



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

APRIL 2025/1446 (AH) E-NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.28



ABOUT THE MAJLIS

In 1990 a group of Philadelphia area imams and other community stakeholders started the Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley, to perform the prophetic sunnah of *shura* (consultation). It's organized as an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit in the state of Pennsylvania. 'Majlis Ash-Shura' can be translated to mean the consultative body, council, or meeting. Aside from being a consultative body, the Majlis attempts to facilitate Muslims fulfilling their obligations and share best practices for the area's Masjids. From sighting every lunar month beginning to intervening in conflicts, to organizing visitors for the sick

Muslims in facilities, the Majlis has performed an array of services. We invite all Muslims to sincerely work in whatever capacity they can, with their respective talent, expertise, and/or interest.



HILAAL (CRESCENT MOON/START OF A LUNAR MONTH)

In accordance with the *sunnah* of naked-eye sighting of the *hilaal* (or a lunar month expiring due to having 30 days) and the *fard kifaayah* (communal obligation) of keeping track of time, *as per the Majlis'*



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moon sighting committee, there were no naked-eye sightings sunset Saturday March 29, 2025. Therefore, we fasted Sunday (Ramadan 30) and Eid al-Fitr was Monday March 31, 2025.



A tariff can be defined as: *a kind of tax on goods a country imports or exports.*¹ For clarity, imports are products or services that are brought into a country. And exports are products or services that are sent out of a country. The purpose of which both acts are performed is to simply trade (in most cases).

Tariffs are generally meant to do three things: lessen the competition for businesses that operate in the importing country; provide extra money for the importing country's treasury; and to reduce trade

¹ <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/tariff>



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barriers (used as a bargaining chip). In essence, tariffs are taxes, a charge that a government obligates. On April 5, 2022², the Trump administration placed a 10% tariff on all countries with some exceptions and conditions.²

Tariff has an Arabic root of ‘*arafa*,’ extending to ‘*ta’reef* (or *ta’rif*), lending to the currently used word of ‘tariff.’ The root, ‘*arafa*, means: to know or to recognize. With regards to Europeans, before being used in English it was from the Italian word ‘tariffa,’ from Medieval Latin ‘tarifa.’³

One key takeaway from the tariff conversation is that according to some reports, the tariffs do not include services. Which can dramatically alter data that’s used to determine the tariff rates placed on countries exporting to the U.S. You may say, I thought the tariff rate

was 10%? Ten percent is in actuality the baseline, not the exact rate as many news outlets are reporting. The chart below gives an interesting look at predominantly Muslim countries and their relationship to tariff rates.

Remember that **services are not included in the numbers below**, which seems to skew or muddle the issue. Some experts say that the trade deficit is not as simple as money coming in versus money going out; and therefore, if there’s an imbalance, there’s a bad actor. Many of the goods imported are owned by American companies with factories outside of American borders.

Will these tariffs work? Meaning, will they reduce America’s trade deficit (for whatever that’s worth), strengthen America’s national security, and help American producers? Will they severely damage the aforementioned? Are they just a negotiating ploy? Is there an unsaid reason behind such policy?

²

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/04/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-declares-national-emergency-to-increase-our-competitive-edge-protect-our-sovereignty-and-strengthen-our-national-and-economic-security/>

³ <https://www.etymonline.com/word/tariff>



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US tariffs on the MENA region

	30% Algeria	59%		10% Oman	10%
	10% Bahrain	10%		10% Qatar	10%
	10% Egypt	10%		10% Saudi Arabia	10%
	10% Iran	10%		10% Sudan	10%
	39% Iraq	78%		41% Syria	81%
	17% Israel	33%		28% Tunisia	55%
	20% Jordan	40%		10% Turkey	10%
	10% Kuwait	10%		10% UAE	10%
	10% Lebanon	10%		10% Yemen	10%
	31% Libya	61%			
	10% Morocco	10%			

KEY	
	New tariffs set by President Donald Trump
	Tariffs allegedly 'charged' by MENA countries to the US



WHERE ARE THE SHEPHERDS?

It is reported in the Sahih of Bukhari that Prophet Muhammad (saws) said (paraphrasing in the English translation), "...A man is the guardian of his family and he is responsible for them..."⁴ The word used for guardian is *raa'in* or shepherd.



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No matter the type of violence, all of us have ‘sheep’ or a ‘flock’ that we’ll be questioned about on The Day of Judgment. It’s imperative that as individuals, we assess who’s our flock/sheep (i.e., our sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, etc.). Essentially who are the people you have a legitimate influence over.

