ima'illah. Living on the West Coast, we don't have as many opportunities to get together in such a large number, and it was inspiring for all of us to witness the scale of the event. May Allah bless the efforts of all the volunteers and the attendees and make it a source of blessing and positive change. May Allah bless us with many more opportunities to come together as sisters in faith. Ameen.

Jazakallah & wasalam

Saadia Ahmed

Silicon Valley Muavina Maal



Message from Respected National Sadr Sahiba

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatahu.

Dear Sadr Maryland Sahiba, President Maryland Jamaat Sahib, Sadr Khuddumul Ahmadiyyat Sahib and Regional Sadraat,

I pray that this email finds you doing well. Please share this message with your teams. I like to convey my sincere appreciation for your assistance with Lajna Ima'illah USA National Ijtema. Your members exceeded themselves: Their work performance was fantastic. They made the Lajna Ima'illah USA National Ijtema logistics smooth and overall a successful event. Everyone was kind, attentive to their role or task and helpful. They made it truly a special event. May Allah bless them for their efforts. I can't even express the words that represent my feelings, all I can say is that it was awesome to see members in action to bring this event to fruition. MashaAllah. I even heard them working late into the night.

I like to give a special acknowledgement to the Ziafat teams. My plan was to personally visit the Ziafat area but I was involved with other things. Please convey that they did a superb job with the meals. Everyone enjoyed them and there was plenty for the healthy appetites. May Allah be pleased with their work.

I hope that we did not cause too much burden for the Maryland jamaat. I will remember the volunteers in general in my prayers.

JazakAllah Ahsan Al Jaza/May Allah grant you the best of rewards.

WasSalaams.

Your sister Dhiya Tahira Bakr

Humbly serving as Sadr, Lajna Ima'illah – USA



Taleem Matters

In 2022, the Taleem department worked on the following Lajna Ima'illah Shura proposal, in line with the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary objectives set by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}:

Proposal: Initiative to Reach 100% Holy Qur'an Recitation, Salat and Purdah Observance for the 100th Anniversary of Lajna Ima'illah

At the occasion of Lajna Ima'illah Centennial, we would like to propose an initiative that ensures that 100% of our Lajna sisters implement these three practices:

1. Daily recitation of the Holy Qur'an
2. Offering the five daily prayers
3. Observance of Purdah

These are the commandments of Allah. Beloved Huzoor^{aba} regularly issues directives regarding these many times. Our survey data in the past several years demonstrates that the number of sisters who observe all three is sadly low. To promote sisterhood and support in this journey, this initiative would be a great way for us to commemorate our 100th anniversary, overcome the challenges in practicing these commandments regularly, and enhance our individual and communal spirituality. We request Majlis-e-Shura to propose some practical ways in which we can implement this initiative. (Virginia North)



Implementation: These goals were implemented by preparing a robust Taleem program in line with the desired objectives of the proposal. In the first three quarters, Lajna learned the commandments in the Holy Qur'an regarding the above-mentioned goals, and their significance and benefits in our lives. In the next three quarters, Lajna will evaluate the change brought about in our spirituality after practicing these three activities for this year.

Submitted by Dr. Amtul R Ahmad
National Taleem Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA



Tabligh Matters

Virginia North

On March 30, 2023, Virginia North Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration at Mubarak Mosque. There were 71 non-Ahmadi in attendance, including three elected officials, interfaith representatives from the local county, and members representing the Church of Latter-Day Saints and Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. The event highlighted the role of Muslim women and emphasized the foresight of Khalifatul Masih II Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad^{ra}, who established the women's auxiliary as a platform for women empowerment and education. One guest remarked "We wish you another 100 years ahead, and then hundreds more."



Minnesota

Minnesota Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration during Eid-ul-Adha on June 28, 2023 at Nusrat Mosque. Several guests joined and were presented with Lajna Ima'illah Centenary souvenir keychains. During the program, guests learned about devotion of Lajna Ima'illah to Ahmadiyyat, and enjoyed a special Lajna Ima'illah Centenary cake.

North Jersey

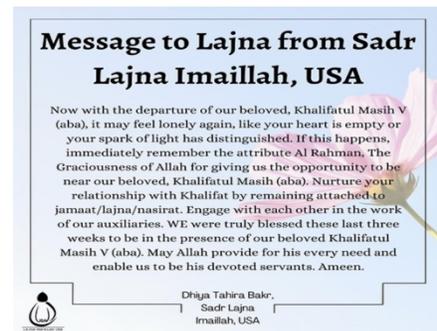
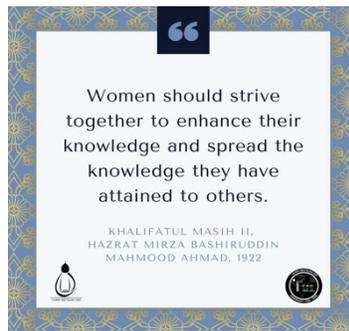
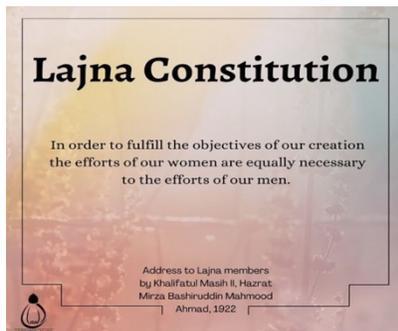
On August 19, 2023, North Jersey Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration at Baitul Wahid Mosque. Several guests attended the program that included the history of Lajna in Ahmadiyyat, and contributions of pioneer Lajna. All guests received gift bags at the end of the event.



Submitted by Amatul Quddus Ayaz-Shams
National Tabligh Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA

Media Watch Matters

On October 1, 2022, an auspicious time began for Lajna Ima'illah worldwide. It was the time to celebrate 100 years of the establishment of this auxiliary by Khalifatul Masih II Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad^{ra}. As Lajna Ima'illah USA commemorated the centenary, Lajna Media Watch used social media platforms, Instagram and Twitter, to broadcast this joyful occasion in the history of Lajna Imaillah USA. Quotes and excerpts from the Lajna Ima'illah Constitution, historic memories of Lajna Ima'illah USA, and verses from the Holy Qur'an were shared. Below are a few examples of posts on Instagram.



Over the span of a year, there was a marked increase in followers on both Twitter and Instagram, and this continues to increase, Alhamdulillah. The goal is to reach a maximum number of younger Lajna members so that they will benefit from the posts and learn about the history of Lajna and be exposed to religious knowledge.

In celebration of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary, Lajna Ima'illah USA organized an exhibition which was displayed at the 2023 Jalsa Salana USA, as well as at the National Lajna Ima'illah USA Ijtema. Two writers from the Media Watch team wrote reports on the exhibition:

- Lajna Ima'illah USA Centenary Celebration: A journey of women's empowerment: <https://medium.com/@ahmadsahmad/lajna-imaillah-usa-centenary-celebration-a-journey-of-womens-empowerment-6c40ecca7925> (This article is reproduced in its entirety, starting on page 40)
- The Lajna Ima'illah USA Centenary Exhibition - A Celebration of Faith, Legacy, and Progress: <https://medium.com/@atiaghani/the-lajna-imaillah-usa-centenary-exhibition-a-celebration-of-faith-legacy-and-progress-c6f6f0105a1a>

Submitted by Shahina Bashir
National Muavina Sadr In-Charge Media Watch, Lajna Ima'illah USA



Publications Matters

The Ayesha Magazine: Centenary Issue

Since its inception in 1963, the Ayesha has served as a platform for sharing experiences and promoting dialogue on issues important to Ahmadi Muslim women. The centenary issue celebrates our history and diversity and highlights the variety of Ahmadi Muslim women's experiences in America. It reflects the profound impact that Lajna Ima'illah has had on the lives of its members and contains personal reflections on Lajna Ima'illah by a number of talented writers and inspiring poems. An article on Hazrat Chiragh Bibi Sahiba^{rh}, the esteemed mother of the Promised Messiah^{as} is in the Women of Excellence section, and an article on current affairs is included as well.

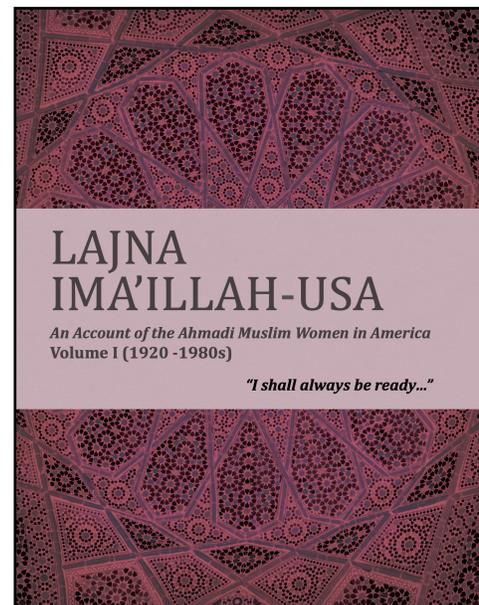
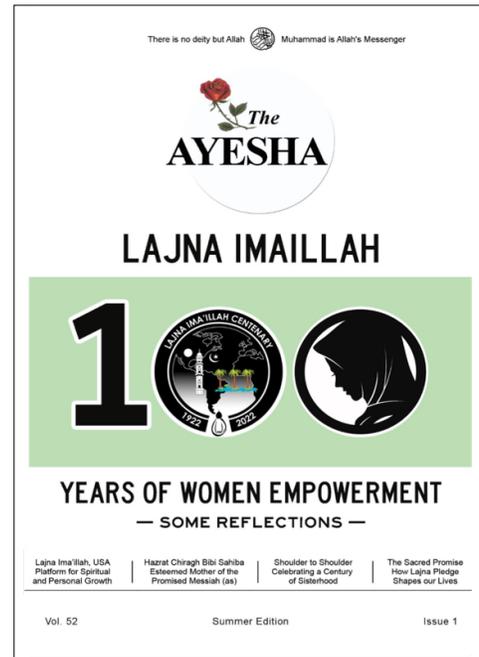
Lajna Matters: Special Centenary Issue

Please enjoy this issue!

Lajna Ima'illah USA: An Account of the Ahmadi Muslim Women in America, Volume I (1920 – 1980s)

The final review and edit of the Lajna Ima'illah USA history book has been finalized and sent to the Jama'at Publications Secretary. The biographies of National Lajna presidents, pioneer sisters, and other members whose contributions have been outstanding and consistent in moving the mission of USA Lajna forward are featured in the book. It presents the history of Lajna Ima'illah USA in the context of the Khilafat under which it occurred. To give an accurate historical perspective, brief information about secular events that occurred in America and globally is also provided, simultaneous to the growth of Ahmadiyyat and the advancement of USA Lajna. A timeline is provided to fill in some of the gaps.

Submitted by Shazia Sohail
National Isha'at Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA



Centenary Celebrations

AZ-Tucson

On September 9, 2023, Tucson Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration at Yousuf Mosque. A total of 36 Lajna and Nasirat attended the event. Four guests also attended the event, including the Director of Community Engagement from the local congressman's office. The program included an introduction to Islam, Ahmadiyyat, and Lajna Ima'illah, as well as presentations on the importance and meaning of both the Lajna Ima'illah flag and the Lajna pledge. This was followed by an overview of the history of Tucson Lajna Ima'illah, including a video on the local pioneer members and a presentation with discussion by elder Lajna members. The event ended with concluding remarks and a silent prayer observed by all attendees.



AZ-Phoenix

Phoenix Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration on May 21, 2023. The attendees included National Sadr of Lajna Ima'illah USA, as well as Lajna from Tucson. The program included a presentation on pioneer Lajna in Phoenix and a slideshow of Phoenix Lajna events from over the years. The event concluded with an address by National Sadr Sahiba on the important role of Ahmadi Muslim women.

CA-Los Angeles East

On May 7, 2023, Los Angeles East Lajna hosted a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration at Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino, California. The attendees included many Lajna members from the Southwest Lajna region, including Lajna from the Los Angeles West, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Tucson chapters. The opening session of the program included the recitation of the Holy Qur'an and an Urdu poem. This was followed by brunch and a sister socialization hour to strengthen the bonds of

sisterhood. During the afternoon session, a video on the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary was viewed and local pioneer and elder Lajna shared memories from over the years. The session closed with an engaging session on sharing valuable advice learned from mothers, which provided valuable insights on raising Ahmadi children in today's society.

CA-Silicon Valley

Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration on January 21, 2023 at Baitun Baseer Mosque in Milpitas, California. The program was attended by over 75 Lajna and Nasirat. The program was organized and led by Umoore-e-Talibat and included interactive sisterhood building activities, Lajna history trivia, and a session on memories of Silicon Valley Lajna.



FL-Miami

Miami Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary through many exciting activities. A Lajna Ima'illah Centenary tree was planted at the grounds of Baitun Naseer Mosque. Additionally, a Miami Lajna created and donated a handmade model of Fateh-e-Azeem Mosque in Zion, Illinois for display at the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary Exhibition at Jalsa Salana USA 2023. The local Lajna Ijtema focused on the theme "Lajna Ima'illah Centenary Celebration and Servants of Allah" and included a presentation on Miami Lajna by a pioneer Lajna member.



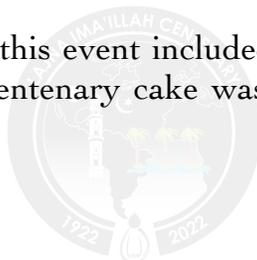


FL-Orlando

Orland Lajna hosted their local Lajna and Nasirat Ijtema with the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary theme of "excelling in prayer, and establishing sisterhood." A total of 23 Lajna and 5 Nasirat attended the event. During the Ijtema program, a special focus was given on salat through various quizzes and presentations. Additionally, a special Ziafat competition was held during the local Ijtema to encourage Lajna to cook and bake dishes to celebrate the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary.

SC-Georgia/SC

On April 29, 2023, Georgia Lajna hosted a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary event. Prior to the event, local Lajna had compiled the history of Georgia Lajna into a book of memories. Additionally, during the month of Ramadan, a team of Georgia Lajna produced a video to showcase the pioneer Lajna of Georgia and past local Lajna presidents. Both the book and video created by local Lajna were presented to all attendees during the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary program. Social activities during this event included a henna booth by Nasirat and a photobooth. A Lajna Ima'illah Centenary cake was baked by a local Lajna and was served to all attendees.



IL-Chicago

Chicago Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary on June 17, 2023 at Baitul Jaamay Mosque in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The event was attended by 130 Lajna and nearly 100 Nasirat and children under seven. The program included a presentation and jeopardy game by Umoore Talibaat, and an opportunity to partake in interactive activities, such as dessert and art competitions, crafts, a photobooth, and a board for Lajna to share their goals for the next 100 years. A special Lajna Ima'illah Centenary cake was served to all attendees.



IL-Zion

On August 6, 2023, Zion Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration. The program began with the recitation of Holy Qur'an, hadith, an Urdu poem and the Lajna Ima'illah pledge. This was followed by a thorough history of Lajna Zion, including photos and stories depicting the evolution of the chapter. The event was

attended by National Sadr of Lajna Ima'illah USA, who addressed the Zion Lajna during the program. Prior to the celebration, Zion Lajna were requested to decorate quilt squares in celebration of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. These were assembled together to create a special Lajna Ima'illah Centenary quilt during the event.



IN-Indiana

Indiana Lajna held a local Lajna Ijtema on August 5, 2023 which included activities to celebrate the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. The program included presentations and workshops on the history of Lajna Ima'illah USA and Indiana Lajna, as well as the expectations of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} from Lajna Ima'illah in celebration of the centenary. Posters were created and shared on what steps Lajna would take at the individual level, at the family level and at the community level as Lajna Ima'illah.

MA-Fitchburg

A Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration was held. The program included sisterhood building activity, presentations on the history of Lajna Ima'illah and the Lajna flag, and a jeopardy session on various Lajna Ima'illah Centenary topics. Attendees were given a souvenir mug for the celebration.



MD-Baltimore

Baltimore Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary during a local Lajna ijtema on June 20, 2023 at Baitus Samad Mosque in Baltimore, Maryland. The program included a presentation on the history of Baltimore Lajna by pioneer Lajna, as well as a presentation on career pathways and opportunities for Lajna. Activities included Ziafat and handicraft competitions organized around the centenary theme.



