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# MUSLIM YOUTH VOICES

## SOCIAL ACTIVITY TOOLKIT

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Muslim Youth Voices is a national initiative of the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) funded by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art's Building Bridges Program. Through three summers of workshops led by filmmaker and mentor Musa Syeed, CAAM amplified young people's expression and celebration of Muslim life by providing youth the essential tools to tell their own stories on their own terms.

The Muslim Youth Voices project features over 30 short films by young Muslim filmmakers distributed via WORLDChannel.org with select films featured in a national public television broadcast on WORLD Channel.

WORLD Channel and CAAM invite you to dive into this unique collection of stories and use this activity guide to engage with the content in a variety of fun and easy ways.

[WORLDchannel.org/show/Muslim-Youth-Voices](http://WORLDchannel.org/show/Muslim-Youth-Voices)  
[CAAMedia.org/Muslim-Youth-Voices](http://CAAMedia.org/Muslim-Youth-Voices)

## FILMS AND MAKERS

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### Fremont, California

- *A Different Light* by Fatima Coleman
- *Harmony* by Dalia Khan
- *The Mental Game* by Muhammad Davis, Abdullah Davis
- *Wings of Freedom* by Jannah Sellers, Sumaya Mahmoud

### New York

- *Black Muslim Woman* by Mikel Aki'leh
- *Comfort-Ability* by Primi Akhtar
- *Fair and Lovely* by Jensine Raihan
- *Someone I Lost* by Riyaz Ali
- *Syrian Plight* by Dunya Khalil
- *In Search of Home* by Ahmed Zakria
- *Amna Means Peace* by Sidikha Ashraf

### Philadelphia

- *Food For Thought* by Rizky Chandra
- *Friends in Time* by Gallant Abidin, Niedal Jalil
- *Rediscover* by Nahla Turner
- *The Crossover* by Abdullah Belgrave, Saad Belgrave, Sufyaan Brown

### Plano, Texas

- *The Apple* by Zara Shah
- *The Difference Between Us* by Razan Bayan
- *Love Live the Queen* by Aaishah Ale-rasool
- *Woods of the Reaper* by Mohamad Zain Rahmani, Moiz Shah
- *Twins* by Hidayah Husain

### Portland, Oregon

- *Graduation* by Mahya Shakibnia-Shirazi
- *Identity Crisis* by Abdirahman Aden, Yousif Ibrahim
- *Inside Out* by Jana Othman
- *Money, Power, and Portland* by Mostafa Osman, Mostafa Rasheed, Mahmood Jawad
- *Run* by Fouad Omrane
- *The Day The Teachers Left* by Hana Omrane
- *Trust or Bust* by Salman Najjar

### Minneapolis

- *Imagination* by Roodo Abdikadir
- *Screened* by Iqbal Maxamed
- *Poetry and Community* by Faisal Mohamud
- *Came to America* by Shemsedin Sheikh
- *BFF?* by Aisha Aden

# SHARE MUSLIM YOUTH VOICES

Help us amplify the voices of Muslim youth by sharing videos from Muslim Youth Voices.

- Choose two or more videos from the collection featured on WORLD Channel social media:
  - Facebook.com/WORLDCchannel
- Share the videos on social media with a message of encouragement to the filmmaker or a reflection on why you think the video is a thought-provoking or entertaining piece.
- Make sure to include the hashtag #MuslimYouthVoices in your post so the filmmakers will be able to see it.



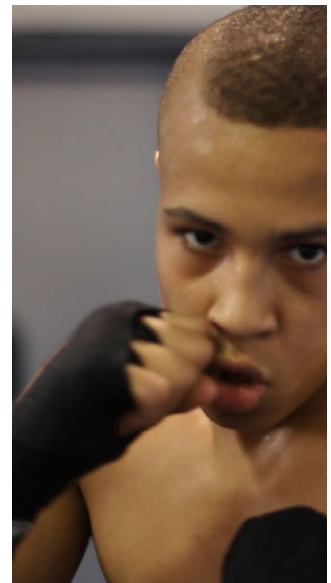
## DISCUSS WITH OTHERS

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Organize a viewing party to watch and discuss the short films together in a small group, for example as a class, family, youth group, inter-faith group, etc. The questions below can be used by Muslim youth and/or others that want to discuss the ways that people experience the world similarly or differently. Answer online with a comment/picture/video and the hashtag #MuslimYouthVoices to participate in the national conversation.

### Representation and Media

- Which films from the Muslim Youth Voices Project stood out to you? Why do you think they made an impression?
- Could you relate to any of the stories that were presented? If so, which ones and why?
- Did you see characters that reflected yourself, your family, or people in your community?
- How are Muslim characters typically represented in mainstream film or television?
- Were there any videos in the Muslim Youth Voices project that challenged stereotypical representations of Muslims? If so, which ones?
- What stories would you like to see more of in mainstream media?