Raa’in’s root is *ra’aa*, meaning to feed, to observe, to tend, to rule, etc. A *mar’an* is a pasture. Virtually all of the Prophets (as) were shepherds. Which enabled them to be caring, watchful, and people who knew how to direct to that which is better, in order to avoid predators that will hurt or devour their sheep.

Our main responsibilities, in this context, is being responsible to the best of our ability, in directing ourselves and our flock to Allah (swt). Unfortunately, many of us use-up a lot of time focusing on other people’s flock at the detriment of our own. Of course, you can try to do both, this is merely advice to do both, but prioritize (energy, money, du’aa, etc.) your own.

Ask yourself these questions and review the statement, not anyone else:

1. Do I personally contribute to violence in society?
2. Does my son/daughter contribute to the problem with violence in society?
3. I and/or my child(ren) are involved in ongoing violence in society.

Whatever your responses were to the statement and questions, now ask yourself, what am I going to do about it?



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Masjid As-Sabiqun's
Institute of Islamic Studies
Presents

**MUSLIM
MARKETPLACE DAY** * No Entry Fee!

Come Shop & Support Muslim Businesses! **Friday
April 11th**

- * Halal Food
- * Apparel
- * Books/Stationary
- * Jewelry
- * Henna/Face Painting
- * Desserts/Drinks
- * Body Care/Butters

10-6pm



VENDING SPACE AVAILABLE
Purchase Space Here

1105 Concord Avenue
Chester, PA 19013
Masjid As-Sabiqun

Contact for more information & vending
(484) 625-9737
iischesterpa@gmail.com



RESPONDING TO CRISES

Social media, local news, google trends, etc., are normal ways that many of us receive updated information concerning crises or near crises, that are often fluid as they're being reported. It's important that leaders in the Muslim community respond, but respond appropriately, not in a haphazard manner.



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According to Pewresearch:

In 23 of 27 Gallup surveys conducted since 1993, at least 60% of Americans have said there is more crime in the U.S. than there was the year before. But this perception is at odds with the data: Since 1993, the nation's violent crime rate has plunged by nearly half, while the property crime rate has fallen even more steeply, according to the FBI. Put another way, Americans were about twice as likely to be the victim of a violent crime in 1993 as in 2022.⁵

We live in the age of anxiety along with the age of hyper marketing and mass manipulation. Of course, if your loved one is a victim of a violent crime or you're traumatized, you don't care about statistics. Nevertheless, the issue is still present, violent crime reports require swift responses.

⁵

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/08/29/the-link-between-local-news-coverage-and-americans-perceptions-of-crime/>

What can muslim leaders do when reports start to circulate?

- Always pray for the truth to come out
- Gather factual information from reliable sources
- If you're a part of an organization, gather your crisis team and do *shura* (consultation) about next steps.⁶

The additional steps will be determined after consultation with your team (i.e., press conference, official statement, etc.), inshaaAllah.

In moments immediately following or during a crisis people are always going to look for spiritual guidance/deeper meaning. And Muslim leaders can provide such searches. Some advice is always relevant, but the combination and order of words, along with the speaker, dramatically impacts how people receive said information.

⁶ The crisis team can be the top officials, an ethicist (someone with high moral character), a lawyer (or attorney), an accountant, and possibly an insurance person.



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We've witnessed recent violence and subsequent inaccurate information being spread in the Muslim community, along with very confusing social media posts that intensifies the concerns unnecessarily.

Some of the things leaders can impart are:⁷ the idea of increasing our *'ibaadaat* (acts of worship) and *dhikr* (remembrance of Allah (swt)) in times of uneasiness and upheaval; being careful relaying information without *yaqeen* (certainty) or near certainty; avoid accusing an entire group of people or many of them; and don't panic; to name a few.

⁷ The term 'leaders' shouldn't be limited to Imams. We need all those of influence to do their part.

