

DEAF
MUSLIM
EXPO 
2 0 2 3

Saddle Brook, New Jersey
September 2-3, 2023



WWW.DEAFMUSLIMEXPO.COM



WELCOME/SALAAMS



“A Muslim Ummah that recognizes the rights of Deaf Muslims and actively strives to ensure that it is accessible and inclusive of all Muslims.”

This is the stated vision of Global Deaf Muslim USA, a nonprofit organization who is hosting this event, Deaf Muslim Expo (DME). We strive to positively change Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing lives through increased education, accessibility, and inclusivity. Through these goals, we see a world full of empowered individuals acting upon knowledge and opportunities. This will be our third and largest event where we aim to bring over 100 attendees.

The conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday on September 2-3, 2023 at Marriott Saddle Brook in New Jersey. We have brought together a line up of influential Deaf Muslims from across the US and internationally to impart their knowledge and experience in matters of faith and contemporary subjects. Families will benefit as we have a dedicated space for the youth. With a wide range of subjects and activities, this will appeal to the diverse nature of the Deaf Muslim community.

The Messenger of God (SAW) tells us that seeking knowledge is a requirement of every Muslim. This expo will provide in depth education on improving their quality of life as Muslim Americans, achieving accessibility and equality, and learning about contemporary Islamic subjects. Our presenters will offer workshops and presentations and point them to the right resources where they can apply their knowledge, inshaAllah.

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday 9/2/2023



Times	Activity & Topic	Presenter
8:30-9:30 AM	Breakfast (First Come First Serve) Registration	
9:30 AM	Opening Presentation (GDM)	Andaleeb Elayan
10:00 AM	Fatiha/Umm al-Kitab (Mother of the Book)	Muna Abu Snaineh
11:00 AM	“The Last Day & Beyond: Exploring the Signs & Journey After Death”	Osman Mohamed
<i>Dhuhr/Lunch Break</i> 12:00-2:00 PM		
2:00 PM	Deaf Mental Health	Dr. Shazia Siddiqi
2:45 PM	The Lives of Deaf Muslim Reverts - Panel	Rodney Burford Jamie Cumberbatch Yohan Grushie
3:30 PM	What is WFDYS?	Arooj Ajaz
4:00 PM	The Lives of Deaf Muslim Women - Panel	Haadia Khan Aseel Elayan Sadia Khan
<i>Asr/20 min Break</i> 4:40-5:00 PM		
5:00-6:30 PM	Game Activity/Closing	Musab Al-Smadi



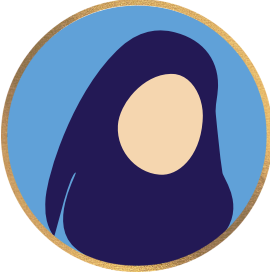
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Gala - Sunday 9/3/2023



Times	Activity & Topic	Presenter
4:30 PM	Registration	
5:00 PM	“Every Cure is in Connecting to Allah”	Dr. Raymond Brock-Murray
6:00 PM	ASL Comedy	Harold Foxx
6:30 PM	ASL Performance	Jamil Haque
<i>Maghrib/Dinner</i> 7:00 PM-8:30 PM		
8:30 PM	“Intention” Virtual	Bilal Qaiser
9:00 PM	Awards Ceremony	Ayishetu Mamudu
9:30-10:00 PM	ASL Comedy & Closing	Harold Foxx

FEATURED SPEAKERS



MUNA ABU SNAINEH

Muna was born and raised in Jordan. She is now based in the DMV area and is a mother of three daughters. She has been teaching Arabic and Islam to youth and adults with the GDM organization.



OSMAN MOHAMED

Hi, I'm Osman Mohamed. Though I was born and raised in Atlanta, GA, my family's roots are deeply anchored in Somalia. Currently, I'm navigating my second year at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). My dream? To emerge as a Deaf Islamic scholar. I'm driven by a passion to uplift and champion the rights and opportunities of Deaf Muslims across the globe.

MODERATOR



ANDALEEB ELAYAN

Andaleeb has been volunteering for GDM USA for many years. She became the executive director of GDM USA in 2018. She graduated from Gallaudet University in May 2016 with B.S. degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. Andaleeb is currently employed as a full-time accountant. Born deaf, she grew up in Northern Virginia. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and watching documentaries.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

DR. SHAZIA SIDDIQI



Dr. Shazia Siddiqi, MD, MPH, is a Deaf Pakistani-American woman who is a Staff Scientist at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, New York. She earned her Bachelor's in Molecular and Cell Biology from UC Berkeley, a Master's of Public Health from Dartmouth College, and a Doctorate in Medicine from St. George's University School of Medicine. Dr. Siddiqi has a wealth of experience working with underrepresented populations, focusing on the social determinants of health, and works to advance Deaf representation in research data. Her professional interests are in Deaf health equity, global Deaf health, gender-based violence, trauma-informed care, and maternal and child health.

AROOJ AJAZ



Asalamoalikum! It is my pleasure to introduce myself as Arooj Ajaz. I am originally from Pakistan, but I was raised in the United States. My major is in teacher education for the deaf, as well as American Sign Language. Socialization and being with people are two of my favorite things. In addition, I am always willing to assist if you need me!

