
BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Muslim Life: Support Resources



BUTLER | DIVISION of DIVERSITY,
EQUITY, and INCLUSION



The Compass Center



To all our Muslim-identifying students: **we are so excited you are here.**

Our campus benefits from your voice and your presence adds to this community. Your views, practices, traditions, cultures, and faith or secular commitments are welcome here.

You are receiving this information as a student who self-identified as Muslim when you began at Butler. Whether you've just arrived as a first-year student or you're beginning your final year, this document was designed to help you find what's available to you as a Muslim student, such as programs that celebrate Muslim identity or a support system when feeling isolated or on the margins. Belonging to Butler's campus can look and feel different for those who identify within underrepresented communities, and we are intentional about supporting students through their unique experiences on campus. That's why The Compass Center and our Muslim Affairs Working Group—a group of faculty and staff appointed by the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—developed this resource to help Muslim students navigate campus.

Resources for Muslim Life on Campus

The Compass Center Muslim Life Advisor



Imam Anisse Adni

aadni@butler.edu, 317-940-6459

Imam Anisse works to ensure that Muslims on campus are supported in their ability to live out the many forms of Muslim identity. Working closely with the Muslim Student Association, Imam Anisse provides regular Jummah Prayers, Halaqa conversations, spiritual care, and supports student-led programming. He actively leads educational experiences

for campus to learn about the diversity of the Muslim community. Additionally, the Muslim Life Advisor collaborates with the Division of Enrollment Management to support our institutional imperative of creating equitable access to a Butler education. From prospective student recruitment, support of active students, and education for the campus at large, Imam Anisse plays a pivotal role in the experience that our Muslim students have here at Butler. Imam Anisse is part time in this role in addition to his work in the wider Indianapolis community as an Imam.

Butler Muslim Student Association

The Butler Muslim Student Association looks to promote interfaith dialogue, volunteering, and the Muslim community, not only at Butler University, but to wider contexts. MSA plans events that promote religious appreciation and diversity in the community. The MSA is affiliated with The Compass Center and the Efroymsen Diversity Center. See below for more details on both.

Student Leaders:

To connect with the MSA student leaders, check out the MSA drop down tab on [The Compass Center's Multifaith Communities](#) website. MSA student leaders steer the student-led Muslim community on campus and are the first contact for students looking to connect.

Faculty/Staff Advisor:

Imam Anisse Adni, aadni@butler.edu

The Muslim Studies Endowment

[The Muslim Studies Endowment](#) promotes programming that educates the campus and broader Indianapolis communities through increased access to accurate and engaging knowledge about Muslims in all their diversity in America and globally. The Endowment recognizes the deep misunderstandings about Islam in America today, and counters simplistic and Islamophobic representations by supporting research, travel, and bold conversations that connect the study of Islam and Muslims to critical issues of our time. In addition to exciting visiting speakers, students will find support for internships and study abroad experiences.

Director of the Muslim Studies Endowment:

Dr. Chad Bauman, Professor of Religion, muslimstudies@butler.edu

The Compass Center

[The Compass Center](#) is a resource for supporting multifaith communities, interfaith engagement, exploring meaning and purpose, and spiritual life on campus. Located at 4615 Sunset Ave (across from the Schrott Center), The Compass Center is a space and team here to support students living out their diverse faith and secular commitments. The Muslim Student Association is one of the Compass Center student-led communities.

To reach out to The Compass Center staff, connect with Daniel Meyers, Director, at dgmeyers@butler.edu.

The Efroymsen Diversity Center

[The Diversity Center](#) serves as an open and inclusive symbol to the Butler campus that fosters contributions of intercultural engagement, support, guidance, and a home to the Butler community committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Diversity Center is located in the garden level of Atherton Union, Room 004. The Muslim Student Association is one of the Diversity Center student organizations.

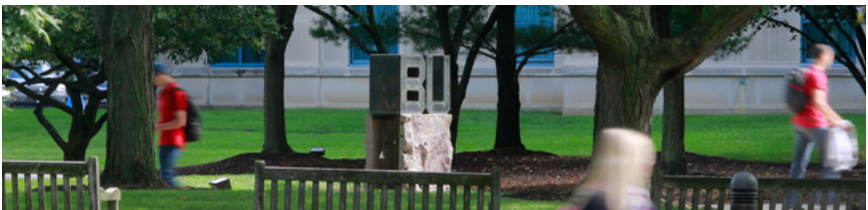
To reach out to Diversity Center staff, connect with Mikala Lain, Assistant Director, at mlain@butler.edu.

