



Muslim Life Planning Institute
2021 L Street, NW, Suite 101-313, Washington, DC 20036
MLPI.life

Building Healthy Communities Through Vision Ideation Lab™ and Arena™

2019 - 2020

Eversight and MLPI Initiative

Muslim Life Planning Institute (MLPI) and Eversight are working together to promote cornea, organ, and tissue donation among underserved communities in the United States and around the world. This initiative is focused on Muslim communities in the Detroit, Michigan area.

THE ORGAN DONATION CRISIS

The need for transplantable organs in the United States is at a crisis level. As of July 2019, there are more than 113,000 candidates for transplant on the U.S. national waiting list, yet in 2018 there were only 17,553 donors (10,722 were deceased donors and 6,831 were living donors).

Twenty people die each day waiting for a transplant. Over 67,000 people (59 percent) on the list are black, Asian, and other ethnic minorities. Many of these black, Asian or ethnic minority self-identify as Muslims, especially in communities with large African American Muslim and immigrant Muslim populations.

Although many ethnic minority patients can receive a transplant from a white donor, blood and tissue types need to match for a successful transplant. For many, the best match will come from a donor from the same ethnic background.

More donors from black, Asian, and other minority ethnic groups are urgently needed to address an increase in patients from the same communities dying while waiting for an organ transplant. Sixty-six percent of deceased donors are white, blacks make up 15.2%, and Hispanics 14.6%. Only 2.6% of deceased donors are Asian and 1% multiracial. Other ethnic minorities make up less than 1% of the donors.

*“Not everything that is faced can be changed;
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”*
-James Baldwin



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OUR INITIATIVE

“BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES THROUGH VISION”

MLPI and Eversight (“Eversight”) a not-for-profit Michigan corporation are working together to promote cornea, organ, and tissue donation among underserved communities in the United States and around the world, with a particular focus on Muslim communities. Our initial project is focused on Muslims in the Southeast Michigan area.



PHOTO: (LEFT TO RIGHT) Imam Johari Abdul Malik, Lesley Compagnone (Washington Regional Transplant Community), Collin Ross (Eversight Vision), Latif Rasheed (Mental Health Professional), Linda Howard (MLPI), Hasenia Albanna (Henry Ford Hospital) shown here collaborating before *Profound Conversation on Organ Donation in the Muslim Community* held at American Muslim Chaplains Annual Conference at Yale University School of Divinity.

GOALS

Communication and Outreach

Through this initiative, we seek to improve communication and outreach regarding anatomical donation to Muslim communities through respectful dialogue that is culturally and religiously appropriate to these communities. This includes the application and extension of the principles embodied in the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) to diverse Muslim communities.

Improve Transplantation and Donation Rates

Also, we are working to increase rates of cornea, organ, and tissue donation and transplantation in the United States and other countries through increased awareness and acceptance of donation within Muslim communities.

Professional Education

Another important goal of ours is to educate healthcare professionals (physicians, nurses, and mental health practitioners) and transplant communities regarding the unique needs, concerns, and viewpoints of Muslims and Muslim communities concerning anatomical donation via offerings of cultural competency training, tool kits, and other resource materials. Our resources and experiential learning help professional communities understand the cultural frames that influence attitudes toward donation; provide professionals with resources they can offer to recipients, donors, and their families; help professionals develop techniques for effective communication, as well as, provide a framework for strategies to build and maintain positive, trust-based relationships.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Developing strategic partnerships with community, professional organizations and healthcare institutes is key for us to further the goals of improving communication and outreach, increasing the rate of cornea, organ, and tissue donation and transplantation in the Muslim community, as well as, developing Islamic cultural competency as it relates to cornea, organ, and tissue transplantation and donation.



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PHOTO: MLPI session, *Family Dynamics: Significant Choices, Profound Conversations, and their Impact on the Grieving Process* held at American Muslim Chaplains Annual Conference at Yale University School of Divinity.

OUR APPROACH

MLPI uses its trademarked approach to Profound Conversation™ to talk about organ donation in the Muslim community in Southeast Michigan, which includes Ideation Labs™ with critical stakeholders to help shape Arena™ (community forum). The Ideation Labs are scheduled to take place in mid-January 2020, followed by Arena in the Spring. Our goal in Southeast Michigan is for Arena to foster understanding and trust by providing a safe space for concerns and questions to be raised honestly and discussed deeply, “to make the unspoken spoken.”

PROFOUND CONVERSATIONS™

Profound Conversations™ uses intercultural dialogue, and extensive community and organizational engagement to initiate valuable cultural, educational, economic, and policy outcomes.



