

Respected Sadr sahiba Lajna Ima'illah America

Mujlis-e-Shura Proposals for Approval

Proposal	Recommendations
<p>1) <b>Addaab e Hayaat (etiquette of Life):</b> Emphasis should be made on Islamic etiquettes. Ahmadi Muslim women should adopt good morals. And become an excellent role model.</p>	<p>It is recommended that there should be a comprehensive program that includes presentations, discussions and other ways to highlight Islamic etiquette. Attention should be brought to etiquette of Salat and mosque: making proper rows and cleanliness. Proper training should be given on how to perform special prayers such as Eid prayers, funeral prayers and Jummah prayers. Etiquette of meetings: Cultivating the feelings of love, respect, tolerance and sociable in members in local, regional and national gatherings. Hospitality, good disposition also encouraged. Use of Social Media: Guidance should be given on the use of mobile phone, digital footprint and Purdah. It is been recommended that age appropriate material should be provided. Exhorting sisters to include everyone with love, encouraging participation, covering others weaknesses. Qualities such as selflessness, self-control, humbleness, patience and politeness should be highlighted. Etiquette of Purdah and clothes at professional and official places for Ahmadi Women &amp; Girls: Guidance should be given on how to meet non Ahmadi. Leadership Training: There is a recommendation to make change in the format of training local sadrs and local Aamila. Hazur (aba) sermons and other resources will be utilized in training. A 5 minutes talk/presentation will be made in every Lajna and Nasirat meeting on Islamic etiquette. Instagram and MTA educational videos will also be utilized.</p>
<p>2) Materialism and Faith</p>	<p><i>Dangers of materialism: Hazur (aba) has called it the cause of disintegration of families and degradation of moral values. Lajna and Nasirat should be guided on this matter so that they live according to Islamic teachings and save themselves from the bad effects of materialism. Faith &amp; spiritual peace: It is mentioned in the Holy Quran that remembrance of Allah bring peace to one's heart. Lajna and Nasirat programs should be made to create strong bond with faith and so it can bring peace to their heart. Such programs in</i></p>

	<p><i>Taleem Tarbiyyat, Khidmate Khaliq and in leisure activities should be promoted that increase mutual bond. Physical and mental Health should be promoted through regular exercise, collective worship and Ijtemas. Utilize Fourth Khalifa (ra) book "step to exercise" to develop a program. Establishment of casual book groups. Where Al-wasiyyat, Philosophy Teachings of Islam, book sermons of Hazrat Muslih Maud (ra) page 409 volume 13, "Keep faith in Allah's favors" Discussed. In these program attributes of Allah and doing good deeds should be promoted. There should be a speech in the meetings about taking the middle path. Promoting to keep faith in Allah and not to get discouraged by worldly trial and give precedence to faith over world.</i></p>
<p>3) Annual Budget</p>	<p>Budget is comprehensive and portion of Murkaz is mentioned.</p>