Education Opportunities about Islam

Butler University offers a variety of opportunities for learning about Muslims and Islam more generally. The Religious Studies program offers both an introduction to Islam and other upper-level courses on Islam that are generally available without a specific prerequisite. These courses are offered by Religious Studies scholar Dr. Syed Zaidi. Dr. Zaidi and other Butler faculty also teach two GHS courses in the core, “Modern Middle East and North Africa,” and “Change and Tradition in China and the Islamic Middle East,” which include information about Islam and Muslims in this particular region of the world. Finally, a series of generous gifts to Butler University established the [Muslim Studies Endowment](#), which funds student internships and travel related to Islam, faculty research on Islam, and public lecture and activities on Butler’s campus related to Muslim life.

For information about courses on Islam, contact Dr. Syed Zaidi: sazaidi@butler.edu.

Regular co-curricular educational programs are offered through public lectures, film screenings, and event collaborations through The Compass Center, the Muslim Studies Endowment, and the MSA, among other local partnerships.



Prayer Spaces on Campus

To find space for daily prayers, check out these options located in different parts of campus:

- Jordan Hall Rooms 182 C and D are individual prayer, meditation, and reflection spaces, open from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday through Friday.
- The Compass Center's second floor has a designated prayer and meditation room.
- The Efrogmson Diversity Center in the garden level of Atherton Union (Room 004) has a designated prayer and meditation room

The Muslim Affairs Working Group

This working group is a result of campus discussions during the 2023-2024 academic year in response to increased concerns around promoting Muslim belonging on campus. The resulting working group was initiated by the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the spring of 2024 and is comprised of faculty and staff. The goals of the working group are to assess campus climate for Muslim students through ongoing review, encourage efforts of campus education about Muslim identities and traditions, provide support for Muslim students of all kinds, and consider policy questions related to Muslim inclusion.

Off-campus Muslim Community Resources

Al-Huda Islamic Center of Indianapolis

<https://alhudafoundation.org/>

12213 Lantern Road, Fishers, IN 46038

317-288-4225

info@alhudafoundation.org

Al-Salam Foundation

<https://alsalamfoundation.org/>

9551 Valparaiso Ct., Indianapolis IN 46268

317-324-8202

Alsalamfoundation2012@gmail.com

Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network

<https://www.imanadvocates.org/>

Indianapolis Muslim Community Association

<https://theimcaonline.org/>

Islamic Society of North America, based in Plainfield, IN

<https://isna.net/>

Masjid Al-Fajr, part of the Indianapolis Muslim Community Association

<https://theimcaonline.org/other-programs/>

2846 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46222

Contact us page: <https://theimcaonline.org/contact-us/>



How do I connect to other Muslims, find community for holidays, and stay informed?

We have two starting suggestions:

- **Reach out to Imam Anisse Adni**, the Muslim Life Advisor, at aadni@butler.edu and ask to be included in his ongoing communications. Imam Anisse reaches out regularly to inform about weekly Jummah's, Halaqas, get RSVPs for different events, and share about special opportunities.
- **Reach out to the Butler Muslim Student Association**, which has an active Instagram page with events: [follow @msabutler on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/msabutler) for regular updates.



Navigating the Challenges and Complexities of a College Campus

College Campus Context: Encountering Discomfort

It is important to acknowledge that Muslim identities are complex and college student identities are often changing and growing. In addition, being on a college campus creates added nuance, as the learning process and open discourses will invite students to encounter a diverse array of opinions and perspectives. Regardless of any student's identities and perspectives, it may be common to encounter discomfort as part of the learning experience at Butler, whether that occurs in the classroom, in residence halls, campus events, dining spaces, etc. Butler students may hear views with which they disagree or are even offended by. This discomfort is important as it exposes us to new ideas, challenges our thinking, and can often result in empathy, new perspectives, or stronger original thought.