ائتلاف

COALITION

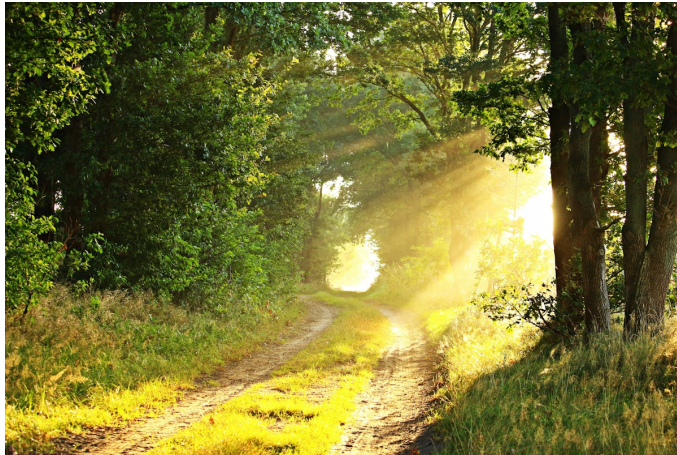
The above word, *i'tilaaf*, can mean a coalition, harmony, or an agreement. Its root is *alifa*, to be familiar or acquainted. By the permission of Allah (swt) the Majlis As-Shura, Universal Muslim Business Association, & Nicetown Community Development Corporation have agreed to form a Unified Muslim Coalition (UMC) in March 2025. This comprehensive approach towards community development offers a 360-degree collaboration addressing religious, secular and business advancements.

May Allah (swt) bring (*allif*) our hearts together, and grant us *tawfeeq* (divine success).

For updated information moving forward, you can go to:
<https://www.phillymajlis.com/unified-muslim-coalition>



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THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA IN ACTION

(below is a partial list of the actions of the Majlis)

On-going

- The moon sighting committee continues to track the moon every month for over three decades

- We've consistently hosted general monthly meetings for the public for over 30 years, and we continue to do such the first Sunday of every month
 - Publishing of a monthly e-newsletter

2022

- We revamped our by-laws
- We revamped our website
- The Eid committee hosted a fundraiser for the Eid at Kingsessing Rec center
- We started a Telegram (social media) group, which is open to any Muslim
- The Da'wah committee partnered with Masjid Al-Madinah (in Upper Darby, Pa) for a joint event
- We collaborated with Black Muslim Men United for a Better Philadelphia, rallying and marching in the northwest section of Philadelphia, along with local police, calling for action against gun violence
- We condensed the length of our monthly general meetings



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2023

- We obtained a corporate office
- We interviewed 8 influential community members
 - We started a monthly e-newsletter
- The Education committee hosted our 1st Islamic School Fair & Expo @ The Philly School District
 - We started an Economic Development Committee
 - We helped to sponsor the first Halal Food Festival in Phoenixville, Pa
- We published a book titled: “*Sex Education in Islam*,” available on Amazon
- We interviewed all the viable candidates for Philly Mayor in 2023, firmly requesting an Office of Islamic Affairs, which in 2024 came into fruition partly due to our efforts
- The Majlis’ Economic Development Committee started to solicit current and/or future community projects with a commercial component and that are serious, in-order to enable the Muslim-community to invest collectively and benefit collectively in a sustainable and beneficial project.

2024

- We partnered with CAIR to have a medical professional, in case of an emergency, for their 2024 banquet in Springfield, Pa
- We hosted three town halls (Philly Masjid, Masjid Muhammad, & Makkah Masjid), in order to hear public concerns and to solicit sincere assistance
 - We started a YouTube page
- The Majlis’ Economic Development Committee researched and presented the Israeli-owned date (the fruit) companies
- The Education committee hosted our 2nd Islamic School Fair & Expo @ The Philly School District in July. The video is available on our YouTube page
 - In July, we started a new Facebook page
- In August, we hosted a zoom presentation on *Volunteering with Ihsaan (Proficiency)*, which was recorded and is available on YouTube
- In September, we interviewed sister Najah Siddiq, one of the founders and organizers of the Philly Halal Food Festival.
- In November, we held a meeting and brainstorming session in conjunction with the Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Muslim



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Engagement at City Hall. Attempting to connect many of the Muslim leaders in Philadelphia

- In December, the Women's Committee of the Majlis held a Sister's Circle via phone conference, in order to help create more unity within the Muslim community
 - Imam Farid Rasool, President of the Majlis, gave a talk at AICP in Philadelphia, during their winter *Dawrah*

2025

- In January, the education committee hosted their 2nd annual Ramadan and Beyond event. Assisting educators and admins on handling pertinent concerns as they relate to Muslim students.
- In February, the Majlis' Education committee co-sponsored an essay contest
 - In March, the Education Committee hosted an *iftar* (fast breaking) in the banquet hall of Masjid Hidayah in Philadelphia. Targeting those directly involved in education.
- In March, the Majlis purchased a full page ad congratulating The International League of Muslim Women

- In March, we changed our address to 4414 Germantown Ave., 3rd flr, suite C Phila., PA 19140
- In March, the Majlis entered a coalition with Universal Muslim Business Association & Nicetown Community Development Corporation

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts



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TELEGRAM POLL



In March, the Majlis' Telegram group was asked a question. Below is the question along with their **anonymous** responses:

Of the following concerning the two Eids, which should the Majlis focus on?