MD-Maryland

Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary during a local Ijtema held on June 3, 2023 at Baitur Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland. Over 280 Lajna and Nasirat participated in the event that focused on the theme "Celebrating Lajna Ima'illah Centenary". The program included a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary themed dessert competition, a presentation on the history of Maryland Lajna, a workshop on self-reform through Salat, Qur'an, and purdah, and a special panel discussion on purdah and hijab through the eyes of local Lajna and Hazrat

Khalifatul Masih Vaba. All the participants were gifted the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary drawstring bags and water bottles as souvenirs.



MN-Minnesota

Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary on June 28, 2023 at Nusrat Mosque in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. A total of 47 attendees, including Lajna, Nasirat, and guests, participated in the event. The program included a presentation of the history and symbolism of the Lajna flag. A brief history on





Lajna Ima'illah in Minnesota was presented by a local pioneer Lajna. All Lajna and guests were gifted a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary key chain as souvenirs, and Nasirat were gifted a journal and pen. A memory board captured comments on the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary from all attendees.

NJ-Central

On December 30, 2022, Central Jersey Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. The program began with an icebreak activity to encourage sisterhood, and was followed by an interactive session on the life of Hazrat Amma Jan^{ra} as well as a presentation on the Islamic perspective on homosexuality and gender identity. After the presentations concluded, dinner and a special Lajna Ima'illah Centenary cake was served to all attendees and was followed by a bonfire.



NJ-North

A Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration was held on August 19, 2023 at Baitul Wahid Mosque in Hawthorne, New Jersey. The program was attended by over 50 Lajna, Nasirat, and guests. The program included a presentation on the history of Lajna Ima'illah USA, as well as presentations on the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah in North Jersey, and contributions and sacrifices of pioneer Lajna. A photo gallery of historical moments for Lajna Ima'illah and Nasirat displayed during the event. All guests received a special gift bag and recorded their comments in a guest book.



Northeast Region: NY- Queens, NY-Brooklyn, and NY-Long Island

Lajna from Queens, Brooklyn/Staten Island, and Long Island celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary at Baitus Zafar Mosque in Queens, New York. The program included a presentation titled "Blessings of Khilafat" that emphasized the immense blessings for

Lajna Ima'illah since being established by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}. The program also included an explanation of the timeline of Lajna Ima'illah, and a panel discussion featuring Lajna who had come to New York between 1960 and 1980. To commemorate the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary, a banner was created with the handprints of all attendees.





NY-Albany

On January 29, 2023, Albany Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration. The program included presentations on the history of Lajna Ima'illah, memories from Albany Lajna, and a slideshow of Lajna events over the years. This was followed by other engaging activities, including games, a calligraphy competition, and prize distribution.

NY-Brooklyn/Staten Island

Brooklyn and Staten Island Lajna held a celebration for the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary on May 6, 2023. The program began with narratives from pioneer Lajna, as well as previous local Lajna presidents. A panel discussion that included both Lajna and Nasirat was held on the planning for the next 100 years of Lajna Ima'illah. This was followed by social activities for all attendees, including a carnival with various games and a meena bazaar.



On June 3, 2023, Brooklyn and Staten Island Lajna held a local Lajna Ijtema with the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary theme, "Servants of Allah."

The program began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, hadith and the Lajna Ima'illah pledge, and included Taleem competitions and handicraft competitions. During the afternoon session of the program, there was a group discussion on how to become a servant of Allah in our daily lives and a workshop for Lajna and Nasirat on different skills, including earring making and coding. The Ijtema concluded with prize distribution and dessert.

OH-Cleveland

Cleveland Lajna held a local handicraft competition to celebrate the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. From the submissions, a painting was awarded in the handicraft competitions at Jalsa Salana USA, and another painting was displayed at the Lajna Exhibition at Jalsa Salana USA.



OH-Columbus

On April 29, 2023, Columbus Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. The program began by watching the live address of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} during the National UK Waqifat-e-Nau Ijtema. This was followed by the recitation of Holy Qur'an and the Lajna Ima'illah pledge, and reviewing the expectations of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} from Lajna Ima'illah on the completion of 100 years. The afternoon program included a presentation of past Columbus Lajna activities and interviews of pioneer Lajna, and a Kahoot game on the history of Lajna Ima'illah and Columbus Lajna. After this, all participants enjoyed different activity stations, including cookie decoration, charades, henna, games, and a bounce house for children.



OH-Dayton

Dayton Lajna organized events and activities throughout the year to celebrate the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. Lajna and Nasirat began several projects at the end of 2022, including a beautiful sketch of the Fazl-e-Umar Mosque, a model of the Lajna Ima'illah flag, a poster on Hazrat Amma Jaan^{ra}, and a poster on the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary.



On July 8, 2023, Dayton Lajna held an event to celebrate the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. The program included a presentation of the history of Dayton Lajna, a Kahoot game for all participants, and an overview of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary projects completed by Dayton Lajna and Nasirat. The program concluded with lunch and a special Lajna Ima'illah Centenary cake.

OR-Portland

Lajna and Nasirat held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration in July 2023. The program was attended by 24 Lajna, 9 Nasirat, and 11 guests. Nasirat and Lajna led presentations on the history of Lajna Ima'illah in the United States and Lajna Portland and the history of the Lajna flag. The program also included an interactive workshop on the Lajna pledge, as well as a presentation by Portland Umoor-e-Talibaat on wasiyyat. A Lajna Ima'illah Centenary exhibition was displayed for all attendees to view. Each attendee received a souvenir to commemorate 100 years of Lajna Ima'illah.



Pacific Northwest Region OR-Portland and WA-Seattle

Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary during the Pacific Northwest regional Ijtema. The regional Ijtema was held at Bait-ul Ehsan Mosque in Monroe, Washington from August 5 and 6, 2023. The event was attended by 89 Lajna and 23 Nasirat. The theme of the program was "Servant of Allah; Celebrating the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary."



PA-Harrisburg/York

A local Ijtema was held on August 5, 2023 and included celebrations for the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. The program included a quiz on Lajna history, a workshop on the pioneer Lajna in the United States, and distribution of prizes and welcome packages with Lajna Ima'illah Centenary items. Nasirat prepared a banner for the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary and decorated cupcakes and cookies with celebratory messages.

On July 25, 2023, Harrisburg Lajna participated in a Lajna interfaith program titled "Women as Nation Builders." During this event, women from different faith backgrounds spoke on the role of women as builders of strong communities, and shared lessons for women leaders. Harrisburg Lajna participated in this panel, and focused on the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary by sharing the history of local Lajna, the significance and timeline of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary, and the goals of Lajna Ima'illah. The event was attended by 30 Lajna and over 40 guests, including Harrisburg Mayor, Wanda Williams, Congresswoman Patti Kim, and the Vice Dean of Diversity at Penn State Hershey, Dr. Iginia Genao.



PA-Philadelphia

On April 29, 2023, Philadelphia Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary during a local Lajna ijtema. The program included a presentation on the detailed history of Philadelphia Lajna, pioneer Lajna, and other notable Lajna. A special Lajna Ima'illah Centenary decoration of "100" was displayed in the mosque and a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary cake was served to all attendees.

TX-Austin

Lajna and Nasirat held a local Ijtema on November 12, 2022 at Baitul Muqet Mosque in Round Rock, Texas. The Ijtema program included celebrations for the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. Each Ijtema attendee received a souvenir treat box with a certificate as a gift for the celebration.



TX-Dallas

Dallas Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah

Centenary celebration on May 7, 2023 at Baitul Ikram Mosque in Allen, Texas. The program began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an and an Urdu poem. Presentations described the history of Lajna Ima'illah, and the history of Dallas Lajna. A presentation on all the local Lajna presidents of Dallas was shared, followed by a session for each Lajna president to share their experience and feelings. After the main program, dinner and social activities began, including five different food stations and a special dessert table prepared by local Lajna. Competitions for desserts and charcuterie boards were held, and prizes and participant gifts were distributed at the end of the event.



TX-Fort Worth

Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary event at Bait-ul-Qayyum Mosque in Fort Worth, Texas. A total of 45 Lajna, Nasirat and guests attended the event. The program included a presentation on the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary, explaining the history of Lajna in the United States. Lajna spoke about experiences with Lajna Ima'illah upon arriving in the United States. A video highlighting the accomplishments and events of Fort Worth Lajna was also played during the program. All attendees received a gift box with a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary button as a keepsake.



TX-Houston

Lajna brought centenary festivities to their Seeratun Nabi Tabligh program, Tahir Academy, and the Regional Ijtema with special cakes and gifts.



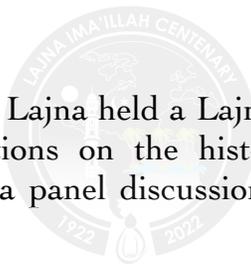
VA-North

Lajna held an interfaith iftar to celebrate the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary on March 30, 2023 at Mubarak Mosque in Chantilly, Virginia. The program was attended by 71 guests, including three elected officials (two state delegates and one county supervisor), interfaith county officials, and representatives from various faith groups including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. The program highlighted the role of Muslim women as envisioned by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}. The presentations emphasized the foresight of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} who established Lajna Ima'illah as a platform for women empowerment and education. Lajna held a cake competition on the theme of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary in February 2023 during the local Musleh Maud^{ra} event.



VA-South

On May 20, 2023, Virginia South Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration. The program included presentations on the history of Lajna Ima'illah and local Virginia South Lajna, as well as a panel discussion with pioneer Lajna. The second



session featured of the program included an exhibition for handmade items created by Virginia South Lajna, a dessert competition, a letter writing booth, and a bookstall.

Virginia South Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary during a local Ijtema held on August 20, 2023 at Masroor Mosque in Manassas, Virginia. A total of 250 Lajna and Nasirat attended the event. The program included a special session featuring pioneer Lajna who shared personal stories and memories of the early years of Lajna Ima'illah and the viewing of a documentary on the history of Virginia South. An exhibition was also displayed during the event to highlight the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary.



VA-Richmond

Richmond Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary during a local Ijtema held on August 5, 2023 at Baitul Anwaar Mosque in Richmond, Virginia. The event was attended by 27 Lajna, 6 Nasirat, 8 children and 3 guests. The theme of the Ijtema was "Servants of Allah." The program included a presentation on the history of Richmond Majlis, competitions for the recitation of Holy Qur'an, nazms, speech, and baking and an interactive jeopardy game on the following books: "Conditions of Bai'at & Responsibilities of An Ahmadi", "Need for an Imam", "Hijab", and "Salat The Muslim Prayer Book." The Ijtema ended with certificate and prize distribution for the competitions, recognition of recent high school graduates, and closing remarks from Richmond Lajna Sadr.



WI-Milwaukee

On March 5, 2023, Milwaukee Lajna held a Lajna Ima'illah Centenary celebration that was attended by 110 Lajna, Nasirat, and guests. The program began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, hadith, Malfuzat, an Urdu poem and the Lajna pledge. Presentations were done in both Urdu and English and covered various topics, including an early history of Lajna, Milwaukee Lajna presidents, and memories from pioneer Milwaukee Lajna. During the celebration, there was a poster exhibition with presentations on historical women in Islam and Ahmadiyyat, including: Hadrat Fatima^{ra}, Hadrat Syeda Maryam Begum (Umme-Tahir), Hadrat Ayesha Siddiqua^{ra}, Hadrat Khadija^{ra}, Hadrat Maryam^{ra}, Hadrat Syeda Nusrat Jehan Begum^{ra}, Hadrat Hajra^{ra}, Hadrat Mariyah Qibtiya^{ra}, and Hadrat Hafsa^{ra}. The event also included a bookstall, a handicraft competition, and an art exhibition. The program concluded after a brief presentation on a local Lajna's trip to Ghana, a Nasirat tarana, and competition prize distribution.



WI-Oshkosh

Lajna celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary on February 25, 2023. The program included a presentation on the history of Lajna Ima'illah, including the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah USA, the accomplishments of pioneer Lajna in the United States, and a brief history of Oshkosh Lajna. All attendees received a special souvenir gift made that included a pen decorated with flowers created by Nasirat and a coaster made by Lajna. The event included an exhibition on the first 14 Lajna, mosques built with the financial sacrifices of Lajna, the Lajna flag, and pioneer Lajna in the US. There was also a book exhibition featuring literature authored by Lajna and books about the important members of Lajna Ima'illah.



CA-Bay Point, CA-San Diego, CT-Hartford, MA-Boston, MI-Detroit, MO-St. Louis, and NJ-Willingboro celebrated the Lajna Ima'illah centenary as well.

Centenary Messages

Albany

By the sheer grace of Allah, Lajna Ima'illah, the Women's Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, has entered the second century of its existence. What started out as a small group of ladies has transformed into a large, organized, and well-structured women's organization across the world. Its reach and organizational framework are not just limited to an area, or a country, or a continent; rather, it has turned into a universal women's organization with branches and administration set up across the globe, in almost every country of the world. This organization truly is an act of God; it materialized and continues to evolve under the heavenly guidance of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya. May Allah show us the day when every single member of Lajna Ima'illah becomes a personification of the teachings of the Holy Quran and reaches the eventual goal of being the winner of Allah's boundless love and grace. Ameen.

Austin

Alhamdulillah, this year we are celebrating one hundred years of Lajna Ima'illah. This has been a journey filled with devotion, sacrifice, love, and loyalty. The Austin Lajna are continuing this journey by adding a new chapter of financial sacrifice and loyalty to Islam Ahmadiyyat by playing a major role in purchasing the land for a new mosque in Austin. This is a historic achievement that will provide us space to grow, strengthen our sisterhood bond and give us opportunities for impactful events for the generations to come, inshaAllah. May Allah make these efforts the source for spreading the light of Islam to the corners of the earth. Ameen.

Central Jersey

The Central Jersey Lajna would like to express their gratitude to Allah for assisting us every step of the way as we reach this milestone of the Lajna Ima'illah Centenary. It has been 100 years, and by the grace of Allah the Almighty, we have come a long way. We will continue to flourish and grow throughout this next century with the help of Allah the Almighty. May He help us in every step along the way as Lajna Ima'illah accomplishes more and helps spread the message of the Promised Messiah^{as} to the corners of the earth. Ameen.

Columbus

Lajna Ima'illah was officially established in Columbus, Ohio in 1995. Over the years, the Columbus Lajna has grown from a small chapter comprising a handful of sisters to a medium-sized chapter, Alhamdulillah. The Columbus Lajna were blessed with the opportunity to host the Lajna National Majlis-e-Shura in 2008, the Lajna National Amilah Meeting in 2012, and multiple regional and local events since its inception.

May Allah the Almighty enable us to remain closely connected with Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya as we enter into the second century of Lajna Ima'illah. Ameen.

Georgia/South Carolina

We are blessed by Allah to be witnessing one hundred years of Lajna Ima'illah USA. Throughout these years we have seen the sacrifices, the love, the kindness, and the compassion of our sisters. "Lajna" means having a family wherever each of us are; what keeps us together is the strong bonds that have been created through sisterhood. This is a time of reflection to see if we have lived up to our pledge of always being ready to devote our lives, our property, our time, and our children for the cause of our faith and our nation. May Allah grant us the ability to fulfill our religious responsibilities with love and friendship for each other and to affirm our faith so that our future generations will be good and sincere Ahmadi Muslims who are ready to carry the legacy of Lajna Ima'illah. Ameen.

Maryland

The Maryland Majlis has a rich history that started in 1994 with the inauguration of Baitur Rahman Mosque, the national headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States. We are from an array of backgrounds, languages, and cultures, yet we are all united as maidservants of Allah. We are blessed with serving many sisters from across the US and abroad at Baitur Rahman mosque, and InshaAllah, we look forward to welcoming you with open arms at the much-awaited Lajna Conference Center located on the Baitur Rahman Mosque grounds. At the dawn of a new century of Lajna Ima'illah, we pray that all sisters enter with a renewed energy and vigor, so that each and every one of us truly upholds the high standards that are expected of us. Only then can we truly say labaik to our Khalifa, and sacrifice our life, property, time and children for the cause of our faith and our nation. Ameen.