Discomfort vs. Harm

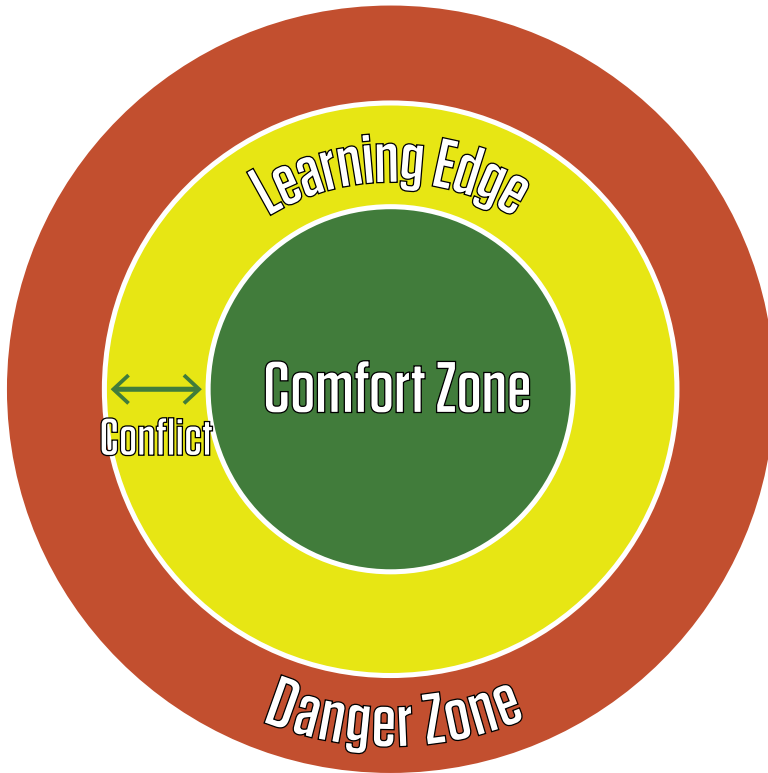
This discomfort, and its potential value for learning, is true for Muslim students just like all students. That said, Islamophobia and other forms of bias towards Muslim identities are serious concerns for college campuses, including Butler. Promoting discomfort within the learning environment is not the same as permission to harm. There have been increasing numbers of Islamophobic incidents across many parts of society, including universities. Learning through discomfort is not the same as enduring hate speech generally or Islamophobia specifically. In recent trainings and dialogues on Islamophobia, Butler has been using this short video from the Yaqeen Institute, "[What is Islamophobia](#)," to provide a concise understanding. Being familiar with how Islamophobia can occur on a college campus setting may be helpful as you consider the different between healthy discomfort and encountering ideas that are harmful.

How to Submit a Bias Report

If you believe you have observed or experienced an incident of Islamophobia, you have the option to [submit a bias report](#). Once submitted, the **Office of Institutional Equity** will contact you directly to listen and provide support, or direct the report to the appropriate office.

It is important to realize that by submitting a Bias Report, that does not always (or even often) mean the person who submitted the report learns the outcomes of an investigation. If bias is determined to have occurred, the outcomes can range from a teachable moment to an academic consequence, or even to specific actions dictated by federal, state, or local statutes. The person who submits the report may never learn of the outcome, but every single bias report is investigated.

How do I know what is discomfort and what is harm?



Butler's Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is working to teach skills to all those on campus designed to help students navigate a campus with diverse views expressed freely. One important skill is distinguishing between discomfort and harm. The diagram shown depicts the **"Comfort Zone"** at the center, which we all need, such as spending time with friends. However, safe spaces do not always produce the most impactful learning. The yellow ring shows the **"Learning Edge,"** which is an experience an individual has while being outside of their comfort zone, yet their safety has not been compromised. Various classes and campus events as well as conversations with peers may create "Learning Edge" moments. The outer rim of the "Learning Edge" can have **Conflict** and break a boundary into the **"Danger Zone."** The Danger Zone is not productive or helpful; it occurs when we are no longer learning through discomfort but instead experiencing harm. ¹

¹ This section is based on the research from The Program on Intergroup Relations – University of Michigan, 2014 Arao, B., and Clemens, K. "From safe spaces to brave spaces: A new way to frame dialogue around diversity and social justice," *The Art of Effective Facilitation*.

If you are having a Danger Zone moment, what options do you have?

- **Leave** – always prioritize your own safety first, though this may be challenging depending on the power dynamics in the situation, such as whether you are in a classroom setting or not.
- **Call BUPD** if you are in an emergency situation, using 317-940-9999 for emergency response.
- **Conversation Resources for Processing** – if having a conversation partner after a situation would help you process, problem solve, or find care, reach out to any of the resources listed on the “Resources” page of this document. You can also sign up for a [Spiritual Care Conversation](#) with Compass Center staff or advisors, some of whom are confidential.
- You can also call [Counseling and Consultation Services](#) (317-940-9777), walk in to their suite within the HRC during business hours if it is an urgent concern, or schedule a first contact online using the QR code.
- **Submit a Bias Report** – as described above, a bias report helps the University investigate what you encountered and determine any necessary outcomes.



There can be real challenges to navigating a complex and dynamic college campus where Muslim identities are underrepresented. And there is a vibrant and positive community here for you to help navigate it. The resources listed above are here for you, whether you connect with the Muslim Life Advisor, Butler MSA, the Muslim Studies Endowment, The Compass Center, the Diversity Center, or any other resources provided. We are here to celebrate who you are and help you navigate the challenges that may arise.

You Belong Here

While Butler's Muslim community is small, it is tight, growing, and has a long history. If there is any way we can help you express your Muslim identity or further connect to others, please know that is part of our mission. Reach out to anyone listed above. Or, if you are looking for a starting point, connect with Daniel Meyers (dgmeyers@butler.edu),
Director of The Compass Center.



The Compass Center

Multifaith Communities | Interfaith Engagement | Meaning and Purpose | Spiritual Life

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