

CWSC AM360 National Intelligentsia Interfaith Cruise Call for and Presentation of Papers Research Topics

Topic 1: Ramadan, one of the main Pillars of Islam, and its accompanying culmination of Eid-ul-Fitr, are events comprising one of the two major holidays and/or festivities for Muslims the world over. However, differences in applying the Seerah among various schools of thought or communities, contemporary institutional norms, and the advent of technology have converged to cause annually in some American communities and organizations a degree of controversy over when to begin and thus end the Ramadan Season. Consequently what has been established as a point of unity and mutual celebration has in too many instances, struck a resounding discord that can divide families, institutions, and communities.

The called Research Paper should explore impacts of the Divide on families (especially children) and communities as a result of differences in beginning and ending the Ramadan Fast and should cite examples. The Paper should discuss whether the differences are more or less relevant than the way we talk about, accept or ignore the differences; and how might any differences be minimized so as to prevent variance in Ramadan periods from becoming a “wedge issue” by some seeking to exploit the issue, including radical elements? What are some social, cultural, and educational strategies that can be used by families and communities to enhance greater unity locally and nationally, despite any differences.

The Paper is also to include summary discussion of:

- Methods used for determining the start and end of Ramadan.
- Other considerations cited for determining start and end of Ramadan, with examples such as native customs, institutional norms, organizational precedents, etc., that individuals, families or communities might bring into the equation for determining the period of their Ramadan fast.