Oshkosh

As we mark the centenary of the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah, one hundred years after the establishment by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude and pride in all that we have accomplished over the past century in spreading the true message of Islam preached by the Holy Prophet^{sa} and his deputy, the Promised Messiah^{as}.

Through our hard work and dedication, Lajna Ima'illah has grown and flourished, becoming a leading voice for women within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and beyond. Our commitment to serving others and advancing the cause of justice, peace, and understanding has made a positive impact on countless lives and led to the furthering the cause of Ahmadiyyat. As we look ahead to the next one hundred years and beyond, with the grace of Allah, we pray that Lajna Ima'illah will continue to be a force for good in the world and preach the true Islam. Ameen

Queens

"I shall always be ready to sacrifice my life, property, time, and children for the cause of faith and nation." This is the message we grew up hearing and this is the oath we have faithfully adhered to since Lajna Ima'illah was presented to us by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad^{ra}. Dutifully, we have given our time and efforts to raise communities and build nations. We have witnessed the fruits of those many sacrifices within the progress of each generation. Our bonds of sisterhood are unbreakable. Our absolute faith in Allah the Almighty is everlasting. The Queens Lajna Ima'illah congratulates their sisters in faith for all of their accomplishments over the last century whilst earnestly praying for more victories in the future, InshaAllah.

Rochester

By the grace of Allah the Almighty, we have cherished the beautiful one hundred years of Lajna Ima'illah. We are thankful to Allah for giving us strength throughout these successful years. May Allah enable us to increase our sisterhood. Ameen.

Seattle

After being established in 1922 by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad^{ra}, one hundred years of Lajna Ima'illah is one hundred years of a pledge by Ahmadi Muslim women across the world to devote themselves to the propagation of the true message of Islam. The Seattle Lajna have built sisterhood through picnics and hikes and have also been active in the local community by holding meetings with municipal court judges, congresswomen, and other prominent figures. We are so blessed to be a part of this movement which upholds women's rights. May Allah accept all of our sacrifices and continue to bless the upcoming years of Lajna Ima'illah. Ameen.

Syracuse

We are incredibly grateful to witness this moment in history. All of the accomplishments made by Lajna Ima'illah all across the globe are inspiring and virtuous, and only make us want to strive harder in the future toward Allah and the right path. The Syracuse Lajna has been a small chapter, but we are consistent. Lajna Ima'illah is made up of a community of women who have a common goal: existing for the cause of Allah. This common motive sparks the sisterhood in us all. InshaAllah, Lajna Ima'illah will continue to make great strides in the future under the khilafat of our beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba}. May Allah help us to fulfill our Lajna pledges and stay firm in our faith. May we rise to the expectation of our Khalifa. May the love of Allah increase in our hearts and may we become true servants of Allah the Almighty. Ameen.

Virginia North

We are truly grateful to Allah that we are able to celebrate one hundred years of Lajna Ima'illah. As we march forward into the next century of Lajna Ima'illah, our hearts are filled with gratitude that Allah has blessed us abundantly under the divine guidance

and prayers of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya. We are also thankful to our National Sadr Sahiba and the National Lajna Amilah for their continuous support, guidance, and leadership. At this time, we also remember the services of our pioneer sisters for their dedication and selfless efforts for Lajna Ima'illah. May Allah reward them in the best way, Ameen. Moving forward, we want to focus on all of our Lajna and Nasirat so that they become active members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community with a strong bond and love for Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, that they are regular in worship of Allah and that they recite and implement the teachings of the Holy Quran. May Allah enable us to do so. Ameen.

Virginia South

We are excited to share the details of our 17th Local Annual Ijtemah of Lajna Ima'illah held at Masoor Mosque. What was special about this event is that some pioneer Lajna were on the stage with the National Honorary Member and the Regional Sadr Central South to preside on the sessions with them. They shared their stories about how they worked together in the early days with love and passion to keep all the Lajna on one hand. A group of Lajna presented a beautiful poem about Lajna Centenary. An exhibition was arranged on 100 years theme, and a documentary was prepared to show the history of VA South from 2004-23. Along with other educational competitions, a book reading competition was held in which Lajna read assigned books and got their rewards. The volunteers who had been serving to manage Mosque events were presented small gifts. A separate session was arranged for the Nasirat. Members went home with a renewed spirit to continue to strengthen their bond of love and care for the community in years to come.



Lajna Imaillah USA Centenary Celebration: A journey of women's empowerment



Shehla Ahmad · Follow

5 min read · Jul 29, 2023



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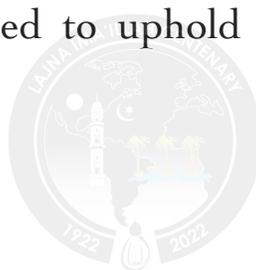


The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA held their 73rd Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) from July 14 to July 16 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This year is very special for the women of the community as it was 100 years ago on 25 December 1922 that 13 ladies of Qadian, India became the pioneers who had signed the pledge to join this newly formed auxiliary for the women named as Lajna Ima'illah (Maid servants of God). This year is being celebrated as the centenary year by the women's auxiliary all around the world.

This women's auxiliary was formed with a purpose which in the words of His Holiness Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, the second caliph and worldwide spiritual leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, was as follows:

“In order to fulfill the aim and objective of the purpose of our creation, the efforts of women are as necessary as that of men.”

The pioneer women pledged to uphold the governing rules as per which:



“...in spite of the distinction of ranks, all men are in actuality brothers and all women, sisters.”

Given the special occasion of the annual convention, an exhibition was set up to share glimpses of history of Lajna Ima'illah with the guests attending the event. Due to thousands of attendees present at the occasion, registration was required to facilitate the guests.



As you enter the exhibition, each guest is offered a guided tour throughout the exhibition.

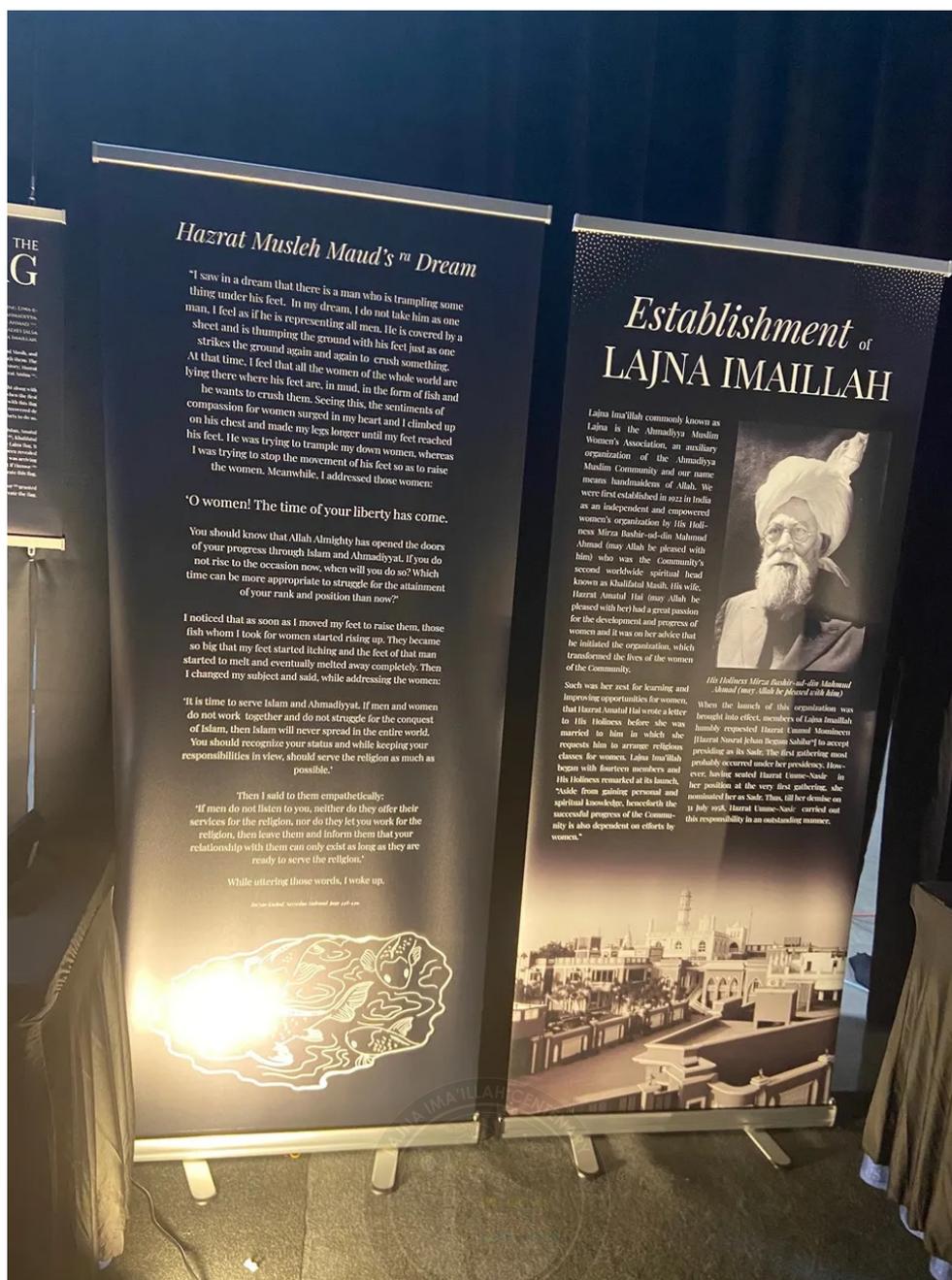
An international Ahmadiyya Muslim Women volleyball tournament was held earlier this year in which team USA also participated. The first table displayed their photo with the US flag and centenary Lajna logo.



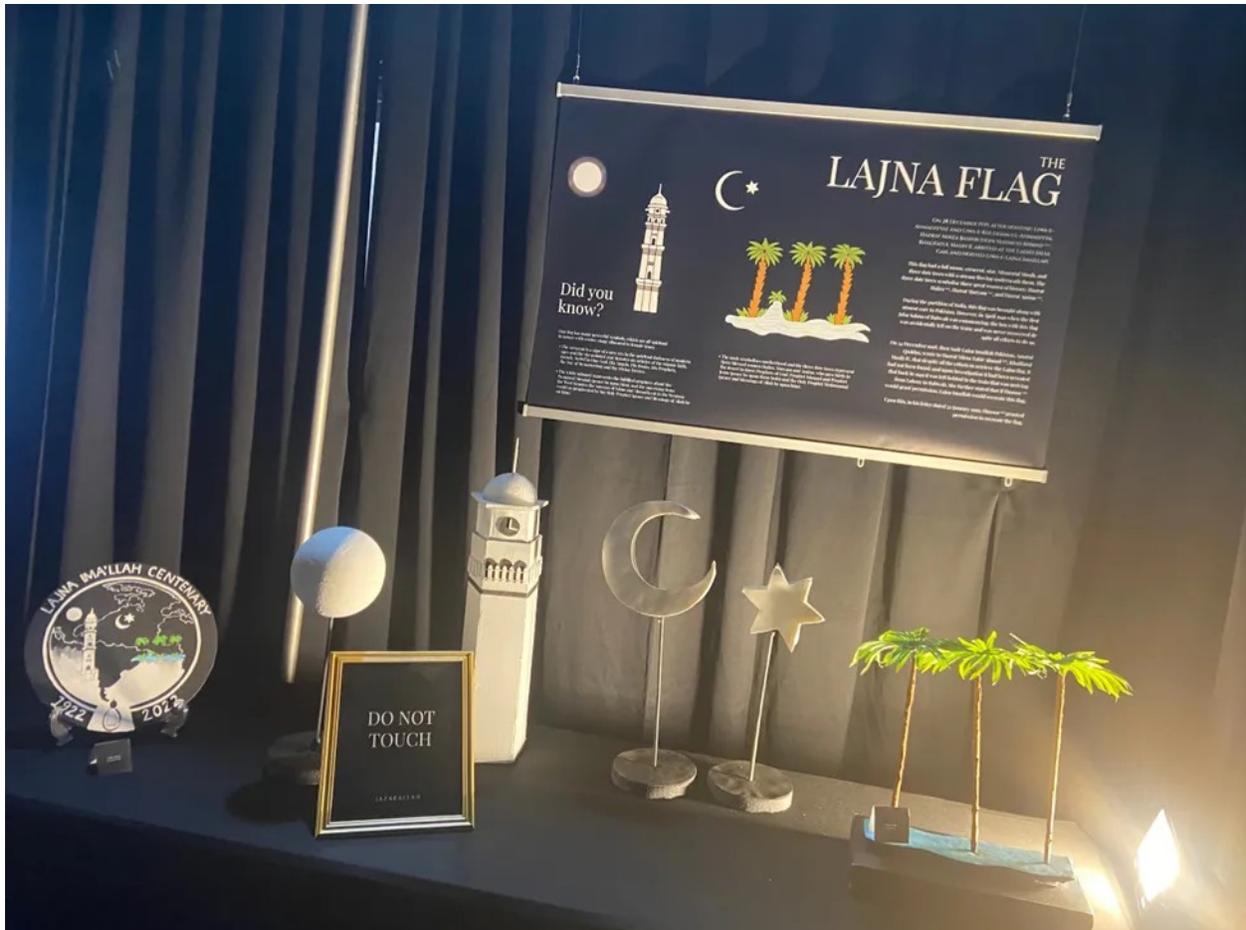
Women are bestowed a very special status according to the Holy Quran. There was a beautiful display highlighting the various verses.



Establishment of Lajna Ima'illah explaining the dream of the second caliph was on display in which he saw that women all over the world were at that time being crushed by the men and needed to be given power, so he was stopping the man in the dream who represented in dream men in general. Lajna was established for the fulfillment of this dream to empower women. The second caliph said, "O women, the time of your liberty has come".



The Lajna Ima'illah's flag and its components were displayed and a breakdown of its meaning was explained. The three trees on the flag represent three honorable women including Hajirah (mother of Ishmael), Maryam (mother of Jesus), and Amina (mother of Prophet Muhammad).



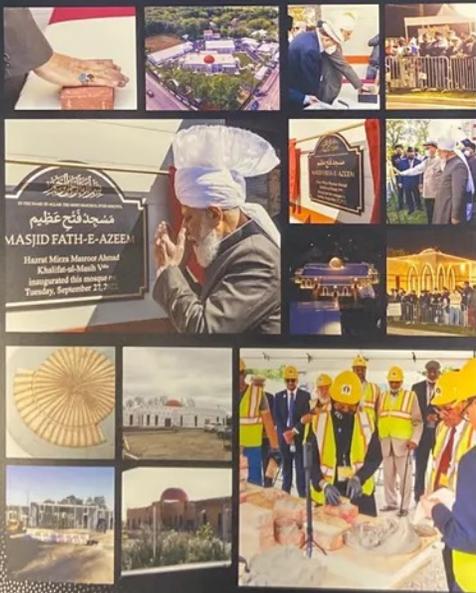
Lajna has prepared a comprehensive documentary to take viewers on the journey of 100 years in the words of its esteemed senior members who are among us today and who helped in shaping the organization as it is today. Moreover, various books on prominent Muslim women which are published by the women's auxiliary were on display.



Ahmadi Muslim women have always been at the forefront of financial contributions for religious, community and social projects. A recent manifestation of the spirit was witnessed for the Zion mosque project where Lajna collected \$1.7 M against a target of \$1.2 M.



THE ZION MOSQUE PROJECT



In October 2019, Amir Jamaat USA, Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad Sahib offered Lajna Ima'illah USA the opportunity to build Zion mosque as the first Lajna funded Mosque in the United States. Members of USA Lajna became overwhelmed with joy and accepted the honor with gratitude when National Sadr Lajna USA, Dhiya Tahira Bakr Sahiba, shared the message with sisters at the 2019 Shura.

The outbreak of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) during 2020 created economic and social turmoil and uncertainty around the world. Despite tough times, and in the absence of any in-person fundraising events, Lajna Ima'illah USA exceeded their target to collect 1.2 million dollars and collected \$1,723,832.68 for the Zion mosque. The mosque was inaugurated by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V (aba), on September 27, 2022.