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

مکرمہ صدر صاحبہ لجنہ اماء اللہ امریکہ

## مجلس شوریٰ کی سفارشات برائے منظوری

نمبر شمار	تجویز	سفارشات
1	آداب حیات۔ اسلامی آداب کی اہمیت پر زور دیا جائے۔ احمدی مسلمان خواتین کو اچھے آداب اپنانے چاہئیں اور اعلیٰ نمونہ قائم کرنا چاہیے۔	اس کے لیے جامع پروگرام تشکیل دینے کی سفارش کی گئی ہے جس میں پریزنٹیشنز، تبادلہ خیالات اور دیگر سرگرمیوں کے ذریعے اسلامی آداب کو اجاگر کیا جائے۔ نماز اور مساجد کے آداب: مسجد میں نماز پڑھنے، صف بندی، صفائی ستھرائی اور دیگر آداب پر توجہ مبذول کرائی جائے۔ خصوصی نمازوں جیسے جمعہ، عید، جنازہ وغیرہ میں شرکت کے آداب بھی بیان کیے جائیں۔ اجتماعات کے آداب: ملکی، علاقائی اور مقامی اجتماعات میں احترام، محبت، رواداری اور ملنساری کے جذبات کو فروغ دینے کی تاکید کی جائے۔ صاف ستھرے ماحول میں مہمان نوازی اور خوش اخلاقی پر بھی زور دیا جائے۔ سوشل میڈیا کا استعمال: سوشل میڈیا پر موبائل فون اور سمارٹ واچز کے مناسب استعمال، گفتگو کے انداز، ڈیجیٹل فوٹو پرنٹس اور آن لائن پردہ پر راہنمائی دی جائے۔ تمام عمر کے گروپوں کے لیے مناسب مواد فراہم کرنے کی بھی سفارش کی گئی ہے۔ محبت و رواداری: خوش مزاجی سے ہر کو ساتھ لے کر چلنا، شمولیت کو فروغ دینا، دوسروں کی کمزوریوں پر پردہ ڈالنا اور تحلل کا مظاہرہ کرنے کی تلقین کی جائے۔ بے لوثی، خود پر کنٹرول، انکساری، مروت، صبر اور معاشرتی رشتوں کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کیا جائے۔ احمدی خواتین اور

لڑکیوں کے آداب: پیشہ ور اور سرکاری مقامات پر ملکی لباس اور پردے کے آداب، غیر احمدیوں سے معاملات کے آداب پر راہنمائی دی جائے۔ قیادت کی تربیت: مقامی صدر اور عاملہ کی باقاعدہ راہنمائی کے لیے لجنہ مینسٹرنگ کانفرنس کے فارمیٹ میں تبدیلی کی تجویز ہے۔ قیادت کی تربیت میں خلیفہ وقت کے خطابات اور دیگر وسائل سے بھی مدد لی جائے گی۔ اجتماعات میں ہر لجنہ اور ناصرات کے اجلاس میں اسلامی آداب سے متعلق 5 منٹ کی درس و تدریس شامل کی جائے۔ انسٹاگرام پوسٹس اور ایم ٹی اے کی راہنمائی سے تعلیمی ویڈیوز کے ذریعے بھی یاد دہانی کرائی جائے گی۔

مادیت کے خطرات: حضور انور نے مادیت کے بڑھتے ہوئے رجحان کو خاندانی جھگڑوں اور اخلاقی زوال کا سبب قرار دیا ہے۔ اس لیے لجنہ اور ناصرات کی راہنمائی کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ وہ اسلامی تعلیمات کے مطابق زندگی گزار سکیں اور مادیت کے منفی اثرات سے بچ سکیں۔ ایمان اور روحانی سکون: قرآن کریم میں کہا گیا ہے کہ اللہ کی یاد دل کو سکون بخشتی ہے، اس لیے لجنہ و ناصرات کی سرگرمیوں کو اس مقصد کے تحت تشکیل دیا جائے کہ ان میں ایمانی لگاؤ مضبوط ہو اور وہ روحانی سکون حاصل کریں۔ جماعتی عبادات، ذکر و دعا، خدمت خلق، تفریحی سرگرمیوں اور لجنہ کے باہمی رشتوں کو مضبوط بنانے والی سرگرمیوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کی جائے۔ جسمانی اور ذہنی صحت: باقاعدہ ورزش، عبادات، جماعتی اجتماعات اور غیر رسمی پروگراموں جیسے "Just Show Up Gatherings" کے ذریعے جسمانی اور

2 مادیت اور دنیا داری سے ہٹ کر دین اور مذہب کی طرف توجہ دینے کے لئے لائحہ عمل بنایا جائے۔

