

# THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN

## ACTION GUIDE

THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN is a documentary film chronicling what happens when Muslim writer and activist Asra Nomani launches a campaign for gender equality in her West Virginia mosque, throwing the community into turmoil. The film does not aim to present a representative picture of the Muslim experience in America, or a comprehensive view of Islam. It does not promote the viewpoint of Ms. Nomani or any other character. Instead it is a case study of how one controversial activist goes about her work, how her community reacts, and how other members counter with their own very different style of activism. The goal is not to tell viewers what to think, but rather to get them thinking—and talking.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FILM & ITS ISSUES

Visit [www.themosqueinmorgantown.com](http://www.themosqueinmorgantown.com) for bonus video, character updates, background information, filmmaker bios and much more.

The centerpiece of the site is a discussion FORUM. It seeks to explore the film's larger context, bring in additional perspectives and move the conversation to the next level. Stop by to read original essays from prominent leaders and thinkers, Muslim and non-Muslim, on the film's major themes. Explore the personal reactions of characters and viewers. Learn about the experiences of other communities. And join the conversation!

### LEARN MORE ABOUT GENDER & ISLAM

Visit [Altmuslimah.com](http://Altmuslimah.com) to find a wide collection of articles with references and links to useful resources on gender and Islam. The *Mosque and Community* section ([altmuslimah.com/a/b/mc/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/mc/)) in particular provides a host of articles written from male and female, and Muslim and non-Muslim perspectives with links to related organizations, community leaders and groups. Other resources include:

A collection of articles on the issue of the hijab, or Islamic headcovering:  
[altmuslimah.com/a/b/wba/3676/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/wba/3676/)    [altmuslimah.com/a/b/wba/3677/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/wba/3677/)  
[altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3822/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3822/)    [altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3827/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3827/)  
[altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3832/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3832/)    [altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3839/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/rev/3839/)

A three-part series by Quran translator Laleh Bakhtiar on passage 4:34, which is often interpreted to justify wife beating:  
[altmuslimah.com/a/b/gva/3201/](http://altmuslimah.com/a/b/gva/3201/)

### DO SOMETHING!

1. Organize workshops on campus or in your community aimed at engaging men along with women in discussing the role of women in their places of worship and communities. As a group, determine if the allotted space, roles and responsibilities are fair and whether change is needed (this may involve a series of workshops). Discuss the role men can play in helping to facilitate any changes.
2. Reach out to mosques, churches, synagogues and other places of worship in your community and invite them for an interfaith discussion of the vital roles women of their faiths play in their homes, communities, society and places of worship. Learn the similarities, discuss the struggles (past or present), explore solutions and celebrate the various roles of women.
3. Survey female members of your area mosque and document their concerns regarding their allotted space in the mosque or the role women have in mosque administration and decision-making, note any proposed solutions, and also note what they appreciate about their mosque in regards to gender. Forward a composite of the information to members of the mosque administration. Maintain anonymity of survey participants.
4. Organize a diversity appreciation forum within your faith community. Invite representatives of different cultural and generational backgrounds to make presentations about their own experiences and beliefs about gender roles and relationships. Provide space for questions so people may better understand one another and celebrate the diversity within their community. Use a moderator to encourage dialogue rather than debate.
5. Write an essay about your reaction to the film, how its issues have played out in your community, or about change strategies that have worked for you. Submit it to your local or campus newspaper and send it to [submit@themosqueinmorgantown.com](mailto:submit@themosqueinmorgantown.com). With your permission, we may publish it on our website or pass it along to partner sites.
6. *Report back! We want to learn from you. Email us about your experiences at [screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com](mailto:screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com).*