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ
 "Our Lord, accept this from us; for Thou art All-Hearing, All-Knowing."

(Holy Quran: Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse 138)

FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY

By the Grace of Allah, the Zion mosque brick laying ceremony took place on July 10, 2021.

Special bricks sent from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V aba were laid by Amir Sahib USA, and by Lajna National President (Sadr) USA, Dhiya Bakr Sahiba.





Model of Zion Mosque

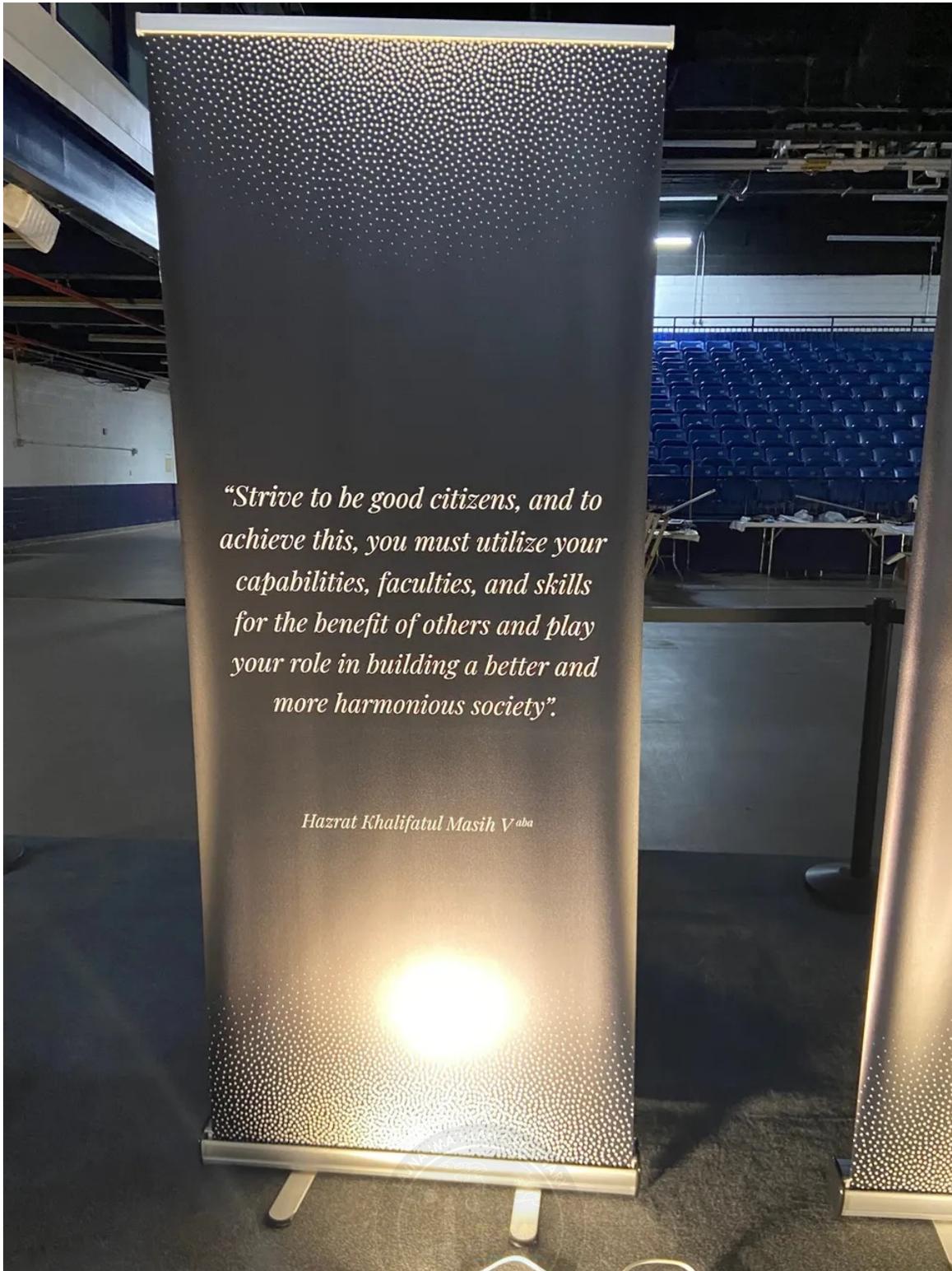


Pioneer Ahmadi women converts and their grand contributions were highlighted. There was a display board with brief intro and photographs of the presidents of Lajna Imaillah USA thus far.





Various quotations which serve as the guiding light for the women were displayed throughout the exhibition.

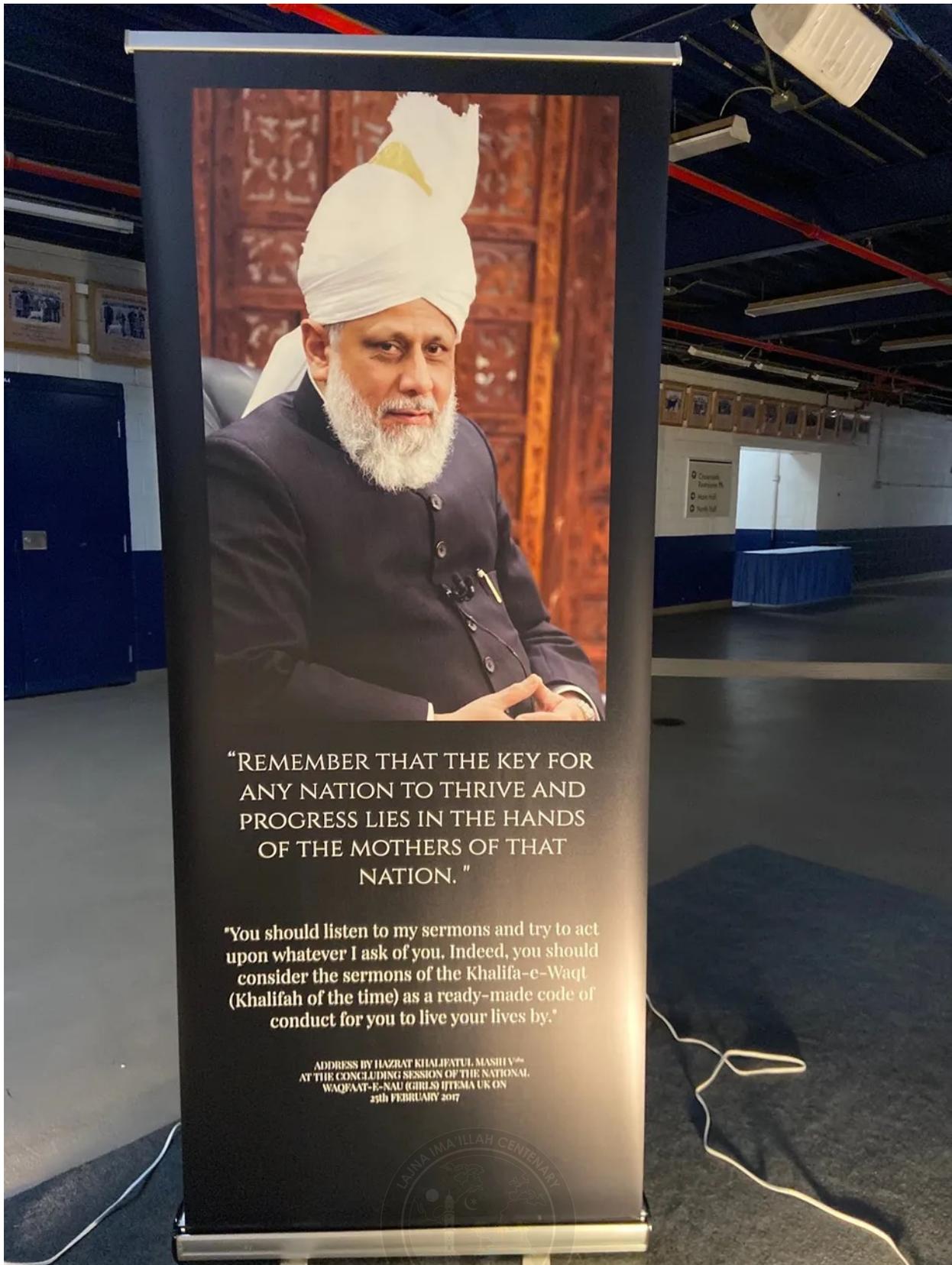




“If our Ahmadi women can fulfill their duties and objectives, then Insh’Allah they can, and will, bring about a great moral and spiritual revolution in their homes, in their cities, in their nations and the entire world.”

*His Holiness Khalifatul V (aba)
National Ijtema Lajna UK
18 September 2022*



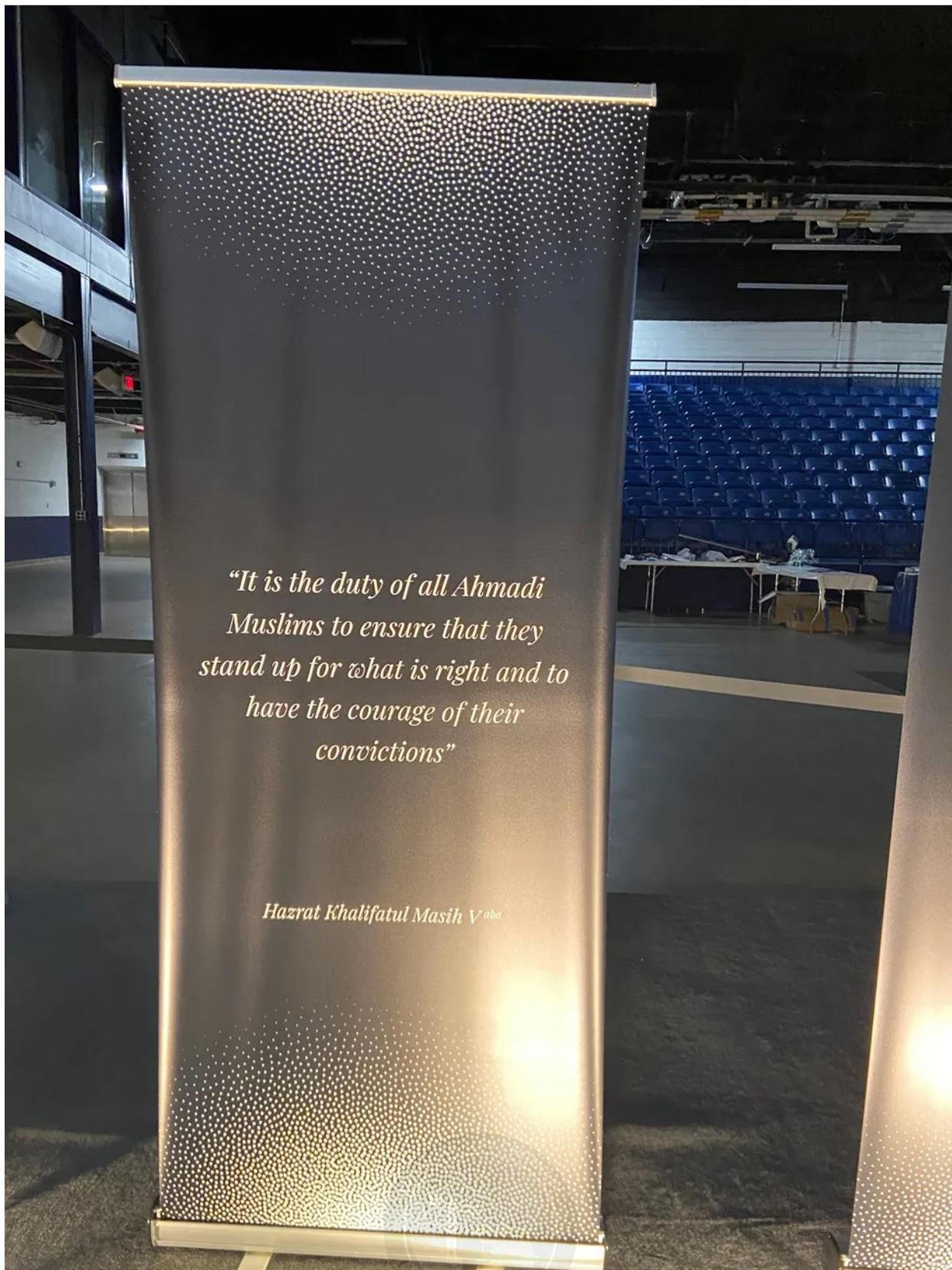


"REMEMBER THAT THE KEY FOR ANY NATION TO THRIVE AND PROGRESS LIES IN THE HANDS OF THE MOTHERS OF THAT NATION."

"You should listen to my sermons and try to act upon whatever I ask of you. Indeed, you should consider the sermons of the Khalifa-e-Waqt (Khalifah of the time) as a ready-made code of conduct for you to live your lives by."

ADDRESS BY HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASHIV
AT THE CONCLUDING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
WAQFAAT-E-SAU (GIBBS) ITEMA UK ON
25th FEBRUARY 2017

