



Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh and a most blessed Friday to you all.

I am sure that all of you have been witnessing the events of the past days and weeks and have been discussing them among your friends and family, as they have impacted each of us in a different way. We discussed these events and the history behind them extensively at our Staff Meeting this past Wednesday, and I wanted to share with you my thoughts as Head of School of Bayaan Academy and as a member of the community.

The injustices occurring throughout the world and most recently here in the United States cannot be accepted or overlooked by any of us.

It is our duty as Muslims to educate ourselves, our children, and our community on what Islam says about racial equality and social justice..

It is our duty as Muslims to educate ourselves, our children, and our community on the history of oppression in our ethnic countries and in the United States. For some of you, that is one country; for most of us, it is not.

In the a Middle East, they have called the recent riots in the US “The American Intifada” because they bear so much similarity to the Palestinian Intifadas, and the causes behind both are the same: Unthinkable oppression and injustice against the citizens within their nation’s borders.

It is only by learning about our histories and the oppression and injustices that have occurred and continue to occur, that we can begin to comprehend the pain and suffering of mothers and communities who are losing their children at the hands of hate-filled police officers and military personnel who feel they are the superior race.

In Islam, there is no superior race. “Verily the most superior of you to Allah are those with the greatest Taqwah;” Allah created all races so that we “could get to know one another.” [Surat ul-Hujuraat]

Some of the greatest figures in Islamic history were Salman Al-Farisi, from Persia, Bilal Al-Habashi, from Ethiopia, and Imam Bukhari, from Bukhara. The torture Bilal Al-Habashi suffered at the hands of his master was not much different than the torture endured by black Americans in the US and that endured by other oppressed peoples throughout the world.

At Bayaan Academy, we are committed to educating our students in the light of the Quran and the Sunnah.

We are committed to engaging our students in conversations that may sometimes be uncomfortable, but which are painfully necessary.

We are committed to guiding our students to become leaders of society and lead in the most just and compassionate manner, and we ask you to join us on our mission and offer suggestions and guidance along the way.

I have attached here reflections on this topic from [Dr. Habeeb Quadri, MCC Chicago](#). I would also like to share with you this video about our beloved Prophet Muhammad's Last Sermon, SAWS, produced by Dr. Craig Considine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4URFXvSrWcl>. You can also tune in to TMC's seminar tonight: **Islam & Racism: Let the Conversation Begin.** 9:00 pm - 10:30 pm on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99414153883>

Please take some time to explore these resources and share what you feel is age-appropriate with your children. When you share with them, please tie in your experiences from your native countries, if you are not originally from the US. It is important for our children and youth to know that, although we may live in comfortable circumstances and are blessed to be of those who see all races and ethnicities as equal in the sight of Allah, not everyone is as privileged as we are.

And, finally, we ask Allah to guide our thoughts, our words, and our actions as we strive to serve Him in the way that is most pleasing to Him.

Wa jazakumullahu khairan,

Sr. Magda