- A. *The Majlis should host one or both eids every year - 37%*
- B. *The Majlis should focus other important issues within the community - 25%*
- C. *The Majlis should host the prayer and khutbah, but not the activities - 0%*
- D. *The Majlis should only host the activities, not the prayer and speech - 13%*

E. *I'm not sure - 25%*

F. *None of the above - 0%*

Why join us on the Telegram app (very similar to whatsapp)?

- It's free!
- You'll receive timely information concerning moonsighting
- You'll be able to participate in our anonymous polls or quizzes
- It's another way to receive the monthly newsletter

How to join? Download the Telegram app for free, then search '**philly majlis**,' click on our group (Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley), then click 'apply to join group.' Very soon, one of the administrators will add you to the group, *insha Allah*. You can click on the link below, or scan the QR code, and follow the steps.



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<https://t.me/phillymajlis>



DU 'AA FOR THE ILL, OPPRESSED, & RECENTLY DECEASED

Please don't forget our brothers and sisters who are going through tribulations (*masaaib*), whether with their health, wealth, familial relationships, physical security, death of a loved one, and so on.

May Allah give those whom He recently called back, jannatul firdaus.



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May Allah bless the sick amongst us with well being ('aafiyah) in this life and the next. May Allah ease their suffering, and grant them healing (shifaa) with a speedy recovery. May their sickness/illness be an expiation (kaffaarah) for their sins.

May Allah give relief to all people who are suffering under unjust rulers, governments, or any oppressive entity.

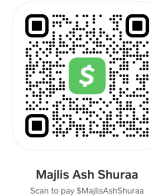
*May Allah remedy the affairs of the Muslims, may Allah turn away the evil of the harmful.
Aameen, Aameen, Aameen*

HOW TO SUPPORT THE MAJLIS?

For those interested in financially supporting the Majlis' efforts, no matter the amount you can afford, you can send it thru cashapp. *Shukran, Jazaakullah!* Nonetheless, please make *du'aa* for all those working to please Allah (swt).

Cashtag: \$MajlisAshShuraa

[https://cash.app/\\$MajlisAshShuraa](https://cash.app/$MajlisAshShuraa)





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MAJLIS COMMITTEES - Below is a list of most of our committees, if interested in assisting, please contact us at info@phillymajlis.com :

Security
Sisters
Da'wah
Civic Engagement
Moonsighting
Education
Islamic Pastoral Care
Economic Development

SUBMITTING CONTENT

If you are interested in adding to the Majlis' newsletter, please be aware of the following rules:

- A. All content must be submitted by the 15th of every month. For instance, if you would like for your submission to be in February's edition, submit content by January 15th.
- B. All content is subject to grammatical and punctual editing. As well as apparent accuracy and suitability for The Majlis' mission & objectives. Further, we reserve the right to postpone your submission for a future edition.
- C. All information should be cited appropriately.
- D. Keep in mind that The Majlis Ash-Shura is rooted in the people of the sunnah and the community (*Ahlus-Sunnah wal-jamaa'ah*). Therefore, we will not showcase any messages rooted in any other religious affiliation, or messages overtly or covertly disparaging the Qur'an, any of the Prophets & Messengers, or any of the Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with them).



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NEWSLETTER INQUIRIES, CORRECTIONS, AND SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO EITHER:

Yasir Uqdah: news@phillymajlis.com

or

Maryam Woods: maryam.s.woods@gmail.com

MAJLIS CONTACT INFORMATION

Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley
4414 Germantown Ave., 3rd flr - Suite C Philadelphia PA 19140
(445) 220-0598

Website: www.phillymajlis.com

Email: info@phillymajlis.com

How to stay in touch with The Majlis?

Subscribe to this newsletter by going to our website and submitting your email address and name. You can also join us in-person at our next general monthly meeting, All this information can be found on our website mentioned above. And don't forget to follow us on

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563258563617>

And check out our Youtube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MajlisDelVal>

PHILADELPHIA MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MUSLIM ENGAGEMENT (OME)

Stay in contact with the OME. The office's main objective is to assist in providing needed resources to the greater Muslim community in Philadelphia.

Contact: Dr. Quaiser Abdullah Ph.D (Director)

email: muslim.engage@phila.gov

Address: City Hall 112, Philadelphia, PA 19107

The views and opinions expressed throughout this newsletter are not necessarily the views and/or opinions of the entire Majlis Ash-Shura, its members, or affiliates.

Any quotes from the Quran or Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) are paraphrased in the English translation. Not to be confused with expert translations or explanations.