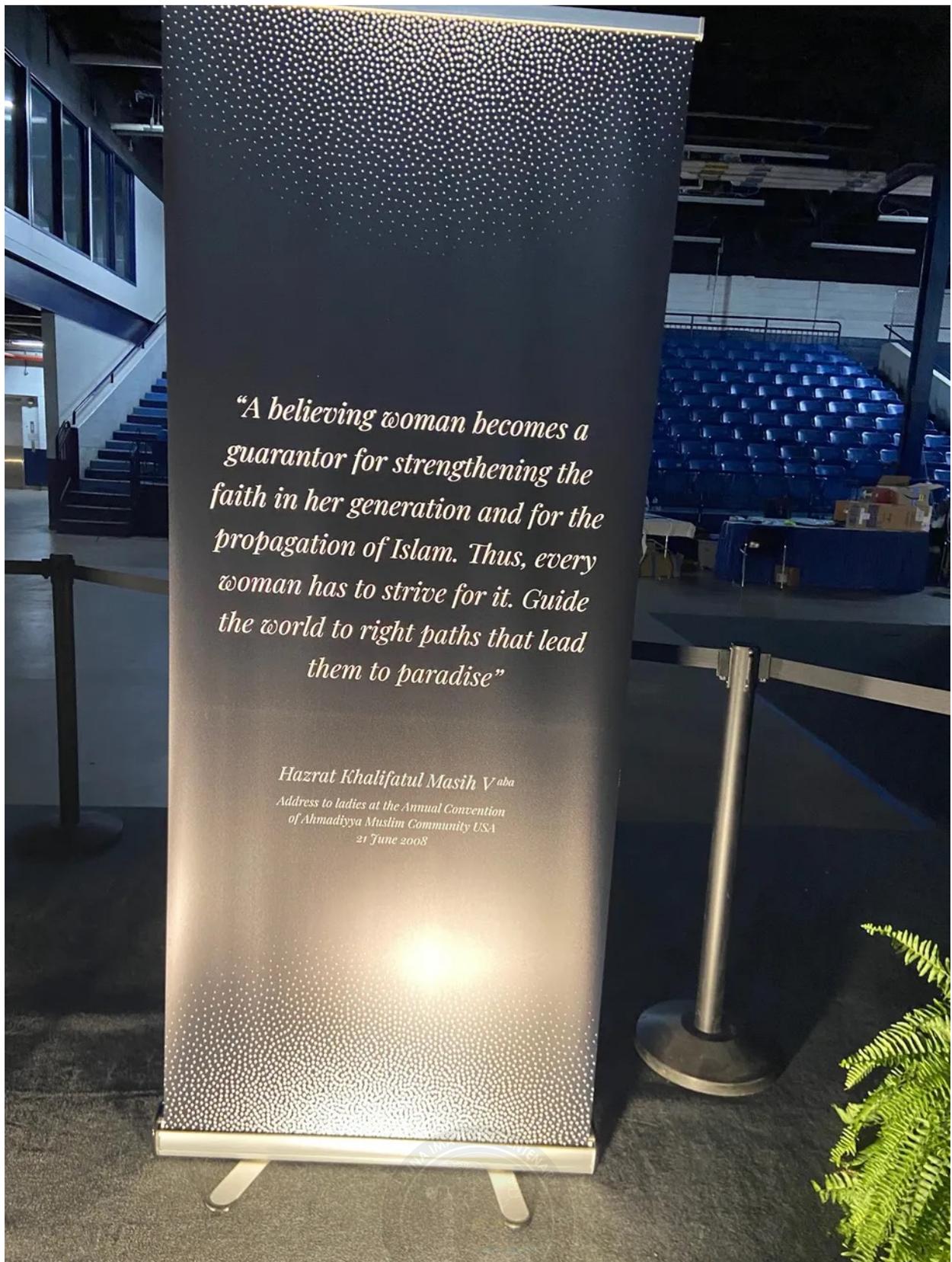




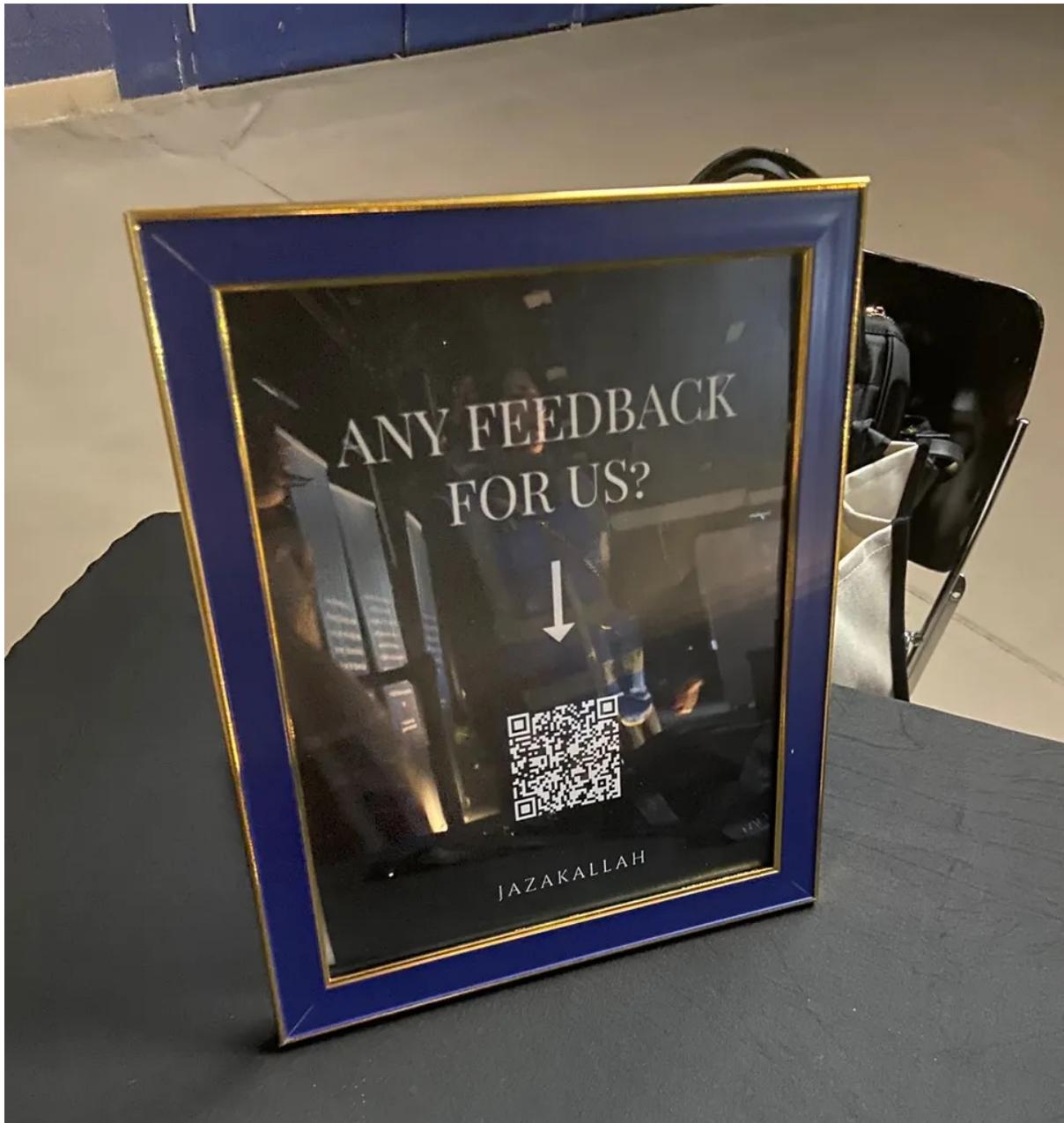
*“It is the duty of all Ahmadi
Muslims to ensure that they
stand up for what is right and to
have the courage of their
convictions”*

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba)





All the displays were captivating and enlightening.



This exhibition provided an opportunity to the younger generation to walk through the pages of history and familiarize themselves with the roots of the auxiliary and dedication of the pioneers. They also felt proud and honored to be a witness to this once in a lifetime celebration.

Lajna Ima'illah USA: Responding to COVID-19 2020-2021

In 2020, there were a lot of unexpected shifts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Social service activities were planned, but they were conducted differently than previous years. Some plans were cancelled, while others were replaced with more meaningful activities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which included school closures and the loss of physical interaction, Lajna Ima'illah USA resolved to continue service to mankind in creative ways. Zoom meetings and virtual programs became the norm. Food drives and holiday meals were hosted. Title 1 schools and numerous organizations were supported. Members of Lajna Ima'illah USA united with one another, and with our communities. Below is a highlight of the response by Lajna Ima'illah USA to the COVID-19 from 2020 to 2021.

January 2020

The numbers of cases of coronavirus continue to rise. Most cases remain in China, but a few individuals have been diagnosed in the United States and Australia with origins of infection in China. The area surrounding Wuhan is under government quarantine with no travel in or out of the area. Some areas of China are also requiring people to wear masks anywhere in public. We are learning more about the virus. The incubation period appears to be around 9-10 days. The symptoms are affecting the lower respiratory system and could appear on X-ray as viral pneumonia. There are some anti-viral medications being tested with patients currently, but to date there are no known treatments that are effective in managing this illness. The primary control factors remain good hygiene which includes frequent hand washing, covering sneezes and coughs to prevent respiratory droplet transmission, staying home if ill, avoiding crowds and large gatherings, and some additional protection may be obtained by wearing a surgical mask.

March 8, 2020

The Umure Amma department prepared and disseminated a document titled "Coronavirus: Questions and Answers" for members, along with an Emergency Disaster Preparedness Checklist.

March 28, 2020

Members of Lajna Ima'illah USA began making masks across the country. Lajna Ima'illah USA partnered with Joanne Fabrics to receive kits for making masks to send to hospitals. Over 32,000 masks were made and donated across the country.



March 31, 2020

Khalifatul Masih V, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) stated in his Friday sermon on March 27, 2020 that we should focus on prayer, seeking repentance of Allah, purifying our hearts and busying ourselves by doing good deeds. He also stated that we should follow all government instructions and maintain social distancing.

The Khidmat-e-Khalq department shared the following message with members:

- Plant a small garden. Your produce can be shared with others.
- Identify a “sick room/space” in your home, stock it with gloves, masks, thermometer, supplies, waste basket and medicines for “flu” like symptoms
- Focus on the health and welfare of our families.
- Obey our government’s instructions
- Serve mankind with social distancing.
- Support one another by sharing ideas and best practices.
- Think of ways to sustain oneself and one’s family during this time.

April 1, 2020

Below is a list of events and initiatives planned by Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA with each department during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sihat-e-Jismani: A health seminar on coronavirus was held on April 4, 2020.

Tarbiyyat: Emphasis was placed on the Shura proposal “Family Life” to ensure that harmony and peace were promoted in all homes during these stressful times related to the pandemic and while sheltering in place. Book clubs held by phone or virtually were started on the book, “Domestic Issues and Their Solutions” by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba).

IT: The department developed guidelines for conducting virtual meetings, specifically on using Zoom and establishing security measures for online platforms being used. A conference call was held on April 4, 2020 by the IT department with local Sadraan to review guidelines for virtual meetings.

Khidmat-e-Khalq: Guidance on how to serve local members, neighbors and the broader community was posted on the website. While there was no standard guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were several reliable resources to follow for mask making. While homemade masks were not validated by Occupational Safety and Health Administration, they were used as a last resort with no guarantee of protection. If requested to make the masks, Lajna members were to use the resources provided.

Tajneed: It was necessary to know where members of Lajna Ima'illah USA were located, along with any specialized skills they may have, especially during emergencies.

The Tajneed department focused on updating the information of Lajna Ima'illah USA during this time, disseminating a survey to gather information.

Maal: The Finance department focused on the funding of the Ghana water wells, solar lights, and road improvements during this time.

Taleem: Taleem studies went on during this time as planned. Words of wisdom were posted on the Lajna Ima'illah USA website for comfort during the difficult times of the pandemic.

An 84 year old Lajna member from Detroit sewed 300 mask.



Lajna Ima'illah participated in “Muslims for Life” blood drives held across the country.



April 9, 2020

Lajna Ima'illah USA partnered with Humanity First from April until September 2020 on the Make a Mask campaign.

Submitted by Cassandra Shafeek
Khidmat e Khalq Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA





Make-A-Mask Campaign: April – September 2020

Humanity First USA and Lajna Ima'illah-USA Collaborative National Project

Purpose of the Campaign

In response to CDC's recommendation for everyone to wear masks in public, due to nationwide shortage of protective gear during COVID-19, Humanity First USA, in collaboration with Lajna Ima'illah USA, launched a national 'Make-A-Mask' campaign. The goal was set to making 25,000 masks. This home stitched cotton fabric non-surgical masks initiative provided women the opportunity to help our frontline workers and people in need safely while staying at home. The campaign started in April and concluded in September 2020 exceeding our goal providing more than 30,000 masks to people in need. Although the need to wear a mask is still in effect, those are now easily available.

Campaign Report

Campaign Accomplishments	#
Total masks made	+30,000
Masks created for Humanity First's national event	+15,000
Masks distributed in local communities	+15,000
Total volunteers involved in campaign	433
Total volunteer hours	1,670
Number of Lajna Ima'illah chapters participating	30

Chapter	Masks	Chapter	Masks	Chapter	Masks
Albany, NY	170	Hartford, CT	560	Oshkosh	178
Atlanta, GA	1294	Houston TX	401	Phoenix AZ	920
Austin, TX	90	LA Inland, CA	470	Portland OR	195
Bay Point, CA	985	LA East, CA	300	RTNC	593
Boston, MA	1386	Las Vegas, NV	120	Richmond VA	63
Brooklyn, St. Island, NY	160	Maryland, MD	1011	San Diego CA	750
Chicago, IL	6802	Miami, FL	880	Silicon Valley CA	3001
Central Jersey	1230	Minnesota	150	Virginia Central	1120
Dallas, TX	173	North Jersey	492	Virginia North	798
Fort Worth, TX	175	Orlando FL	380	Virginia South	3859

National Mask Distribution Events

- The first distribution event was in Chicago, Illinois at the AMCC.
 - A total of 2,000 masks were distributed at an AMCC mask distribution event. Ten local shelters were invited, and masks were donated by AMWA National President and Humanity First Chairman Mr. Munum Naeem
- The second distribution was held in Houston, Texas.
 - A total of 2,000 masks were distributed during a food distribution event.
- The third distribution of masks took place in cities across Florida, including Miami, Orlando, and Jacksonville.
 - More than 11,000 masks were donated to 13 Title 1 schools, 50 local organizations, 20 churches, 15 community service organizations, two senior citizen facilities and one nursing home.

Lajna Ima'illah USA continued to make masks as needed until January 2022, when the mask mandate was removed.

Additionally, 40,000 pounds of food was delivered to communities by Lajna Ima'illah USA.

Submitted by:

Cassandra Shafeek, Khidmat e Khalq Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA

Samina Noor, San'at wa Dastkari Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA



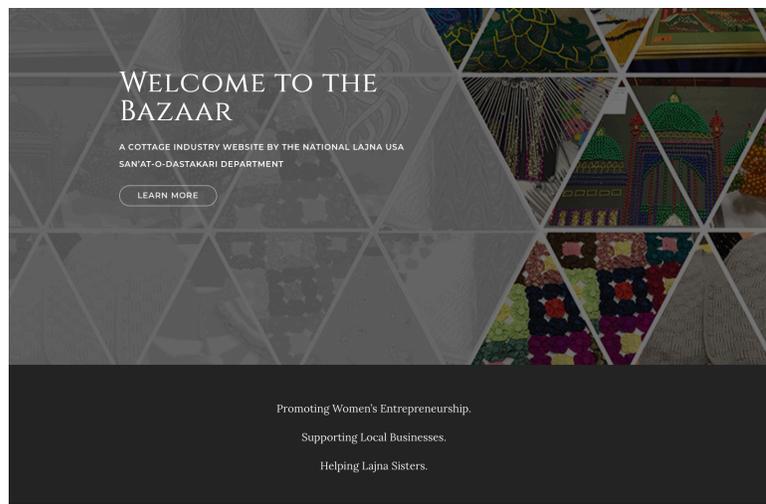
Promotion of Lajna enterprise for self-sufficiency through establishment of the online Cottage Industry

For many years, members of Lajna Ima'illah USA had expressed an interest in establishing a cottage industry to support the talent of our members and provide an opportunity for commerce with the goal of attaining a level of economic self-sufficiency.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was asked which occupation is best. He answered: "Working with one's hands or buying and selling, provided it is free from trickery and fraud." (Wisdom of the Holy Prophet: Economic Values).

Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) stated: "No one should remain idle. In our nation, no one should remain inactive. Everyone should do hard work, learn skills and, when the need arises, should not feel dependent upon others" (Lajna Constitution, p.36).

Cottage industries can only be accomplished with the help and participation of all Lajna Ima'illah USA members. Those wishing to promote their product, item or service for purchase on the Lajna Ima'illah USA website, were asked to email National Secretary San'at wa Dastkari and provide a description of their item, product or service, their website, any images to help them sell their product/services, cost of the item/service, along with their contact information so that Lajna members could browse and contact them to place an order. Lajna Ima'illah USA would provide an avenue for them to market their business. However, once their information was reviewed and approved for posting, it would be left between them and their customer to work out any further details.



According to Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra): "The real objective in establishing the department of San'at wa Dastkari was to provide work for needy women so that they may improve their living standard" (Lajna Constitution p. 33). May Allah enable us to help each other through establishing this cottage industry and help our fellow sisters in following in the footsteps of Hazrat Khadijah (ra). Ameen.

RECENTLY ADDED VENDORS

Show All / Art / Baking / Beauty / Clothing / Tutoring

 <p>EFHAA Jewellery Central South Clothing</p>	 <p>Ayesha's Collection Central South Clothing</p>	 <p>MK Bakes Central North Baking</p>	 <p>Sewing West Midwest Sewing</p>	 <p>Web Design Northwest Photography / Web Design</p>
 <p>Sumera's Canvas Central North Art</p>	 <p>Latherfy Central North Beauty</p>	 <p>Tutoring Soutwest Tutoring</p>	 <p>Drapes n Sequins Central North Event Decoration</p>	 <p>L'Abelle Sucree The Sweet Bee Central North Baking</p>

Submitted by Samina Noor
San'at wa Dastkari Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA



Lajna Ima'illah USA - Voice of Islam Radio Show

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lajna Ima'illah USA spread the message of true Islam through radio shows. The Voice of Islam radio show based in Los Angeles, Texas covered several diverse areas of inspirational Islamic teachings, including:

- June 2021: Role of a Woman in Islam - as a daughter and as a wife
- October 2021: Balancing Religion and Culture
- November 2021: Modesty and the Islamic Veil

The Voice of Islam radio show was also broadcast from several other locations, including Queens, New York.