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IDEATION LABS™

The Ideation Labs™ are a series of learning environments held with key stakeholders from the various sectors comprising neighborhoods and communities. The Southeast Michigan Ideation Labs™ will host Muslim religious leaders and influencers, Muslim students, other community leaders, and medical/transplant professionals. The purpose of the Ideation Labs™ are to generate ideas that will inform Arena; gain a baseline understanding of prevalent community attitudes, beliefs, reservations, and level of knowledge regarding anatomical donation; build understanding and trust among participants; and identify participants for the Arena and other follow-up activities.

ARENA™

Arena™ consists of a public discussion forum with active participants representing a cross-section of the groups identified in the Ideation Labs™. Arena is a process developed to resolve human, organizational, and other relevant cosmic challenges utilizing our evolving thought process (Profound Conversations™).

Most public media coverage of civic matters place conversations either in the past tense – as interpretations of what happened--or in the future tense –as predictions of what's next. Arena produces conversations in the present tense—as actions taken now, before our eyes, with consequences that are immediate, dramatic, and significant.

The discussion is held in a theatre, in the round, and has an in-person audience of about 60 - 100 members. Active participants in the Arena are prepared before the event to play constructive roles in the discussion.

Expanding Our Reach Through Broadcasting

LIVE STREAM

In addition to the in-person audience, Arena is live-streamed to reach audiences that could not attend.

VIDEO DOCUMENTING AND DOCUMENTARIES

Arena™ is also video-recorded. Recording Arena™ allows us to document the day for follow-up conversations and to include other audiences unable to participate or view the live stream. Arena™ footage is used to produce educational videos and a documentary for broadcast. Broadcasting Arena™ makes possible the sharing of stories, ideas, and breakthroughs generated by this “Building Healthy Communities Through Vision” initiative with the world.



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PHOTO: AMMAN JORDAN - MLPI presenting at 7th Annual International Conference on Transgenerational Trauma: Communal Wounds & Victim Identities, and the International Muslim Mental Health Conference.

Engage with Us



Become a stakeholder in our “Building Healthy Communities” initiatives

Imagine the contribution your organization desires to make towards the health of your community.

Together we can design the project(s) that create your stakeholder foundation and legacy. Our Profound Conversations process renders infinite possibilities.

*Excerpts from Federal Reserve Chair Janet L. Yellen's National Interagency Community Reinvestment Conference speech, March 2014



Partner with our economic development component for healthy communities

Creating economies is essential to improving health determinants. Similar to the Federal Reserve, our economic development component is designed “by testing ideas, developing better measurement tools, convening interested parties, and sharing” economic development playbooks, and by aligning our evolving thought process with “the skills, and knowledge of all of our partners at the national and local levels.”*

Join our efforts to be a catalyst for improved lives.



Be a financial supporter of Building Healthy Communities

There are several opportunities for local and national organizations to showcase their participation and collaboration within our Building Healthy Communities initiatives.

Sponsoring Ideation Labs and Arena forums associate your organizational brand with supporters of life long learning, healthy communities, and critical conversations. Sponsorship includes being featured as a contributor on resource materials and within the live broadcasts of these dynamic sessions, and more.

Email to learn more about engagement opportunities
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Engage with Us Continued



Participate in an Ideation Lab™ and shape the next Profound Conversation™

Participate, with other stakeholders, in our Ideation Labs™ designed to generate ideas for Arena and explore critical organizational and community conversations.

Be at the table to share your understanding of community and organizational members' attitudes, beliefs, reservations, and knowledge on critical issues. Participate and immerse in this learning experience with other key stakeholders from different community and professional cohorts.



Join Arena, share your story, listen, and engage in Profound Conversation™

For Arena, we are identifying active participants representing a cross-section of the community to engage in unscripted Profound Conversation in front of a live audience. Arena will be live-streamed, recorded, and broadcast.

Whether you are in the Arena or the room, you are a part of our groundbreaking process for resolving human, organizational, and other relevant cosmic challenges. Join us!



Have your voice heard in the Building Healthy Communities documentary

As part of our national campaign, we are embarking on the creation of a 90-minute documentary that will chronicle the work done within each city during 2020. We invite organizations to consider becoming stakeholders in the creation of this groundbreaking work.

By sharing your stories and becoming associated with the film as Associate Producers, your community voice will be included in the national chorus to create healthier lives in America.

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ABOUT MUSLIM LIFE PLANNING INSTITUTE



PHOTO: ST LOUIS, MO - Samuel Shareef, Linda Howard, and Karim Ali of MLPI at Better Family Life's Unity Ball.