ذہنی صحت کو فروغ دینے کی کوشش کی جائے۔ ورزش پر حضرت خلیفۃ المسیح الرابعیؒ کی کتاب "Steps to Exercise" سے راہنمائی لے کر باقاعدہ ورزش کا پروگرام تشکیل دیا جائے۔ علم اور عقائد کی تجدید: غیر رسمی کتاب گروپ تشکیل دیا جائے جن میں "الوصیت" "اسلامی اصول کی فلاسفی" "وحی / عقل / علم اور حقیقت" جیسی کتابوں کے مطالعہ اور "خطبات محمود" جلد 13 صفحہ 409 پر حضرت مصلح موعودؑ کے خطبہ "اللہ تعالیٰ کے فضلوں پر امید اور یقین رکھو" پر تبادلہ خیال کیے جائیں۔ ان پروگراموں میں اللہ تعالیٰ کے ناموں اور صفات کے ذکر کی یاد تازہ کی جائے اور نیکیوں کی عادات کو فروغ دیا جائے۔ ہر کام میں درمیانی راستہ اختیار کرنا: جماعتی تقریب میں اعتدال پسندی پر ایک خطاب کا اہتمام کیا جائے۔ دنیاوی مسائل کو دینی عقیدے سے کمتر مقام دیا جائے اور اللہ تعالیٰ پر مکمل یقین رکھا جائے کہ وہ ہر حاجت پوری کرنے والا ہے۔

بجٹ تفصیلی ہے۔ حصہ مرکز کا ذکر موجود ہے۔

سالانہ مالی بجٹ۔

3

## **Lajna Ima'illah USA National Majlis-e-Shura 2023 Recommendations from Sub-committees**

### **Proposal 1: *Adaab e Hayaat* Etiquette of Life; As an Ahmadi Muslim. (TARBIYYAT)**

*“Successful nations always keep an eye on their shortcomings, and there is no shame in doing so.”  
(Friday Sermon; September 8, 2023)*

*Our gatherings on a local as well as national level have brought to light challenges in observing basic Islamic etiquette, especially as regards appropriate behavior in the mosque, during salat, as well as decorum at Jamaat gatherings and our interactions with others. The recent addresses of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) draw particular attention to our moral training (tarbiyyat). These reminders provide an excellent opportunity to return to the foundational principles of Islam in daily life. The Shura committee is asked to craft a dynamic program with which to reinvigorate Islamic etiquette within our members, including ways in which to train Lajna in leadership roles to facilitate implementation of the program effectively. (Tarbiyyat. National Aamilah and VA North Majlis)*

#### **Recommendations for Implementation**

The recommendations made by the Subcommittee are divided into two parts:

- A. Etiquettes of the culture of RasoolAllah<sup>sa</sup>
- B. Training leadership to be empathetic, successful leaders.

#### **A. Etiquettes of the culture of RasoolAllah<sup>sa</sup>**

1. Conduct a series of quarterly workshops/meetings for Lajna and Nasirat using PowerPoint presentations, interactive discussions and other activities to emphasize the importance of Islamic etiquettes in daily life. *The topics for quarterly presentations are based on Islamic etiquettes of:*

- Salat in the mosque and in the home - creating posters and signs for reminders in the mosque.
- Attending to special prayers/Salat – e.g., Jummah, Eid, Janaza, Travel, Istikhara.
- Cleanliness and Good Health – personal hygiene, of home and mosque, eating, drinking etc.
- Gatherings – respectful, inclusive, open heart and mind, common language, welcoming visitors.
- Social Media/Technology – appropriate use of cell phones, smart watches in the masjid, language/behavior on social media, digital footprints, online purdah, addressing all age groups.
- Love for All Hatred for None – being nonjudgmental, practicing inclusivity, covering faults of others, being tolerant of others’ weaknesses.
- Restoring ‘forgotten’ Islamic Values – e.g., Selflessness, self-control, humility, courtesy, patience, sense of community.
- Ahmadi woman/girl – modest dress/purdah in professional and public settings, interacting with non-Ahmadis.