### Community and Identity

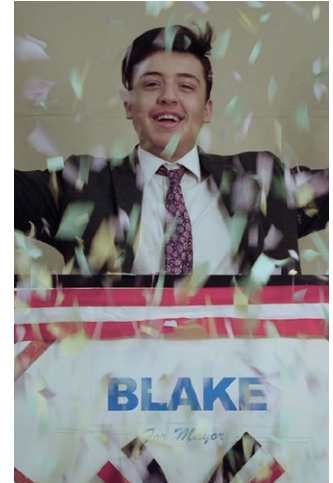


- Where do you feel most welcomed and encouraged to be yourself?
- Do you feel like your voice is well represented in your community? Do you feel heard? Why or why not?
- How would you like youth to be seen or heard in your community?
- Complete the following statement, *I am not one thing, I am both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_* (i.e. I am not one thing, I am both strong and sensitive, or I am not one thing, I am both Muslim and American.)

## DISCUSS WITH OTHERS (CONT.)

### Family and Friends

- What is the most memorable thing your parents, grandparents (or other elders) have told you about the history of your family?
- What are some of your favorite family traditions?
- What makes someone a good friend?
- Do you feel pressured to look or act a certain way by your friends, family, or community? If so, how does that make you feel?
- Complete the following statement, *When people meet me for the first time, they think I am \_\_\_\_\_, but I am actually \_\_\_\_\_.*  
(i.e., When people first meet me they think I am stuck up, but I am actually shy.)



### Faith and Religion



- What role does your faith play in your daily life?
- Do you have the space to express your faith freely in the community where you live? Why or why not? How does this make you feel?
- What are some common misconceptions about your religion?
- If you could share one thing with people about your faith that you think they don't know, what would it be?

### Pursuing your Passion

- What are you most passionate about?
- What inspires you?
- How do you share your passion and inspiration with the world?
- Talk about a time when you struggled to be good at something you love to do. How did you face the challenge? What was the result?



## ADD YOUR VOICE

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We invite you to add your voice to the conversation by making media and posting it online with the hashtag #MuslimYouthVoices.

Your media can take many forms: a photo series, poetry or spoken word, a documentary, a narrative film, etc. Look to your own life and the people around you for inspiration. Think about your community and what message you'd like to communicate about them or to them.

- Start with a quick brainstorm. List five things that you are passionate about or that inspire you, for example: art, human rights, basketball, school government, etc. Next, think about words that describe yourself or your community, for example: young, woman, Muslim, athlete, artist, sister, passionate, hopeful, etc.
- Review your lists and use the words to help generate a story that will drive your media creation. Think about the characters, scenes, feelings, and message that you would like to portray and the audience you'd like to reach with your media. If you need more creative inspiration, check out these artistic prompts: <https://www.artworkarchive.com/blog/20-artistic-prompts-to-get-you-through-a-creative-slump>.
- Will you be creating a documentary or narrative film? Write a short script and sketch out the visuals you will need to tell your story—revising and refining as you go. Make sure to stay focused on your core idea so that your message comes across clearly to your audience. For more tips on storyboarding, visit this page: <https://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/tutorials/starttofinish-storyboarding/>.
- Gather the people and equipment you'll need to tell your story and start making. You can create high quality media with simple tools like a smartphone. Be sure to pay attention to things like lighting and/or audio on your shoot. For more advice, review this article: <https://www.wired.com/2016/05/how-to-make-smart-phone-video/>.
- Assemble your video and/or audio content using editing apps on your smartphone or computer. If you are using music or images from other sources, make sure to pay attention to copyright. For royalty-free music sites, check out: <https://www.adweek.com/digital/royalty-free-music/>. For free and low-cost editing tools, try:
  - Apple iMovie (video) - <https://www.apple.com/imovie/>
  - YouTube Editor (video) - <https://www.youtube.com/editor>
  - Adobe Rush (video) - <https://www.adobe.com/products/premiere-rush.html>
  - Canva (graphics) - <https://www.canva.com/>
  - Google Drawing (graphics) - <http://drawings.google.com/>
- Once your work is complete, post it on social media using the hashtag #MuslimYouthVoices to share your voice with others.

## EXPLORE MORE

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Browse relevant media featuring Muslim storytellers.

- Website - [#MuslimGirl](#)
- Website - [Living With the Muslim Ban](#)
- Podcast - [See Something Say Something](#)
- Podcast - [Identity Politics](#)
- Social Media - [Young Muslim Artists You Need to Be Following on Instagram](#)
- Article - [7 Women on Muslim Representation in Fashion](#)
- Campaign - [Getty Images](#) - Positive Images of Muslim Women
- Book - [Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States](#) by Su'ad Abdul Khabeer
- Book - [Rebel Music: Race, Empire and the New Muslim Youth Culture](#) by Hisham Aidi