Submitted by Dr. Amatul Quddus Ayaz-Shams
Tabligh Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA



Civil Unrest and the Response of Lajna Ima'illah USA 2020-2021

In early 2020, incidents of unarmed black Americans killed by police officers spurred social unrest and an outcry for justice, with people taking to the streets in protest around the world. With guidance from Beloved Huzur (aba) contained in the letter dated June 10, 2020, from Abid Khan sahib to respected Ameer Sahib USA, and under the leadership of Sadr Lajna USA, the response of Lajna Ima'illah USA was multifaceted and comprehensive in its scope. Included here are:

- Plan from Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA
- Supreme Justice webinar overview
- Participation in the 2020 Elections



way to affecting change requires a more astute way to pressure the authorities. For example, every member should be mobilised to use their civic and democratic rights, rather than staying at home on election days. They in turn, should encourage other citizens that if they want to affect change then they should take part in the democratic process, at all levels, as this is the means to bring change and vote in people who will further their rights and causes.

Meet with state officials, national officials, consider ways in which, whilst remaining within the law, pressure can be placed so that the authorities are forced to act with justice.

5. If Khuddam want to hold some Khidmat-e-Khalq events in the name of justice for African Americans then this is permissible. One way could be that Khuddam identify the real, peaceful protests and go there and take lunches or snacks etc for the protestors, or others, who are there for a good cause.
6. Instead of Black Lives Matter try to promote: **Innocent Lives Matter or Supremacy of Justice.**
7. There is no need for us to enter the debate regarding 'taking a knee', where people are kneeling down in front of the national flag or when the anthem is played. This is a political gesture which we do not need to either condone or condemn.
8. Our actions, as Ahmadi Muslims, regarding the term 'Black Lives Matter' will always be underpinned by Islam's teachings. Thus, our statements and pronouncements are not motivated by politics but are always derived from the Holy Quran and the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet of Islam (saw). It is for this reason that better slogans, when confronting the issue are 'Innocent Lives Matter' and the 'Supremacy of Justice'.
9. The term 'Innocent Lives Matter' is inspired by the Quranic teaching that the murder of even one innocent person is akin to killing the whole to mankind and the term 'Supremacy of Justice' is inspired by the Quran's teachings that justice is paramount and the Farewell Sermon of the Holy Prophet (saw) in which he said that a white person is not superior to a black person or an Arab to a non-Arab. Hence, this term rejects and refutes the claim of those people who consider that the white race has 'supremacy'. Rather, it is 'justice' that is supreme.

Instructions from Beloved Huzur (aba), pg. 2



Ref: P&M-RT6-A
10 June 2020

Respected Dr Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad Sahib, Ameer USA,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

I hope and pray that you are in the best of health. Ameen.

Kindly find below latest instructions from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) regarding the current protests and racial tensions that are happening in the USA.

Huzoor (aba) has instructed:

1. Ahmadi Khuddam can take part in protests, if they wish, but must do so in a personal capacity.
2. If they do take part in the protests then they should not take part in anything that is illegal or where violence or damage to personal or State property occurs. If peaceful protests show any sign of escalating, then they should remove themselves from the situation.
3. Given the current situation, not only is it morally wrong to take part in protests that lead to confrontation with authorities, it is also dangerous and could lead to Ahmadi taking part being arrested or injured. Furthermore, if Ahmadi are involved in such extreme protests, even in a personal capacity, it reflects on the Jamaat and on the blessed name of the Promised Messiah (as).
4. Both *Umoor-e-Kharifa* and *Khuddam* administrations should seek to educate members that protests are of limited effect. There have been other occasions where marches or protests have taken place going back to the days of Martin Luther King but the problems remain systemic. They should be educated that to get rights will require planning and a longer term strategy, as the effects of protests are often short term and limited. The real

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Press Secretary AMJ International

Instructions from Beloved Huzur (aba), pg. 1



10. Though we may get some short-term popularity or credit by using the term 'Black Lives Matter' it will mean that we are following a slogan designed by others for political reasons and in the long term there will be no benefit to this.
11. For generations Black people or other minorities have sought to get their rights through marches and protests but it has not led to systemic changes. Thus, Ahmadi should recognise that true success will be achieved through following principles of Islamic teachings and not by following the latest political trends. Consequently, in accordance to Islam, our campaigns and efforts should be focused on ensuring that Black people and other minorities take part fully in all democratic processes and they focus on being represented in all levels of government, law enforcement and other sectors so that real change can occur.
12. Some people quote the fact that Hazrat Mueleh Maud (ra) conducted a rally for the people of Kashmir, however this was a prelude to the real efforts that were made through diligent efforts and submissions at a committee level, which was where substantive changes were made.
13. 'Supreme Justice', 'Justice Supreme' may also be used as part of the 'Supremacy of Justice' campaign on social media to raise awareness effectively.

I would be grateful if you could inform relevant departments or office bearers of the above instructions.

JazakAllah, Requesting prayers,

Wasalaam

Abid Khan
Press Secretary

Instructions from Beloved Huzur (aba), pg. 3

Plan from Sadr Lajna USA – June 10, 2020

In her email to the general Lajna USA membership, Sadr Lajna USA made an appeal for social justice activism and outlined an extensive plan comprised of wide-ranging activities as well as support for the Jama'at PA initiatives.

From: Sadr Lajna Ima'illah - USA
To: Local Sadraat - for distribution
Cc: National Amila, Regional Sadraat

National Communications, Lajna Ima'illah - USA
.....

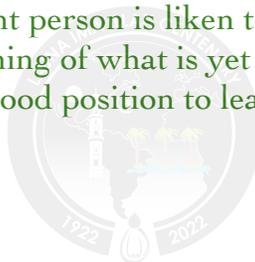
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatahu.

Dear sisters;

The recent incident regarding the killing of George Floyd, an African American man in the custody of the police has stirred our emotions of pain. Watching the video clip of Mr. George Floyd's death appeared as a form of execution and it was traumatizing. As he uttered his last words "I can't breathe", many of us too stopped breathing. It ripped open wounds of racism, oppression, social injustices and it darkened our spirits. But then later we breathed again with a passion for change. Watching the gathering of people rich, poor, white, black, brown, men, women and children all across the world became hopeful; Watching the unity of people taking the knee in solidarity and in a moment of peace was inspiring and then finally listening to the memorials of this man's life and what he ultimately accomplished in his death brought tears to my soul. The people of our global community are now looking for change that leads to justice and peace for all humanity. Will we be the ones to lead the way?

Many African Americans embraced Islam through Ahmadiyya as a solution to the social problems and injustices that are being revealed in the commemoration of George Floyd's life and death. Our African American and European Ahmadi pioneers struggled and sacrificed to advance Islam and its practical ways to awaken mankind to a better way of life. Members were engaged. They had passion and zeal to bring Islam forward. It was "The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam" that became the Noah's Ark. It has been a long and hard 100 years in America for Ahmadiyyat. We understand from Islam that the killing of an innocent person is likened to the killing of a nation but death is not the end. It is only the beginning of what is yet to come. Our African American pioneers in particular left us in a good position to lead the people to justice, reform, and peace; to Islam.



“And let there be among you a body of men (and women) who should invite to goodness, and enjoin equity and forbid evil. And it is they who shall prosper” (3:105). “You are the best people raised for the good of mankind; you enjoin what is good and forbid evil and believe in Allah” (3:111). It is our time now to infuse the lifeline of Islam into the hearts and spirits of humanity. Let’s hope and pray that it does not take us another 100 years to save mankind from the torment of the fire but instead let us become activist for change. “When the help of Allah comes and the victory, And thou seest men entering the religion of Allah in troops, Glorify thy Lord with His praise and seek forgiveness of Him...” (110:2-3). Mankind will then find their justice and peace. Attached you will find some humble suggestions to start us on the path. May Allah be our guide and helper. Ameen. May those who have sacrificed their lives rest in peace and may Allah grant them their reward in the hereafter. Inna lillahe wa Inna illahe rajioon.

Wa Salaams,
your sister Dhiya Tahira Bakr humbly serving as
Sadr, Lajna Ima'illah - USA

Attachment: Public activism Suggestions.pdf

Suggested Activism As An Ahmadi Muslim From Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA & Regional Sadraat

1. Mail a complimentary book of “World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace” by Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul Masih V (aba) to police chief, mayor or other city officials.
2. Review and share with media outlets; The Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) farewell sermon.
3. Establish a voter registration campaign:
 - Educate and encourage members to exercise their right to vote and help make a change
 - Select good candidates during the elections
4. Arrange a meeting with female City officials: follow guide from our Capital Hill visits and seek guidance from your Public Affairs and Tabligh Secretaries. Theme: Islam’s Response to Social Injustices. Refer to the National Tabligh and Public Affair Programs 2017 to 2019 and 2019 to 2021 on our Lajna website.
5. Listen to and act on Huzoor (aba) sermons on Racism and Askislam.org such as: http://www.askislam.org/mp3/MEI_19910624_06.mp3
6. Read Islamic literature such as Islam and Human Rights by Muhammad Zafrullah Khan.
7. Join National Tabligh, Umoore Talibaat, Tarbiyyat Secretaries virtual meetings scheduled this month in June for students and general membership to listen and talk about issues on social justice and topics related to race relations within AMC. Email invite coming soon.

8. Public expression of your feelings; support for social reform, social justice and encourage participation from your neighbors and friends:
 - Yard signs with our slogan; Love for All, Hatred for None
 - Place decal or sign on your automobile “Love for All, Hatred for None
 - Write article in the local newspaper, post a tweet
 - Write articles related to the upcoming holidays as it relates to the current social issues. Refer to Lajna website- Media Watch section.
9. Hold family open discussions on current issues on racism, social injustices with Islam solutions: “Table Talk”.
10. Members, nasirat in particular, can make posters with Love for All, Hatred for None or other peaceful messages to post in their windows.
11. Join the jamaat Public Affairs shoba/department letter writing campaign; four sample letters have been emailed, contact local jamaat president.
12. Join the jamaat PA secretaries virtual meetings with local officials.
13. Pray. And he who holds fast to Allah is indeed guided to the right path (3:102)

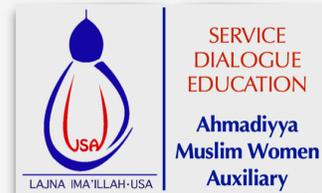


Supreme Justice Webinar - Overview

As protests prompted by the heinous police killing of Mr. George Floyd and other African Americans continued across the United States in the summer of 2020, Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA and Lajna Secretary of Umoore Khajira organized a virtual webinar about race relations and justice on June 23, 2020. Three members of the

#SUPREMEJUSTICE

**A women's virtual conversation about
race relations and justice: "What can we do?"**



 @LainaMediaUSA

June 23, 2020 • 5:00 PM EDT • Zoom: SupremeJustice/AMWA•USA • Q&A after panel discussion



President Dhiya Tahira Bakr
National President
Ahmadiyya Muslim
Women Auxiliary - USA



Hon. Brenda Lawrence
U.S. Representative (D-MI)
Co-Chair of the Congressional
Caucus for Women's Issues



Hon. Bonnie Watson Coleman
U.S. Representative (D-NJ)
Co-Chair Cong. Caucus for
Black Women and Girls



Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. Representative (D-TX)
Chair Cong. Committee on
Science and Technology

Congressional Black Caucus spent over an hour sharing their insights on issues of race relations and solutions. More than 670 women, Muslim and non-Muslim, from all across USA, the UK, Canada, Pakistan and West Indies joined. The discussion was moderated by National Lajna Sadr USA, Dhiya Bakr Sahiba who also introduced AMC and Lajna Ima'illah USA efforts to promote justice.

Submitted by Shazia Sohail
Mu'avina Sadr in-charge of Public Affairs, Lajna Ima'illah USA



#SUPREMEJUSTICE: A virtual conversation among women on race relations and justice: “What can we do?”

Written by Shahina Bashir

In early 2020, incidents of unarmed black Americans killed by police officers spurred social unrest and an outcry for justice, with people taking to the streets in protest around the world. As these protests continued across the United States, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Auxiliary USA established a campaign on “Supreme Justice” per the guidance from His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, and organized an online event titled “#SupremeJustice: A virtual conversation about race relations and justice. What can we do?” The panel discussion on issues related to race took place on June 23, 2020 with honorable members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswomen Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX). More than 670 women, Muslim and non-Muslim, from all across the United States as well as participants from the United Kingdom, Canada, Pakistan, West Indies, and other countries followed the conversation on this very critical topic. The discussion was moderated by Dhiya Tahira Bakr, National President (Sadr Sahiba) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Auxiliary USA.

Sadr Sahiba opened the virtual conversation by sharing actions being taken by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community: “The world leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), has been delivering speeches, writing letters and visiting world leaders advocating for global peace. In his book ‘World Crisis and The Pathway to Peace’, he discusses the Islamic perspective on the global crisis, a path to peace is just relations between nations, and a critical need for absolute justice. During one of his visits to the United States, addressing the US Congress, he mentioned that without justice there is no peace.”

President Bakr began the panel discussion by referencing an open letter from Chicago healthcare organizations pledging to do more to overcome health disparities in minority communities and ensure greater health equity across the city. She asked the Congresswomen whether they agreed with the statement, ‘racism is a public health crisis.’ In response to this question, Congresswoman Lawrence began by explaining that, “...racism’s goal is to suppress a people.” She stated that “racism in America is a moral issue, it’s an economic issue, in

health care.” It is a known fact that a vast majority of COVID-19 patients are African American due to a significantly higher incidence of underlying conditions. This disparity, she explained, was due to lack of access to healthcare as a result of discrimination and consequently a lack of trust in the health industry. Concurring with Congresswoman Lawrence on the issue of racism as a public health crisis, Congresswoman Coleman said, “Absolutely racism is a public health crisis...because when we are treated disrespectfully...racism impacts our communities, we’re not in a closed system. It’s ultimately going to affect those around us, and as long as we allow racism to guide the policies and the actions and the activities of others, there is not going to be any peace in our communities. There’s no peace worldwide when you see racism or discrimination practiced; that impacts the health and wellbeing of everyone...”

President Bakr steered the conversation to systematic racism in education, asked the panelists: “What can we do to ensure there are no racial biases being taught in the school system?” Congresswoman Coleman, Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Black Women and Girls, and Congresswoman Johnson, Chair for the Congressional Committee on Science and Technology, both responded to this. Congresswoman Johnson remarked; “We can have all the rules, we can pass all the laws, but how it is implemented depends on the soul of the person.” She mentioned that bills get stalled because of people’s attitudes; “if their minds are not in the right place, we have to change the attitude and heart....”

Sadr Sahiba mentioned the Reparations Bill 2019 introduced in the House, and asked the panelists what it would do for our communities, and specifically, the African American community. Congresswoman Johnson stated that the bill would establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans to examine slavery and discrimination in America from 1619 to present day, and recommend suitable remedies. She stated that “it’s a very interesting bill because many years ago, the so-called historically black colleges were considered reparations. Affirmative action was considered reparations. In order for us now to try to calculate what reparations really are, we’ve got to go back and see who was actually attached to slavery, whether you can prove you had some blood that was enslaved in this country. Do we throw out all the affirmative action, do we throw out all of the things we worked to be equal and start it again, I’m not sure. ...What I want to see is equality for all. I want to make sure that young people born in this country, whatever their race, have access to healthcare, access to education, to make sure that they can have

choices of their own regardless of who their parents were or where they were born. I don't know what reparations will do for that. And so, I'm open and still trying to figure out exactly what we are asking for with reparations."

Sadr Sahiba noted that systemic racism stemming from individual beliefs can be influenced by external factors, including other people. She asked the Congresswomen to examine the educational system as a source of systemic racism, and share their thoughts on ensuring racial bias is not being taught. Congresswoman Coleman's opinion was that "it is important that first we need to teach black history in schools on a regular basis, so that our children see our contribution to the building and the greatness of this country, and even around the world on a daily basis. without it being Black History Month." She also mentioned legislation in place to address the over-discipline of children, who may react aggressively due to trouble at home, often stemming from poverty. These children are not treated with sympathy and compassion, and as a result, end up in the prison pipeline. She added it is important to "provide resources to schools, train teachers and help mitigate the problems."

Sadr Sahiba quoted a saying of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, on afflictions, as referenced in the book Sahih Bukhari (#7057): "You will see injustices; you will witness your rights suppressed and see others given preference over you. When the followers of the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) asked how they should respond to such injustices, the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) replied; "Give your leaders their rights and then ask God for yours." She explained that "giving leaders their rights" means to have confidence that leaders will advocate for, and create from their position, a way to ensure justice for all. She cited affirmative action, the active effort in the United States to improve employment or educational opportunities for minority groups through policies, programs and procedures, as an example.

