



With the Creator's Name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer  
COMMUNITY WIDE SHURAA CONFERENCE<sup>SM</sup>  
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"Unleashing and harnessing the capacity inherent in the group intellect..."

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## PRESS RELEASE

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—*A Dream No Longer Deferred...*

### Engaging All Believers in a National Town Hall for Mutual Consultation

*"[We] must work to build a better place for [ourselves], one that will benefit all people, regardless of race or religion... Form alliances, firstly among yourselves..."—Imam W. Deen Mohammed (ra)*

ST. LOUIS, MO — The world is preparing for the Blessed Month of Ramadan, that special month in which the first words of the Final Revelation, Al-Qu'ran, were revealed to Muhammed the Prophet (s), G-d's Last Messenger to all humanity. Ramadan brings with it very special blessings including the Night of Power—a night better than a thousand months. And just as Ramadan was the month of enlightenment over 1400 years ago, so today it brings enlightenment to the sincere soul seeking G-d's Mercy; that fact was not lost on the planning team for the historic *National Town Hall for Mutual Consultation: Towards An Intelligentsia*.

The fact that during Ramadan the whole of the Qur'an is read and the body, mind and soul of each person is being turned more than ever to the remembrance of G-d and service to one's fellow man are why the believers are gathering just days after Eid-ul-Fitr to begin the monumental work of forming a national intelligentsia—a working group intellect to serve our community's interests and to be a national and global force offering Qur'anic-based solutions to the issues of our time. Just after Ramadan, the group intellect will be at the height of its spiritual and intellectual zenith and will be most equipped to usher in a renaissance borne of a national intelligentsia.

On August 15, 2014, St. Louis, Missouri, aptly the "Show Me State," a major metropolitan city located near the heartland of the U.S., will be the host city for a national gathering to discuss the future of our community and its role at the table of national and international dialogue and leadership. No topic is off the table of discussion and you and your intellect are the guest speakers. There will be maximum opportunity afforded to hear what the people think. This gathering is for the total group intellect, each one of us, female and males, non-imams and imams, from youth leaders to the most honored of our group, the pioneers. The National Town Hall will be a venue to hear from every believer who not only has a right, but a duty to participate in Shuraa Baynahum.

What will also distinguish this historic occasion is that the Town Hall will not be a standalone event, but rather part and parcel of a major undertaking to establish a sustainable institution to serve every community in our Association and the broader historically disadvantaged communities they serve. Plans are already underway to build the infrastructure needed to implement a 2014-2015 and beyond national agenda that will emerge from the group intellect in St. Louis.

Many around the country have asked for an intelligentsia discussion on how our perspective shaped by Al-Qur'an, Hadith, the tafsir of Imam Mohammed, and our ethnic and diaspora history, can become more influential at the table of national and international dialogue so that we can move from mere observation to being engaged leaders in offering solutions on the major issues of our time. Our Imam said:

"We should have a studious group...studying our history and present circumstances...they should be

predicting what we have to face 20, 30, 40 years from now. This is not an easy task and this can't be left to Imams—this is a responsibility of all of us. If we can just come together, the people will have the strong interest in realizing the vision for this Community...They will find ways to do what has to be done.”

Great blessings are already being shared as new friendships and networks are rapidly forming across the country. Praise be to Allah (SWT), local St. Louis believers are working with the CWSC planning team to properly welcome the believers from coast to coast. A formal welcome to the region and state has been graciously extended to Town Hall participants by National and Midwest Convener, Imam Bashir Ali.

The Town Hall opens on Friday at the beautiful Crown Plaza Hotel Downtown with Salat ul Jumah followed by the opening plenary session, an evening book signing with authors in Association with the Leadership of Imam Mohammed, and Movie Night. Fajr Prayer and halaqa and a later morning breakfast are the prelude to Saturday's day-long session of brainstorming, team building, and sharing. Muslim professional conference facilitators are structuring the sessions for maximum participation and productivity. Saturday evening's dinner will be complemented with a series of panel discussions again open to any topic. Following the panel discussions, there will be nominations, ratifications, and oaths of office for CWSC leadership.

Sunday morning begins again with fajr prayer and halaqa. The closing plenary session will wrap up the weekend and focus on the infrastructure needed to continue building our intelligentsia and think tank while simultaneously accomplishing work on the national agenda. Current infrastructure will include an online National Resource Directory to catalog the training and experience of every believer committed to helping build model communities. The Directory will offer all communities access to a national and diverse human resource asset mix no one community could achieve. To register in the National Resource Directory, email your resume/cv to [cwsconline@gmail.com](mailto:cwsconline@gmail.com).

There will be a *Call for Papers* for 2015, discussion of related interim events and actions to implement the St. Louis Town Hall's national agenda, and promulgation of the 2015 Town Hall. For believers staying over after the conference, Talim will be at 1 p.m.

While the weekend is packed with extensive plenary and group discussions, there will be opportunities for relaxation and sightseeing. Believers are urged to register now and reserve their hotel accommodations. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/cwsc-sl-tickets-11367114345](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/cwsc-sl-tickets-11367114345) for additional information and to register.

To receive a Town Hall preview and other advanced preparation tools, email [cwsconline@gmail.com](mailto:cwsconline@gmail.com) with subject line Advance Prep and visit [www.facebook.com/cwsconline](http://www.facebook.com/cwsconline) to like, learn more and share the Town Hall. Connect on twitter, causes, linkedin, youtube and google+ and stay tuned to [blogtalkradio.com/americanmuslim360](http://blogtalkradio.com/americanmuslim360) for updates. See you soon in St. Louis. Ramadan Mubarak!

Community Wide Shuraa Conference (CWSC) is an IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax exempt, faith-based national collaborative and working conference bringing together diverse human resources with the desire, knowledge and experience to help achieve the highest level of excellence in community life. CWSC does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, religion, ethnic or national origin in its community outreach. To explore leadership, community service and other volunteer opportunities, please email [cwsconline@gmail.com](mailto:cwsconline@gmail.com) or call (910) 317-0297...Together we can remake the world.

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