



MUSLIM EDUCATORS WEIGH IN: **RACISM IN ISLAMIC SCHOOLS**

A Webinar | **Saturday, June 13** | 5:00 - 6:30PM CST

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*Fostering the development, growth & quality
of Islamic education through:*

- *Networking Educators*
- *Providing Resources*
- *Disseminating Knowledge*
- *Nurturing Leadership*
- *Carrying out Research*

Racism- Dictionary.com

Racism is the belief that races have distinctive cultural characteristics determined by hereditary factors and that this endows some races with an intrinsic superiority over others. It is an abusive or aggressive behavior towards members of another race on the basis of such a belief.



Racism is bigger than that...

“The problem is that white people see racism as conscious hate when racism is bigger than that. **Racism is a complex system of social and political levers and pulleys set up generations ago to continue working on the behalf of whites at other peoples’ expense.**” - Scott Woods



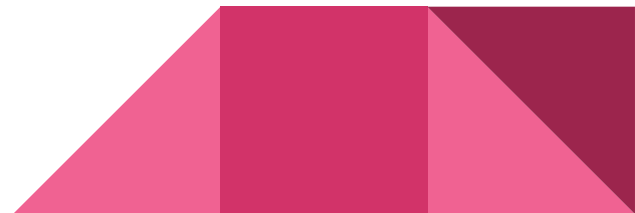
Questions for Viewers

What is our role in the system?

Do we actively perpetuate racism?

Are we complicit bystanders?

Or, are we advocates for justices?





Webinar Discussion Highlights

Representation Matters

- Analyze your school/class curriculum
 - There is an erasure of black people in Islamic studies
 - Go "beyond Bilal" (radiallahu anhu) in terms of including black Muslims in Islamic studies
- Individuals of African descent are often only represented through the lens of a few iconic symbols, and through the narrative of slavery
- There needs to be a diverse, rich and complete portrayal of black people so that it is not just a story of pain, hurt and struggle
- Black History should not be relegated to just February!




Copying Public Schools


- Need to deliberately veer away from what public school curriculum teaches in as far as incorrect historical narratives (ie Columbus' "discovery" of Americas)
- Islamic schools must aim for:
 - Intellectual development
 - Skills development
 - Islamic & Quranic development
 - Criticality (Gholdy Mohammad)



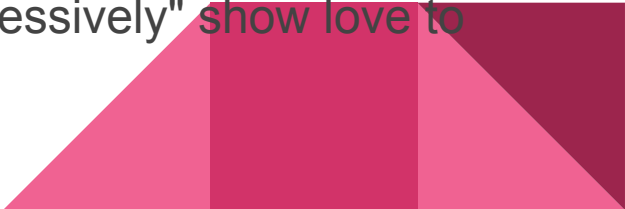
Consciously Construct Culture

- School culture includes policies, how the school buildings look/feel-- posters on the walls, who is represented in the student body, staff, and board
 - School culture must be consciously constructed such that it consciously fights against racism
 - To fight against racism in our Islamic schools, we must address, educate and train **all** constituents, including board, administration, staff, students and family members and the masjid congregation on becoming anti-racist
 - Our environment's need to be supportive of psychological needs of its constituents
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Institutionalized Racism & Intersections

- Institutionalized barriers against black people include:
 - economic barriers
 - educational system
 - health care
 - housing
 - systemic and generational racism
 - Equity and Access are key features of the intersection of race and socioeconomic status in America in which African Americans have been shut out of economic mobility through official policies over the course of several generations
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Move Towards Equity

- Trauma - is caused by a "deeply disturbing event"; intergenerational trauma begins when you are in the womb; impacts how families cope with and deal with trauma
 - With this background and understanding, we need to consider: What do our children need (can't treat everyone the same)
 - Studies show black students are disproportionately disciplined in school; leads to the criminalization of black individuals, school to prison pipeline
 - When dealing with students with trauma (i.e. black students facing intergenerational trauma from racism), need to "aggressively" show love to them vs discipline
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Self-Reflection is a Necessity

- Identify and uncover your own biases
- Call It Out when you hear racism; engage consequences
- Quran & Sunnah as the source, not the resource



Resources

Resources for Islamic School Educators

Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy, Gholdy Muhammad

ISLA: [Islamic School Statements of Solidarity](#) & [Muslim Educators Stand Firmly for Justice](#)

Noor Kids: [Parent's Discussion: Teaching Muslim Kids About Racism](#)

Al Fatih Academy: [Black Lives Matter, Discussion with Middle School Students](#)

The FYI: **[Uplifting Black Muslim Youth Toolkit](#)**

ISPU: [Research on Racism and the Experiences and Responses of American Muslims](#)

ISPU Brief: [Meeting the Challenges of Muslim Youth: Getting Race Right](#)

ISPU & Yaqeen Toolkit: [ISPU | Yaqeen Talk Toolkit on community racism](#)

Al-Rahmah School: [BLM Booklet](#)



Wrapping Up

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