OUR MISSION

*To establish pathways to lifelong learning
and healthy communities at the local,
national and global levels.*

THE ORGANIZATION

Muslim Life Planning Institute (MLPI) is a not-for-profit United States based organization. MLPI was created to assist in educating and increasing the American Muslim awareness of Islamic guidance related to organ and tissue donation, and to address other bioethics and critical end of life issues impacting Muslims. MLPI's focus gradually expanded to concern for the total life journey of Muslims globally.

MLPI educates and leads critical and profound conversations addressing the physical, mental, spiritual, and financial well being of humanity through its initiatives, services, and partnerships. For more information, visit www.mlpi.life.



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Serving Muslims

MLPI is widely known for, among other things, educating and increasing the awareness of American Muslims about cornea, tissue and organ donation. Also, we facilitate discussion and share information on Islamic guidance living and deceased donation.

Our educational offerings include training to Muslims, addressing such things as Muslim mental health; Sharia compliant Last Will and Testaments; and education around organ donation, bioethics, and end of life care.



Serving Professionals

We provide multi-disciplinary educational platforms and curriculum offerings to enable healthcare, mental health, and social services professionals to better serve the needs and interests of Muslim communities throughout the globe.

Our goal is to improve the cultural competency and Islamic knowledge of healthcare and mental health professionals, and social services providers, so that they can better serve Muslims.

Serving Humanity

Our focus extends beyond what our name suggests. We, as a Muslim run organization, spotlight critical Islamic matters and speak to Muslims. Through our *Profound Conversations™* series, educational offerings, and other initiatives our reach extends to interfaith communities, other underserved populations, healthcare organizations and professionals, and global audiences. Our goal is to build healthy global communities through collaboration, commitment, and compliance.

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM



**Chief Relationship Officer
& Executive Producer**

Karim Ali

Karim Ali is an intercultural communications influencer and CEO of AaliaNetwork of Diversified Holdings, LLC which contributes to award-winning team efforts in narrative design and motion picture production. Karim is a writer and Executive Producer.

Karim is also a Cofounder and Chief Relationship Officer for the Muslim Life Planning Institute. Among his most recent work is his contribution to the development of *Profound Conversations*™, an executive leadership development initiative that improves social and economic outcomes by honoring the voices and beliefs that motivate communities. Karim credits his team's ability to touch, move and inspire diverse audiences to their "commitment to staying true to our values, as we work towards establishing life-long learning and healthy communities at the local, national and global levels."



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THE EXECUTIVE TEAM CONTINUED



**Chief Compliance
& Impact Officer**

Linda Howard, JD

Linda Howard serves as MLPI's Chief Compliance and Impact Officer. She is also the CEO of Alturnative, a healthcare compliance consultancy that helps build people-forward organizations and establish compliance and ethics standards for the health, fitness, and wellness industries. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and has nearly 35 years of combined experience in law, compliance, and healthcare operations.

She is the Board of Directors President for the National Wellness Institute and founding member of its Multicultural Competency Committee. She has served as a hospice volunteer and promotes multiculturally competent end of life care with a particular focus on religious competency.

Linda provides thought leadership to organizations, educates countless professionals annually through presentations, corporate trainings, and authorship. She advances dialogue to change the wellness and healthcare industries for the better and encourages others to reach underserved populations, and to engage in purposeful dialogue.

Her prior professional titles include Chief Compliance Intellect Officer; AVP Business Ethics; Privacy Officer; Attorney; and Senior In-House Counsel.

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM CONTINUED



Chief Economic Development Officer

Samuel A. Shareef

Samuel A. Shareef is currently the Chief Economic Development Officer for the “Muslim Life Planning Institute”. He is a graduate of the William Allen White School of Journalism & the Business School at the University of Kansas. He is also a graduate of the Leadership and Management Initiative for Community-Based Development, “The Development Training Institute, Inc.,” Baltimore, Maryland.

Some of his career experiences have included Newspaper Columnist, Middle School Instructor, and Administrator in the District of Columbia; and Public Relations Chief Executive and Community Economic Development Consultant in West Palm Beach, Florida. Most recently Samuel served as the Executive Director of the Danielle Sana Shareef Foundation.



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The background features abstract, flowing shapes in shades of green and blue. A large green shape on the left contains the title text. Below it, several overlapping blue and teal shapes create a sense of movement and depth. The overall design is clean and modern, with a focus on organic, wave-like forms.

Building Healthy Communities Through Vision

Eversight and MLPI Initiative