MUSAB AL-SMADI



His name is Musab. He was born and raised in Jordan. He is a passionate Software Engineer and entrepreneur, currently pursuing a Master's in Entrepreneurship Management at RIT. He is dedicated to creating accessibility technology for the deaf community. After 12 years in the United States, he has developed a museum app, built a prototype folding machine, and is currently enhancing his project management skills.

Musab enjoys playing tennis, going to the gym, watching action movies, and aims to stay fit, achieve financial freedom, and deepen his understanding of Islam, inshallah.

PANELISTS



RODNEY BURFORD

Rodney was born in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from Gallaudet University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Rodney is currently an actor. He grew up as a Baptist Christian and reverted to Islam on June 22, 2022.



YOHAN GRUSHIE

My name is Yohan Grushie, born and grew up in Accra, Ghana. Yohan graduated from Accra School for the Deaf, He relocated to the United State of America in 2010. In his free time, he loves playing soccer, going to the Mosque, and spending quality time with his family.



JAMIE CUMBERBATCH

Jamie was born in Brooklyn, New York. He took a leave of absence to pursue playing football professionally and has since played overseas in Poland. Currently he's runs a fitness program & helps people with their health. He reverted to Islam in Nov of 2022 after growing up Christian.

PANELISTS (CONT.)



HAADIA KHAN

I'm Haadia Khan, based in the DMV area, originally from Pakistan, with a BS in Mass Communication and a strategies major from VCU. I freelanced as a graphic designer post-graduation, working on books design, mural arts, painting, branding, and social media templates. I've now launched Unheard Design, focusing on uplifting communities, and startups, and embracing diversity. Our visually striking designs foster curiosity, stir emotions, and accelerate client success, all while championing inclusivity. Excited to create impactful branding and website designs for clients.



ASEEL ELAYAN

Aseel received her B.A. degree in Graphic Design from George Mason University. She founded a small business to work with clients on branding, print designs, and website development. She's deaf and a native ASL and English user. In her free time, she likes to read books and travel.



SARA KHAN

Sadia is a Vocational Rehabilitations Counselor at Texas Workforce Solutions for 13 years - provides people with disabilities with job opportunities.

GALA DINNER



DR. RAYMOND BROCK-MURRAY

Dr. Ray earned his PhD from Seton Hall University and has been a therapist for the Muslim community since 2009. He's currently an assistant imam at Masjid Ahlis-Sunnah and co-founder of The Five Before Five Foundation, a mental health nonprofit for Muslims and communities of color and faith. He also hosts a mental health talk show as part of the foundation's Muslim mental health resource website thefivebeforefive.com and psychologyincolor.com.



HAROLD FOXX

Best known for his stand-up comedy, Harold has performed at iconic venues such as the Crow Comedy, the Laugh Factory and Flappers Comedy Club, as well as in major cities across the nation. Harold also recently performed in the Palm Springs International Virtual Comedy Festival 2020.



JAMIL HAQUE

Iftekhar also known as Jamil, was born to Bengali immigrant parents in Dhaka. In the 1980s, his family moved to America to provide better opportunities for him. Losing his hearing at 3 months old and being raised as a profoundly deaf person, ASL became his everything. He attended multiple deaf schools in New York, giving him a variety of experiences. He performs regularly in ASL Slam shows. In the Deaf-Bengali community, he is a speaker who builds awareness about the strong Deaf community while sharing his knowledge of ASL. His life long goal is to spread the message of inclusiveness to the hearing communities.

GALA DINNER

BILAL QAISER



Bilal was born partially deaf in Pakistan, raised in Qatar, and studied Computing for his bachelor's degree in the UK. He further pursued his education by obtaining a Postgraduate Certificate in Mobile Application Development from Lambton College in Canada. With his qualifications, he works as a web and mobile developer. Bilal has also taken on leadership as the President of the Islamic Deaf and Hard of Hearing Canada since 2019. Additionally, he's engaged in dawah activities and sharing information about technology in Sign Language through Instagram. Outside of his professional and community roles, Bilal enjoys traveling, sports, and seeking out adventures.

MODERATORS

AYISHETU MAMUDU



Ayishetu Salifu Mamudu. was born and raised in Ghana, West African. She attended Bechem school for the deaf, in Bechem Ghana.. She graduated from Gallaudet University with a degree in Government . Ayisha founded the African Continental Deaf Women Empowerment (ACDWE) in Ghana. She is enthusiastic about discussing politics, which also influenced her choice of Government as a major. During her free time, she loves to watch Bollywood movies or walks in the park.

SAMER ALHASSANY



Samer was born and raised in Jordan to a Deaf family. He has a passion for languages, enjoys traveling and hiking, and is heavily involved in volunteering globally. A fun fact about him is that he lived in Malaysia for a few years.

ABOUT GLOBAL DEAF MUSLIM USA



Thank you for joining us today. We hope you leave the event with such knowledge and good experiences, inshaAllah. Please stay tuned by following and subscribing Global Deaf Muslim USA, an nonprofit organization hosting this event Deaf Muslim Expo.

GDM USA is a non profit organization registered in United States of America. The parent organization was established in 2005 by Deaf Muslim college students to address the rights and needs of Deaf Muslims across the global ummah. For Deaf Muslims, accessing Islamic information has always been a challenge. Information about Islam is seldom available in sign language making it difficult to educate Deaf Muslims about Islam and for individuals to conduct their own research.



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