Sadr Sahiba then asked the panelists whether they felt affirmative action is effective against systemic racism. The Congresswomen were unanimous in their support for affirmative action. "When a large population of the African American community does not get the same opportunities as their white counterparts the former will always be disadvantaged. Without affirmative action, we could tell the difference. If you had repeatedly the same three people - two anglos and an African American - when there was a job vacancy, if there was not ever affirmative action, the African American would never be chosen.

And so there has been some value to having affirmative action,” Congresswoman Johnson remarked.

Sadr Sahiba asked Congresswoman Lawrence, as caucus co-chair, what issues are being addressed by the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues, and if race relations is part of their agenda. Citing a recent incident involving a white woman harassing a black man in a park while walking her dog, Congresswoman Lawrence said, “One of the things that I took to my leadership is that white women are going to have to step up and say they played a role in this discrimination.” She also talked about racism when a large number of African American women are in the prisons or the fact that black women carry a greater burden of student loans as compared to white students.

In response to an audience question on education and civic action, the Congresswomen agreed that one of our obligations is to vote. They emphasized that people should not refrain from casting their votes simply because they do not like either of the candidates. Congresswoman Lawrence reminded the audience that we need the right kind of people in leadership who will care for the citizens instead of harming them. She also reminded us: “You cannot take the power, the right of voting that has been given to you by shedding of blood, by fighting for it and throw it out the window and just disgrace it.”

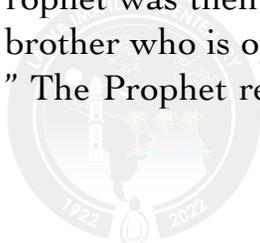
An audience member asked the panel how they can help immigrants from faith-based communities who are unfamiliar with American history understand the connection between the historical strife of black Americans to the freedoms that allow for them to live in this country today. Congresswoman Lawrence and Johnson explained: We have the additional responsibility for our brothers and sisters, who may not be African Americans but minorities in this country, of color, of protecting your rights and freedoms as an immigrant and as an African American. They encouraged anyone who comes to this country to learn the history of the struggle of African Americans.

In response to another audience question, Congresswoman Johnson stated: that everytime legislation is passed, it helps and lasts for a while, but incidents will demonstrate that we’ve only made a little bit of progress. For example, the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act have been passed over 50 years ago, but we are still fighting for these rights. Despite knowing that these battles may never be fully% achieved, she stated that “it’s worth staying with it, not only for

African Americans but for every other minority as well to make sure that this nation that is known for its democracy comes closer to standing up and making sure that we realize by practice that we are equal. African Americans normally will stand up for anyone they feel is suffering from discrimination of any kind. Mainly because we go back so far with it, we can probably see it sometimes better than the people coming here recognize it. We work for equality for all people. And we will continue to do that. We need more people to join us and make sure that our voices are heard together.”

Sadr Sahiba closed the session by sharing a brief history of the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah, and providing a glimpse into their ongoing civic activity. She highlighted the creation of over 13,000 masks for individuals, social agencies, and faith-based communities to help stop the transmission of the coronavirus pandemic, members volunteering in approximately 40 Title 1 schools to provide educational assistance but also indirectly by their presence, attempting to remove racial prejudices, the publication of 136 articles in various media platforms on various issues, including how Islam promotes justice, campaigns to send over 2,000 letters to local and national officials asking for racial and social justice, members volunteering in jails to encourage reformation, and meetings with local and national officials advocating for human rights. She added that children from the community are also encouraged to participate in civic activities, and write articles to express their feelings and understanding of various issues.

She extended her appreciation to the Congresswomen and audience, and encouraged everyone to seek guidance on how to promote supreme justice from He who creates all things, citing a verse from the Holy Quran: “O ye who believe, be steadfast in the cause of God bearing witness in equity. And let not a people’s enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice. Be always just. That is nearer to righteousness and fear God. Surely, God is aware of what you do.” (5:9) She expressed hope that this event provided insight on the social issues and demonstrated social progress. She ended the program with the words of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): “Go to the help of your brother, whether oppressor or oppressed.” The Prophet was then asked; “We understand what is meant by going to the help of a brother who is oppressed, but how shall we help a brother who is an oppressor?” The Prophet replied, “by restraining him from oppressing others.”



Participation in the 2020 Elections

Voter Registration

Muavina Sadr of Umoore Khajira (Public Affairs) organized Lajna Ima'illah USA to hold a voter registration campaign from August 2020 until early October 2020. Lajna members oversaw voter registration for themselves and their entire families.

Getting the Vote Out

In October 2020, a team of Lajna Ima'illah USA was formed to ensure every Ahmadi household was reached and reminded to vote early, either by mail or in-person. This initiative was actively working until elections on November 3, 2020. The feedback received from chapters across the USA indicated that the vast majority of Lajna members voted. This continued in January 2021 for the state of Georgia's special elections.

Special Mention

VA-South

The Mu'avina Sadr PA reached out to over contacts to introduce herself and to highlight their efforts within the community and received several responses thanking them for their efforts. Many Virginia South Lajna attended the Alliance for Absolute Justice event about voter suppression. Virginia South Lajna were highly encouraged to participate in voting in June. Virginia South Lajna also sent Eid greetings to their local public affairs contacts. On May 9, 2020, Lajna from Virginia South helped host a virtual Ramadan Open House Iftar dinner, where several female public officials were invited. Virginia South Lajna also held a virtual **#SupremeJustice** event on July 23, 2020 to highlight how accomplished women have broke through stereotypes often associated with women, specifically with women of color. During this webinar, the Islamic stance on racial justice and gender equality was shared. Panelists included Delegate Jennifer Carrol Foy, Delegate Elizabeth Guzman, and Vice Mayor Monae Nickerson.

Baltimore

Baltimore Lajna sent out over 60 New Year's greeting cards, including small booklets about Ahmadiyyat and Lajna Ima'illah, to all delegates in local districts. Delegates who had previously met the local Baltimore Lajna Sadr or Baltimore Lajna Mu'avina Sadr PA also received the book "World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace." In May 2021, delegates in these same districts also received letters regarding Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr, and several delegates responded with well-wishes for Baltimore Lajna. Similar greetings were sent out to neighbors in the Lutherville, Maryland community and three neighbors sent responses to Baltimore Lajna appreciating the greetings and information about Ramadan and Eid.

Fort Worth

Fort Worth Lajna participated in COVID-19 vaccine clinics at Bait-ul Qayyum Mosque in Fort Worth, Texas during the month of Ramadan. Mu'avina Sadr PA, who is also a pharmacist, arranged this event with the help of the local Jama'at President. Around 20 Fort Worth Lajna volunteered for data entry and 2 Lajna volunteered as vaccine injectors. They held three vaccine clinics for first and second doses of the vaccine and successfully vaccinated around 300 people, including students and community members.

Georgia

Georgia Lajna held a Peace Symposium on March 7, 2020 at Bait-ul-Ata Mosque in Norcross, Georgia. The theme was "Women as Architects of Peace". A total of 76 guests attended, including local civic and faith leaders and political leaders. The program included speeches, non-profit booths, a Holy Quran exhibition and a booth for AMWA/Tabligh. Georgia Lajna held a voter registration drive on August 27, 2020 where Lajna members registered and encouraged US citizens inside and outside the Jama'at to vote in the 2020 Election.

VA North

Virginia North Lajna held 78 public affair meetings, sent 306 season's greetings cards to community members and officials, and invited 38 government officials to various online events. A total of 98% of members from Virginia North voted in the 2020 Election.

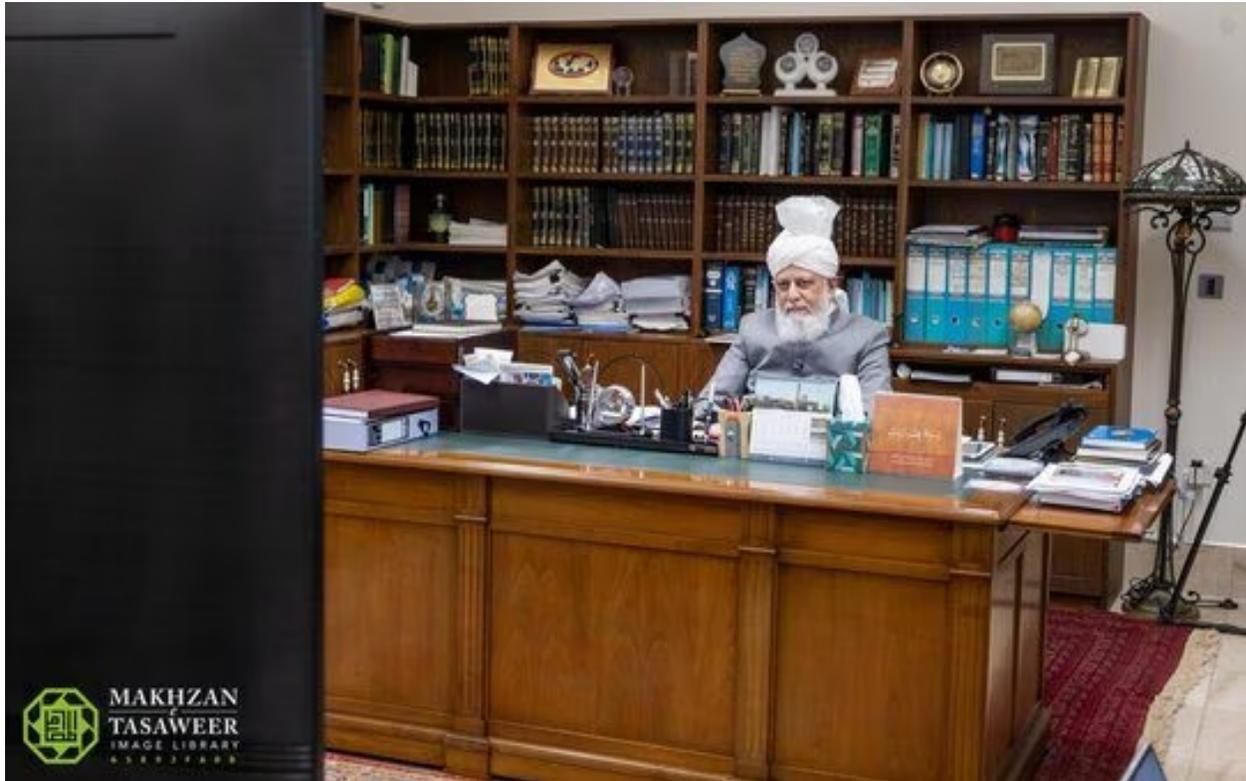
Submitted by Shazia Sohail

Mu'avina Sadr in-charge of Public Affairs, Lajna Ima'illah USA



Virtual Mulaqaat with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) August 29, 2021

A most fortunate trend that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic is the virtual mulaqaat with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba). Lajna Ima'illah USA National Amila was blessed to have one, and Al-Hakam reported on it:



“With love and care, remind Lajna members”: National amila Lajna Imaillah USA seek guidance from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih 3rd September 2021

On 29 August 2021, members of the national amila of Lajna Imaillah USA were blessed with a virtual meeting with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aa}.

The meeting was initiated by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} by leading everyone in silent prayer.

One by one, the amila members began to introduce their roles and report on their work. Huzoor^{aa} asked questions on progress, achievements, targets and plans and gave valuable guidance on how to improve the departments.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} asked the in-charge of waqifaat-e-nau USA, Mabroor Jattala Sahiba how many waqifaat-e-nau there were. To this, she reported there were 769 who had been officially recorded; however, many waqifaat had moved to the USA in the past years from other countries and their transfers were being processed.

Huzoor^{aa} asked if the USA waqifaat-e-nau syllabus was followed and how frequently classes were held. The secretary for waqifaat-e-nau reported that national virtual classes, for all waqifaat, were held twice a month while local classes took place twice a month as well. The number of participants in the national virtual classes was about 250 waqifaat-e-nau and almost 70% of local waqifaat attended their local classes.

Huzoor^{aa} asked what age group attended the classes the most. To this, the secretary said that the younger girls attended more than the older ones. To this Huzoor^{aa} said this meant that as the waqifaat-e-nau grew, their interest in these classes diminished.

Huzoor^{aa} advised:

“You should make them realise that being waqifaat-e-nau, they should attend the classes and study their syllabus and whatever is prescribed for them [...] even those who have reached the age of 21+, they should also be given some books”.

Speaking with Dr Aziza Rahman Sahiba, Secretary Umur-e-Talibat (Student Affairs) who was also the Lajna liaison for rishta nata (department for marriages), Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} asked how many matches her department had made this year. Dr Aziza Sahiba reported that since January, they were able to complete 22 matches between Ahmadi women and men. Hearing this Huzoor^{aa} said, “Through your department? Masha-Allah! So, the men didn’t do anything.”

Huzoor^{aa} then asked Dr Aziza Sahiba about the student affairs’ department. During the discussion, Huzoor^{aa} asked how many girls were studying medicine, to which Dr Aziza Sahiba said 11 Lajna members were studying medicine.

Huzoor^{aa} asked what professions Lajna in the USA preferred the most. To this, Dr Aziza Sahiba said they preferred medical fields and teaching professions.

Sabahat Ali, General Secretary was next to report. Responding to Huzoor’s questions, she reported that there were 66 majalis out of whom 92% sent their reports every month – to this Huzoor^{aa} said, “Masha-Allah”. Sabahat Ali Sahiba reported the tajnid (census) of Lajna Imaillah USA was about 8,000. Hearing this, Huzoor^{aa} said, “8,000? Masha-Allah you are increasing.” Huzoor^{aa} also noted that quite a number of Ahmadi immigrants were arriving in the USA so the tajnid should continue to increase. Huzoor^{aa} said that tajnid secretaries at all the grassroots level should be active and reporting.

Discussing the reports they received from majalis, Hazrat Amirul Momineen^{aa} said all reports that the centre received should be returned with feedback and comments from the respective national amila secretaries.

Huzoor^{aa} said the general secretary should also reply and acknowledge each and every sadr whenever they sent reports. This was important so that all the majalis stayed active and knew their reports were given importance. If they did not receive acknowledgements or feedback, they would begin to relax, Huzoor^{aa} said.

Zuna Ahmad Sahiba, secretary tarbiyat was next to report. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} asked her the plan for the year and what the department had achieved so far. Speaking on the importance of getting Lajna members active, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} advised:

“Start with your office-bearers – if they are active, if they are regular, if they are following the instruction of the centre – including your own amila members here at the centre – then they will achieve good results [...]

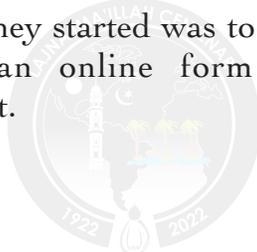
“When your amila members, from every level, from the grassroots level to the national level, are active, then at least 50% or more will be participating in your activities, in your programmes.”

Addressing Zuna Sahiba, Huzoor^{aa} asked how many Lajna members in the USA were reciting the Holy Quran every day. Huzoor^{aa} was told that 63% per cent were reciting the Quran daily, to which Huzoor^{aa} said:

“If only your amila members do tilawat [recitation of the Holy Quran] daily, then you can achieve the target of 60%, leave aside the other members. It means you are not doing much effort to include your amila members in your programme. So, you start from your home first – the home is your amila.”

Advising on how to make the questionnaire for Lajna members, Hazrat Amirul Momineen^{aa} said that it should be made in such a way that would not irritate Lajna members or make them hesitant to answer.

Zuna Sahiba said that another project they carried out was to educate Lajna members about Huzoor's weekly Friday sermons and to encourage them to listen to them. From a tarbiyat perspective, a project they started was to ask two tarbiyat related questions to Lajna members through an online form about Huzoor's sermon and the tarbiyat lessons derived from it.



Huzoor^{aa} asked Zuna Sahiba about what they did if no tarbiyat aspect was narrated in his Friday sermon as recently they had been focused on the history of Islam. To this, she replied that if one looked closely, a tarbiyat aspect could always be found from Huzoor's Friday sermons, no matter the subject.

