

ISNA CON 58: Thousands Expected as Islamic Society of North America Hosts Much Anticipated 58th Annual Convention — With AMT as Official Media Sponsors

Tory Darting, AMT Reporter

Another virtual year for the celebrated gathering which has inspirational speakers from the world of religion and politics.



Preparations are underway for the ISNA’s 58th annual convention which will be held Labor Day weekend — with AMT as the official media sponsor for the first time.

This year’s theme — Reimagine & Rebuild with Renewed Resolve — will cover a variety of topics such as spiritual renewal, social justice, a post-pandemic world, human rights and Islamic education. There will be messages of support from congressional members Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Rashida Tlaib.



Last year Joe Biden sent a video message two months before winning the presidency.



Pictured: Dick Durbin (Illinois Senator) and Rashida Tlaib (Michigan Representative)

ISNA’s Executive Director, Basharat Saleem confirmed the event would be free again to ensure “maximum attendance” and so that the Muslim community benefits from the array of speakers.



Basharat Saleem

“We are bringing together more than 100 renowned national speakers, we will have thousands of attendees that Labor Day weekend and Inshallah together we will make it a beautiful weekend. We will be addressing important topics like COVID-19, social and racial justice and many other issues within the Muslim community.”

One of the speakers during the session on countering Islamophobia is Emgage CEO Wa’el Alzayat. He’ll be speaking about the importance of Muslims being civically engaged in politics.



Wa’el Alzayat

“One of the arguments of the Islamophobes is that Islam is incompatible with democracy and American values. Through our engagement in the public space, including politics, we can reclaim the narrative of what Islam and Muslims are and what they stand for.



We can show that Muslim values are not only compatible with democracy, but are essential to allowing our pluralistic democracy to thrive,” he said. “Moreover, our active civic participation will help inform public policy about issues that affect us and the country, as well as elect public officials who support our shared vision of a just and inclusive society.”



Magda Saleh

ISNA’s Vice President, Magda Elkadi Saleh, urged people to tune into the town hall meeting the Friday before the event.

“Please join us as we listen to thought-provoking and inspiring speakers as we plan to reimagine and rebuild with renewed resolve. One of the highlights from this year’s convention that I hope all of you will join us for is the town hall meeting on Friday evening. Let us hear from you, our members. How can we make ISNA more relevant and beneficial to you and your communities?”

Fiyyaz Jaat, the Director of the Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA), says virtual or in-person — the convention brings the community together.

“The ISNA convention means so many different things to so many different people, whether it be that beautiful road trip out to this awesome state or city with your family and friends; whether it be seeing the sheer number of Muslims that were there and it really strengthening your Muslim identity; or whether it be being inspired by the countless summers of amazing speakers and scholars and sessions and discussions that were so relevant to who we are and what we need as a community.”



Fiyyaz Jaat



Shaza Khan, the Executive Director of the Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA), will speak during the “Celebrating Islamic Education” session of the event.

“I am so excited to join ISNA's fabulous lineup of speakers



discussing important topics that resonate with today's American Muslims. Coming together online to discuss these important

topics, we can gain insights that impact our own personal decisions as well as the development of important institutions in our community,” she said. “In my talk on Celebrating Islamic Education, I share data and research that can help parents and educators understand both the strengths and challenges facing Islamic schools today. I hope that the talk will be informative and empowering for you as you learn more about the history of Islamic schools and imagine with me where they can and should be headed into the future.”



ISNA’s Entertainment Night will highlight the work of Kashmir Maryam, Mo Sabri, Mecca2Medina, Raff and convention regular, comedian Preacher Moss.