2. Umoore Talibaat members and Nasirat work together to conduct the following campaigns in their Majalis:

- “Smile and Say Salaam” - encourage saying salaam to everyone in the mosques and gatherings.
- “Pick up Trash and Please Allah” - Umoore Talibaat and Nasirat lead in keeping mosques clean.

- “Please, You First”. - invite others to go first e.g., in the food line, or getting a seat.
- “I’m Here for You”. - offering friendship, compassion and help to everyone: the elderly, people with special needs, parents, the Amila.

### **B. Training Lajna in Leadership Roles**

1. Change format of Lajna Mentoring Conference to provide frequent mentoring for local Sadrs and Amila, include how to become empathetic and encouraging leaders, and use of scenarios.
2. Hold a virtual conference on leadership for Local Sadrs and Amilas using the books “I Solemnly Pledge,” and “Objectives of Lajna Ima’illah”.
3. National Amila holds in-person or virtual meetings with Local Sadrs to show support, listen to their concerns and guide them in their interaction with their membership.
4. Regional Sadrs should hold a “Leadership Training” workshop with their local Majalis Amilas at least once a year, preferably in person, virtually if needed.

Every Lajna and Nasirat meeting should include a 5-minute reminder on a chosen etiquette in addition to the quarterly workshops/meetings on Islamic etiquettes. Create Lajna Instagram posts reminders on Islamic etiquettes and educational videos with MTA guidance.

### **Resources for implementation:**

Holy Quran, Hadith and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, sermons of Khulafa; “Do’s and Don’ts” by Hazrat Dr. Mir Muhammad Ismail Sahib (ra), “Etiquette of Life” by Amtul Rafiq Zafar,” “Basics of Religious Education” compiled by Sheikh Abdul Hadi, and translated excerpts from “Fiqah Ahmadiyya” and “Seeratul Mahdi”. Stories on the lives of the Holy Prophet s.a.w wives, Khulafa wives and wife of the Promised Messiah a.s.. Appropriate secular leadership training tools.

### **Adaab e Hayaat Etiquette of Life Subcommittee Members**

Maha Malik Philadelphia	Faiza Zafar Houston
Neha Ahmad Pittsburgh	Olivia Barber Chicago
Rumsha Ahmed Portland	Nazia Khurshid Ahmad GA/SC
Maryam Ashraf Fitchburg	Saba Rehman Ala/Tenn
Qurratilain Akbar NJ Central	Mehvish Ahmed Phoenix
Yumna Ahmad Brooklyn/Staten Is	Rahmatallah Uthman-Afolarin Willingboro
Akavish Khan VA North	Maryam Saddiqa Maryland
Saira Bhatti VA North	Amina Chughtai Houston
Nurjamilah Bahri GA/SC	Noreen Qureshi Tucson

Fareeha Saadi St. Louis	Shazia Sabahat Mirza Albany
Faiqa Syeda Maryland	Raabya Mahmood Detroit
Farah Ahmad Queens	Fauzia Shahid Maryland
Khadija James York/Harrisburg	Wajiha Chaudry Ahmad Milwaukee
Khafia Choudhry VA North	Sabrina Zakria Chicago
Samantha Issam Zion (Chair)	Aziza Rahman LA East (Secretary)

### **Proposal 2: Materialism and Faith (TARBIYYAT)**

Islam places significant importance on maintaining physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being to lead a fulfilling and purposeful life. Finding inner peace, familial peace, and communal peace is a cornerstone of our faith. As stated in The Holy Qur'an Ch.13: V. 29: *'Those who believe, and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of Allah. Aye! It is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort.'*

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> foresaw the hazardous destruction of materialism invading our world and causing disintegration of families and degradation of moral values. (Condition of Ba'ait #2) The Shura Committee is requested to create a plan that aligns practices with Islamic teachings to educate and empower Lajna and Nasirat to make better choices that promote contentment, mental fitness, their connection to Allah, their faith, and Khilafat.  
(Harrisburg Majlis, Maryland Majlis, LA-West Majlis, VA-North Majlis and National Aamilah)

### **Recommendations for Implementation**

**Understanding the Task:** The committee reviewed various other proposals that addressed this concern and deliberated on the root cause of Materialism and related issues. The meaning of the following words was clarified: **Mental Fitness, Contentment, and Empathy**. Also, it was recommended from the shura body to look at prevention, secondary and tertiary interventions to correct the imbalance with materialism and faith.

