

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) is made this 12th day of April, 2017 by and between New York City Commission on Human Rights (the “Commission”), an agency of the City of New York (the “City”), and the Islamic Center at New York University (“ICNYU”), a private educational institution (individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively referred to as the “Parties”).

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, New York City is one of the most diverse cities in the world. With more than 8.4 million residents, people of every faith, race, and ethnicity live and work side by side, including thousands of Muslims with diverse backgrounds;

WHEREAS, the Commission is charged with the enforcement of the Human Rights Law, Title 8 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York (“NYCHRL”), and with educating the public and encouraging positive community relations;

WHEREAS, the Commission, through its Community Relations Bureau (“CRB”) provides public education about the NYCHRL and helps cultivate understanding and respect among the City’s many diverse communities through its borough-based Community Service Centers and numerous educational and outreach programs;

WHEREAS, ICNYU provides a safe place for individuals to learn, pray, socialize and utilize a space situated at intellectual and spiritual crossroads;

WHEREAS, the Commission has recently focused on supporting and strengthening the City’s Muslim and faith-based communities through ongoing events, anti-discrimination literature and a social media public education campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and ICNYU have decided that it would be in the best interest of the public to now collaborate to develop, create and present training workshops regarding the Islamic faith as further set forth in the terms and conditions herein below.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission and ICNYU set forth their mutual understanding as follows:

1. The term of this MOA (the “Term”) shall commence on the date first written above and terminate two (2) years from that date, unless terminated earlier by either party upon thirty (30) day written notice to the other Party. The Term of this MOA can be extended by written agreement by both Parties hereto.
2. The Parties shall partner to create a workshop called “Understanding Islam” to be offered to other City agencies, private employers, and at places of worship in order for New Yorkers to better understand the Islamic faith and to dispel common myths about Muslims as follows:

- a. The Parties will jointly plan for and execute the “Understanding Islam” workshops (hereinafter the “Workshops”);
 - b. The Parties will work together to create an initial guide to instruct NYU graduate students, and ICNYU staff and Commission staff on how to present the Workshops (hereinafter the “Facilitator’s Guide”), which shall be distributed and used by all Workshop presenters. The Parties shall also develop and make available additional trainings to all Workshop presenters as mutually agreed upon by the Parties hereto;
 - c. The Parties agree that at least one representative from each Party will participate in each Workshop unless the parties mutually agree that both parties need not participate.
3. The Workshops will be scheduled at least two weeks in advance at a date, time and frequency mutually agreeable to the Parties and will be conducted at a frequency to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.
 4. Any notices to either Party shall be sent to the following addresses via e-mail and first class mail as follows:

The Commission:

Attn: Rama Issa-Ibrahim
Lead Advisor – Community Relations Bureau
Commission on Human Rights
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007
Email: rissa@cchr.nyc.gov

With a copy to:

Attn.: Brittny Saunders
Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives
New York City Commission on Human Rights
22 Reade Street, 2nd Floor | New York, NY 10007
Email: bsaunders@cchr.nyc.gov

ICNYU:

Imam Khalid Latif
Executive Director
Islamic Center of New York University
238 Thompson St, New York, NY 10012
kl442@nyu.edu

5. The Parties understand this MOA is not a legally binding instrument and is only intended to set forth the understanding of the Parties without creating any legally enforceable rights or obligations.
6. This MOA may not be modified except in writing by both Parties, after notice to the following individuals:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOA as of the date first written above.

NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

BY: 

Brittny Saunders
Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives

THE ISLAMIC CENTER AT NYU

BY: 

Imam Khalid Latif
Executive Director