Hazrat Amirul Momineen^{aa} agreed and said:

"[...] Then it's good. It means you are working hard, masha-Allah."

Zuna Sahiba reported that 100% of the majalis in the USA were relayed Huzoor's Friday sermon summaries and questions and discussions were held on them.

Huzoor^{aa} advised:

"I think you should also make some interactive programmes so that they raise questions on the sermons and then you answer them. Or, they themselves interact with each other. There should be a group of Lajna members who discuss these things in their own group."

The tarbiyat secretary said they were aiming for this and prompted Lajna members to discuss the sermons.

Talking about the importance of dressing modestly and the Islamic purdah, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} said:

"Even purdah and modest dress and the modesty of women is a commandment of Allah the Almighty in the Holy Quran."

Huzoor^{aa} also said to cater for different backgrounds of Lajna members and to hold tarbiyat sessions specific to their backgrounds and level of education.

Dr Amatul Rahman Sahiba, secretary talim (education) reported next. Huzoor^{aa} asked a series of questions regarding the syllabus and the books set for Lajna to read. Speaking about the Promised Messiah's Malfuzat, Huzoor^{aa} said that volumes one to three had been translated into English, so they could use them.

Sadeeka Kukoyi Sahiba, the national tajnid secretary reported to Huzoor^{aa} next. Talking about her background, Huzoor^{aa} asked if she was Nigerian, to which Sadeeka Sahiba said her father came from Nigeria and that she was born in America. Advising her on how to compile an accurate tajnid, Hazrat Amirul Momineen^{aa} said:

"You should have your own information source and your respective secretary tajnid in each and every majlis should go to each and every household and then find out how many Lajna members are living there, and how many new [members] have come into that majlis."

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} then spoke with Cassandra Shafeek Sahiba, National Khidmat-e-Khalq (Service to Humanity) Secretary. She reported that a number of initiatives had started within Lajna USA for khidmat-e-khalq, including public soup kitchens for those in need, an “Are You Ok?” initiative to keep Lajna members connected with each other during the pandemic and also a “Make A Mask” project.

Talking about charitable projects in Africa, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} said:

“I think United States Lajna should fund at least one model village every year and that will cost you around \$80,000 to \$90,000. Are you ready to take this responsibility?”

Cassandra Sahiba replied by saying, “Yes!”

To this, with a smile, Huzoor^{aa} said, “May Allah the Almighty help you.”

Secretary Sehat-e-Jismani (physical wellbeing) Dr Khadijat Ogunbiyi Sahiba reported to Huzoor^{aa}. The first question from Huzoor^{aa} to her was whether she did any exercise or went for walks. Khadijat Sahiba said she power walked. Huzoor^{aa} said she should also ask amila members to exercise regularly too or to go for walks.

Secretary Tabligh, Amatul Quddus Shams Sahiba reported to Huzoor^{aa}. Huzoor^{aa} asked how many bai'ats they had achieved. Quddus Sahiba reported that in the last 18 months, through Lajna Imaillah USA, seven people converted to Islam Ahmadiyyat and out of them, five had done bai'at in the last eight months.

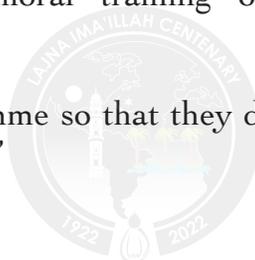
Giving guidance on targets, Huzoor^{aa} said:

“Try to make some ambitious targets and then try to achieve those targets.”

National Nasirat Secretary, Nurjamilah Bahri Sahiba reported. Huzoor^{aa} asked her the total number of nasirat in the USA, to which she said there were 1,331. Hearing the number, Huzoor^{aa} asked if she was satisfied with this number to be accurate and advised, “You have to contact your respective nasirat secretaries in various majalis and ask them to update and recheck their nasirat tajnid.”

Discussing the religious and moral training of Ahmadi girls, Hazrat Amirul Momineen^{aa} said:

“You should also make a programme so that they do tilawat of the Holy Quran daily and try to learn the meaning of it.”



Shazia Shakur Sohail Sahiba, Secretary Umur-e-Kharija (External Affairs) was next to report. Giving guidance, Huzoor^{aa} said:

“You should also try to hold seminars on women’s rights in Islam through umur-e-kharija and invite non-Muslims in your seminars, then they will know what true Islamic teachings are and what Ahmadis are doing.”

Aziza Rana Sahiba, Secretary Ziafat reported to Huzoor^{aa} and introduced herself. Huzoor^{aa} asked what she had prepared for the Lajna members, to which she replied that palak paneer, pilao and lasagne had been prepared. Huzoor^{aa} asked if Lajna was paying for this, to which Aziza Sahiba replied in the affirmative. Hearing this, Huzoor^{aa} said, “Why? Ask the Jamaat, they should take care of Lajna members.”

Aziza Sahiba replied that as only a handful of Lajna members were attending, this opportunity was given to them and they were happy to carry it out. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} smiled and said it was okay.

Laeqa Mirza Sahiba, Secretary Tarbiyat Nau Mubai‘at (New Converts) was next to report. Huzoor^{aa} asked how many new converts she had under her supervision, to which Laeeqa Sahiba said there were 66 new members, all of whom were from different ethnicities and backgrounds.

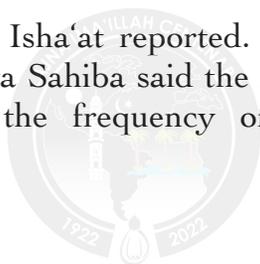
Guiding on how to educate new Ahmadi converts, Hazrat Amirul Momineen^{aa} said:

“You should see the background of different people and try to do training and tarbiyat according to their backgrounds. You cannot just make one plan and programme for each and every new convert. So those who have a Christian background, you tell them what the Quran is, what the ahadith are, the history of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and various other things.

“And those who are from Muslim backgrounds – although quite a number of them do not know how to read the Holy Quran – even then, they have some knowledge of the Holy Quran and they have some basic information about Islam [...]

“Then, from among Muslims, some of them have Arab backgrounds and some are Asian – Indo-Pakistani backgrounds. So, you will have to make your plan according to their individual conditions.”

Ruqaiya Asad Sahiba, Secretary Isha‘at reported. Huzoor^{aa} asked if they printed a Lajna magazine, to which Ruqaiya Sahiba said the Ayesha magazine was printed and sold twice a year. Regarding the frequency of its publication, with a smile, Huzoor^{aa} said:



“There are four seasons; it should at least be quarterly.”

Huzoor^{aa} also asked her to try to increase the number of subscribers too.

Shaheena Bashir Sahiba, Muavina Sadr for Lajna media watch reported. She said her department encouraged Ahmadi Lajna members to write articles on Islam and respond to allegations and have them printed in the media, whether locally or nationally. 118 letters written by Lajna about Islam were published in the last year in the USA, both online and print media. Giving guidance, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} said:

“You should also try to make personal relationships with your female journalists – not only from the Ahmadi members, but outside the Jamaat as well.”

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} then asked Sadr Lajna Imaillah USA, Dhiya Tahira Bakr Sahiba, if she wanted to ask anything. Sadr Sahiba asked what to do about those Ahmadi girls who were moving away from religion and were not practicing it, despite keeping an affinity with being called an Ahmadi Muslim. To this, Huzoor^{aa} said:

“Allah the Almighty says in the Holy Quran that your job is just to keep on reminding the people and advising them. And pray for them as well. It should not be that after some time, you give up. No, we are not going to give up.

“Since they declare themselves to be an Ahmadi and they do not want themselves to be removed from the Jamaat, then it is our duty to use each and every measure to bring them to the fold of Ahmadiyyat in a way which has been prescribed in our literature and, most importantly, in the Holy Quran.

“So tell them that ‘these are the injunctions and commandments’. The Quran says you should wear modest dress – this is the Quranic injunction. The Quran says you wear the hijab and do purdah – that is a Quranic injunction. It is not that the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam is only imposing it and practicing it. No, this is a Quranic commandment. And there are so many others – doing tilawat, offering five daily prayers, etc.

“These are the things which you have to make them realise – so keep on doing it gently, with love and care. They should also realise that you are their sympathisers; whatever you are doing is for their betterment. You are trying to save them from the wrongs of this society. Once they realise it, then they will, one day, follow you.

“And pray for them as well; of course, we have to pray.

“But after some time, after advising them once or twice or three times or four times, you leave it and give it up. Then this should not be the case. You have to be very

persuasive. Try to be persuasive; that is your job and that is the commandment given in the Holy Quran:

فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُذَكِّرٌ

['Admonish, therefore, for thou art but an admonisher.' (Surah al-Ghashiya, Ch.88: V.22)]

“That is the injunction given to the Holy Prophetsa. Keep on advising them, keep on admonishing them, try to explain to them the good teachings of Islam. This is your job.”

Guiding the amila members further on how to serve and implement their responsibilities, Huzoor^{aa} said:

“Start from your amila members; if your amila members at the national level, at the regional level (as I already said) and at the local levels, are active and following your programmes and plans, then this means you have achieved 50% or more of your target. Whereas your figures show that only 33% of the Lajna members are participating – that means your amila members are not active in following the instructions on the programmes and plans.

“So, try to see whether your amila members are following your plans or not. If they set their good examples, then the [Lajna] members will also follow them.

“We have to set our own example, then we can hope for better results.”

This concluded the meeting and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih^{aa} conveyed his salaam, bringing the mulaqat to an end.



Women's Rights in Islam: A Blueprint for Liberation of All Women

Giving guidance, Huzoor^{aa} said: *“You should also try to hold seminars on women's rights in Islam through umur-e-kharia and invite non-Muslims in your seminars, then they will know what true Islamic teachings are and what Ahmadiis are doing.”*

In compliance with Huzoor's (aba) guidance, Lajna Umoo-e-Kharia held a webinar on women's rights in Islam on September 24, 2022. During the event, the high status and the rights afforded to Muslim women by Islam were outlined in great detail and common misunderstandings were addressed. Around 300 women attended; of these, 65 were guests, mostly local or state officials.

“The Holy Prophet was very keen on improving the condition of women in society and securing for them a position of dignity and fair and equitable treatment,” said **Dhiya Bakr Sahiba**, Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA. “The objective was to prevent exploitation, sexual harassment, inequality, and female inferiority.”

After the program presentation and Respected Sadr Sahiba's address, the following officials responded with positive and appreciative remarks:

- **Monae Nickerson**, Vice Mayor of the Town of Dumfries
- **Selonia Miles**, Council Member of the Town of Dumfries
- **Heather Bagnall**, Maryland State Delegate

The following officials provided written feedback after the event:

- **Congresswoman Jackie Speier** (CA-14), Co-Chair of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Congressional Caucus stated, “Too often, religion is distorted to justify intolerance and oppression, and women often bear the brunt of such discrimination. As the world watches women in Iran and across the globe join together to fight for equality and fundamental human rights, the voices of Ahmadi women are more powerful than ever. Saturday's event, ‘Women's Rights in Islam: A Blueprint,’ dispelled misconceptions about Islamic teachings involving women and highlighted Islam's foundational recognition of equality between men and women. As always, it was a privilege to work alongside my Ahmadi friends and constituents to advance human rights and end religious intolerance.”
- **Padma Kuppa**, representing the 41st district in the Michigan House of Representatives said, “It was an honor to attend the webinar on Women's Rights in Islam and hear from women leaders in the Muslim community who spoke to a national audience with poise and eloquence. As a state legislator, I am engaged within our local interfaith organizations such as the Troy Area Interfaith Group and the Women's Interfaith Solutions for Dialogue and Outreach in Metro-Detroit (WISDOM), with leaders such as [Ahmadi women]. We do the critical work on the

ground to develop awareness about our respective faiths to ensure mutual respect and to build understanding. I thank the event organizers and attendees for their commitment to these goals as well. Together, we can make a better world, and a better tomorrow.”

- **Kim Schofield**, representing the 60th district in the Georgia House of Representatives said, “At this moment in history where the rights of women are under attack and being dismantled, the narrative of the value and voice of all women has reached its tipping point. Freedom and justice for all women is not a mantra but it is our stance. Our cultural norms and customs remain relevant in the uplifting and valuing of our minds, bodies, work, teaching and contributions to this world. Women will continue to stand up, speak up and show up in and on new levels.”
- **Jeanette Rishell**, Mayor of the City of Manassas Park in Virginia said, “It was a pleasure to attend the webinar on 'Women’s Rights in Islam: A Blueprint for Liberation of All Women' hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The dialogue and the educational aspect of this webinar was very important, and it reminded us of the value of collaboration among women from all walks of life as we promote peace and justice for all.”
- **Kimberly Hunt**, Senior Advisor to the U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, said, ‘We have so much work ahead of us as women of color and fighting for equity. The messages from the speakers really hit home. My hope is to learn more about the organization through our meeting.’
- **Lilli Rey**, from the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, said, “I am always so enamored and inspired by your faith, and you do a great job articulating your commitment. As a people we have so far to go especially for women’s rights and equality. This movement is for men as well, which I appreciate that understanding also. Thank you for inviting me.”
- **Patricia Pascoe**, from California, said, “This was very interesting and invigorating. Thank you for including me.”
- **Sue Addy**, from Arizona, said, “Thoroughly enjoyed learning all of this information. Thank you for including me.”
- **Cathy Hozian**, from Arizona, said, “I wasn’t able to stay for all of it. But what I did see was very enlightening.”
- **Julie Zanotti**, Outreach and Service Coordinator for LDS Church in Centreville said, “I enjoyed the conference on Saturday! I particularly enjoyed learning more about the doctrine of women in Islam. The first main speaker had a wonderful presentation on that. And then I appreciated the second main speaker and how she applied the rights/needs of women more globally — the issues women still face in other parts of the world that we sometimes take for granted. It was well done!”
- **Congresswoman Judy Chu** (CA-27) sent a recorded video message supporting the program.

Submitted by Shazia Sohail

Mu'avina Sadr in-charge of Public Affairs, Lajna Ima'illah USA

African Model Village

Talking about charitable projects in Africa, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih(aba) said: *“I think United States Lajna should fund at least one model village every year and that will cost you around \$80,000 to \$90,000. Are you ready to take this responsibility?”*

Cassandra Sahiba replied by saying, “Yes!”

To this, with a smile, Huzoor^{aa} said, *“May Allah the Almighty help you.”*

—Al-Hakam, September 3, 2021

During the National Amila mulaqat on August 29, 2021, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) recommended that Lajna Ima'illah USA sponsor an African Model Village, and the cost would be \$90,000.00.

Huzoor (aba) selected Sumanitinga, Ghana. Sumanitinga is a remote area in Ghana and has no electricity or water. The area does not receive any assistance under government schemes.

A model village comprises the following elements:

- Community Center: To provide training and community classes
- Social enterprise: To start a new business venture and develop financial security for the village. Projects like: Poultry and Fish Farming and Irrigation, and others.
- MTA Satellite System: Bringing MTA to these villages for tarbiyyat purposes.
- Solar Water System: Installed to feed various water points in the village.
- Toilets: Promote cleanliness and ensure all waste is stored in one location.
- Lighting Electrification: Provided by Solar streetlights; to light a safe passage to the village and boost security at night.
- Roads: To improve vehicular/cycle access to the village and for the safety of villagers to move around the village.
- Landscape: To look appealing. The landscaping will include painting houses, plant trees, and build fences where needed.



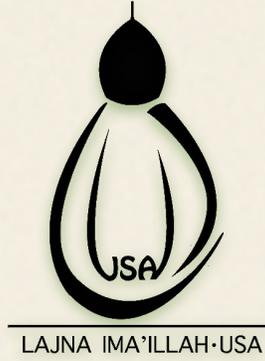


Photo of the installed solar street lighting system



Installation of the mini solar well for borehole 1





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A publication of Lajna Ima'illah USA and Nasiratul Ahmadiyya USA, auxiliaries of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This issue of the Lajna Matters was compiled, under the guidance of National Sadr Lajna Ima'illah, by the National Lajna Publications Team. The Lajna Matters team wishes to thank the National Amila, Local and Regional Sadran who contributed submissions for this issue. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