With the increase of materialism in society, Lajna and Nasirat members can become restless and drift away from Jama'at involvement. This implementation plan is hoped to promote engagement, draw members back and help them be free of restlessness: Through Lajna activities and bonding, step-by-step secure attachment to their faith.

#### **Step 1 - Build a connection to take steps that find pleasure in simple activities that promote bonding in lajna and jamaat:**

- Include Congregational Prayers before or after the gatherings.
- Build contentment and gratitude by engaging in Khidmat-e-Khalq activities, and leisure activities with family and Lajna members.
- Create peace in the family with activities that promote self-reflection, behavior modification and counseling. (Use professional Ahmadi counselors)

- Increase Lajna and Nasirat attendance.

**Step 2 - Build a routine to promote physical and mental fitness:**

- Include Congregational Prayers at every gathering.
- Establish a weekly sports meet (e.g., Volleyball) to promote physical and mental fitness.
- Encourage “**Just show up gatherings**” (Informal)– every other month:
- Steps to exercise – Book by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rh)
  - <https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Steps-to-Exercise.pdf>
- Talk to a new person.
- Establish a big sister/ mentor program for Nasirat entering Lajna.
- Attend Jumu‘ah Prayers and listen to Friday Sermons – make it a group plan sometimes.

**Step 3 -Build curiosity to gain knowledge and secure attachment to faith:**

- Include Congregational Prayers at every gathering.
- “**Just show up gatherings:**” – topics for every other month:
  - Find the good in this materialistic world and gratitude: Perform a Nawafil Prayer (Example Prayer: “*Grant us good in this world, as well as good in the world to come, and protect us from the torment of the fire*” 2:202).
  - Build habits based on *Sunnat* and other good role-models.
  - Get re-acquainted with the names/attributes of Allah.
- Review the spiritual aspect of financial sacrifices and financial literacy as an antidote to materialism.
- Educate on how materialism causes; 1. moral & family disintegration/degradation, 2. impact on Rishta.
- Create interactive informal book group. Books recommended: Wassiyat, Philosophy Teachings of Islam, Revelation/Rationality/Knowledge & Truth. Also, speech by Hazrat Musleh Maud ra in volume 13 of Khutbat-e-Mahmud, page 409: Allah Taala ke fazlon par Umeed aur yaqeen rakho” English translated is “Be hopeful of and believe in the certainty of Allah’s blessings”.
- Practice Moderation – (the middle way/finding balance) – include a speech at Jalsa/Ijtemas.
- Give precedence to faith above all worldly concerns (Allah provides for all your needs).

**Materialism and Faith Subcommittee Members**

Zuna Ahmad – Chair (Maryland)	Saliha Malik – Secretary (Boston)
Adeen Ahmad – (Long Island)	Huda Mahmood – (Queens)
Anisa Qadir – (Silicon Valley)	Sheela Ahmed – (Zion)

