



The Mosque as a Haven



Our History

The Peaceful Families Project (PFP) is a 501(c)(3) national organization devoted to ending domestic violence in Muslim families by facilitating awareness workshops for Muslim leaders and communities, providing cultural sensitivity trainings and technical assistance for professionals, conducting research, and developing resources.

PFP was founded by Sharifa Alkhateeb (1946-2004) in the year 2000. As a pioneer of Muslim anti-domestic violence advocacy, Sharifa worked tirelessly on behalf of Muslim victims and collaborated with Muslim leaders, communities, and activists across the U.S. as she provided workshops to raise awareness levels.

In an effort to affect change in all areas impacting victims and survivors of domestic violence, our programming includes prevention and intervention in its approach to community education and development, training and technical assistance, and research.

We encourage a holistic approach to addressing domestic violence among Muslim families and communities through collaboration with imams, community leaders, community members, social service professionals, activists, educators, mental health providers, medical professionals, attorneys, and youth leaders.



Community Education & Development

As rates of domestic violence in Muslim communities are at comparable levels to other faith groups in the United States (Alkhateeb 1998), PFP's goal is for Muslim leaders and community members to recognize this reality and become catalysts for change from within.

Participants of our workshops grow in their understanding of Islam's stance against domestic violence, the effects of family conflict and abuse, and strategies for prevention. Muslim communities benefit as leaders increase their knowledge and visibility as proponents of anti-domestic violence advocacy, and use their new insight to promote change, establish new and helpful social service cross referral systems, and engage the community more fully. The workshops help serve as a catalyst for domestic violence initiatives and programs in each city. New organizations focusing on domestic violence are created in some regions while direct service groups are formed under the auspices of local mosques in others.

Workshops are conducted by facilitators with extensive expertise in advocating against domestic violence in Muslim communities. As each workshop is customized to meet the needs of the sponsoring community, advocates from various fields, such as social service professionals, Islamic scholars, local religious leaders, and legal experts may present.



Training & Technical Assistance



PFP conducts domestic violence trainings, presents at local, national, and international forums, and organizes conferences and other training forums to help Muslim and mainstream advocates enhance their knowledge and skills

Our training and technical assistance for Muslim and mainstream advocates and providers emphasizes cultural sensitivity to assist service providers and professionals in improving their service provision to Muslims, in conducting more effective outreach to Muslim communities, and in developing and disseminating resources and materials that are appropriate for Muslims. Programs for Muslim and mainstream providers include topics such as the Islamic sources of knowledge, the Islamic paradigm regarding family dynamics, variations in Islamic practices among Muslims in America, and the distinction between religion and culture. Advocates learn how culture and religion can create obstacles to service provision, and methods for engaging religion and culture as resources and strengths when assisting Muslim families who are experiencing domestic violence.

PFP also conducts culturally sensitive research to develop and inform programming and strategies relevant to Muslims, and collaborates with advocates and researchers in advisorial and partnership capacities.



Seeking Tranquility