Rukash Chaudhry – (Maryland)	Huda Chaudhry – (Maryland)
Husna Mirza – (LA East)	Aiyza Ahmed – (Silicon Valley)
Sobia Tariq Mirza – (Dayton)	Shanze Hayee – (Minnesota)
Madiha Khan – (Miami)	Hibbah Khan – (Seattle)
Rushda Bukhari – (Detroit)	Maha Kaleem – (Virginia South)
Husna Ahmad – (Austin)	Barakat Salami – (Houston)
Kafia Ahmad – (LA East)	Basra Bashir – (Virginia South)
Sarah Malik – (Maryland)	Tooba Malik – (Oshkosh)
Alimat Abdulazeez – (Orlando)	Sana Tariq – (Tulsa)
Gohar Choudhary – (Virginia North)	Maha Laiq – (Virginia North)
Salmana Mahmood – (Chicago)	Dr. Amatul Quddus Ayaz-Shams- (Chicago)
Tooba Malik – (Dallas)	Aqsa Chaudhry – (LA East)

### **Proposal 3: Finance Budget FY 2023-2024 and Annual Report\_ FY 2022-2023**

“Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love, and whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well” [3:93]

After an in-depth deliberation, the budget for FY 2023 – 2024 was approved as originally submitted. 164 delegates voted to keep the original budget and 12 voted to amend the budget. Appendix A Budget included.

#### **Recommendations for improving budget income & reducing expenses:**

- 1. Outreach to members who are not paying their obligatory chanda;** this is a Tarbiyyat issue.
  - a. Provide education on spending in the way of Allah and its blessings.
  - b. Sharing verses of the Holy Quran and guidance from Khulafa about the benefits of financial sacrifice.
  - c. Reach out to Lajna members on a personal basis, especially those who have become more distant, without mentioning finances or meetings etc.
  - d. After approval of local Amila, share the budget with local membership to help members understand where and how their donations are being used.
  - e. National Finance secretary create a Signal group with local finance secretaries to guide / keep in touch.
  - f. Have a magnet chanda calendar members can put on their refrigerator.
  
- 2. Increase Lajna and Nasirat dues to accommodate inflation:**
  - a. Increase Lajna chanda from \$30 to \$35 for non-earning members (Amended budget to show increased revenue by \$20,000.00)
  - b. Suggested to raise earning members 1%.
  - c. Add a budget line for general members travel (Sadr USA mentioned this line not necessary, funds should be included in local majlis budget, or local sadr seek permission to use local surplus funds or national special travel funds can be used).
  - d. Sadr USA mentioned not all members paying Lajna or jamaat chanda. Therefore, majalis should first work on improving chanda collections.
  - e. Vote: 121 delegates voted not to increase Lajna chanda and 55 to increase.
  
- 3. Establish a sliding fee for chanda that would allow members to contribute more than \$30.**
  - a. The slide range suggested was from \$30 to \$100 or more.
  - b. Vote: 155 delegates voted to have a lajna chanda slide and 21 delegates voted no.
  - c. Sadr USA stated she was not sure if a chanda slide is appropriate or how to manage a budget using it. Therefore, she would seek beloved Huzoor aba advice.

**Budget Subcommittee Members:**

Najmi S. Azam NC-Research Triangle( Chair)	Shahina Bashir Maryland ( Secretary)
Hadia Malik Maryland	Sofia Pervaiz Baltimore MD
Ayesha Ahmad York/Harrisburg PA	Saima Sheikh Dallas TX
Nighat Nasreen Austin TX	Sabilla Mohamed Queens NY
Naela Najam Chicago IL	Talat Mangla North VA
Sidra Zahoor Syracuse NY	Shabana Muktar North NJ
Mubarika Shah North VA	Jannat Kiyemba Maryland
Nakasha Ahmad Centra NJ	Saba Bajwa San Diego CA
Uroosa Suhail CA-Bay Point	Rabia Chaudhry Silicon Valley CA
Khallat Baig South VA	Nadia Anwaar Cleveland OH
Sania Saeed Hartford CT	Sherifa Cudjoe GA/SC
Alia Ahmed Milwaukee WI	Sadia Noreen Detroit MI
Munahil Mahmood LA West CA	Maleeha Latif Houston TX
Itrat Butt South VA	Nusrat Jahan Seattle WA
Mahwish Bajwa South VA	Saima Butt Brooklyn NY