

COMPETING PATHS TO CHANGE IN AN AMERICAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

# THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN



EVENT PLANNING GUIDE



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*"Although the issues addressed in The Mosque in Morgantown relate specifically to the American Muslim community, they are paralleled in other religious communities and non-religious communities across the U.S., Canada, and the world ... The Mosque in Morgantown's call to prayer is a call to dialogue."*

— Film critic Adam Hartzell



## ABOUT THE FILM

THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN is a documentary film that aired nationally on PBS, earning a 2010 Emmy® Award nomination for its original musical score. It chronicles what happens when Muslim writer and activist Asra Nomani launches a campaign for gender equality in her West Virginia mosque—angering the mosque’s moderates. These would-be allies seek to adapt the community’s cultural practices to the reality of American life, but disagree passionately with Nomani’s methods and, eventually, her message. Through unfolding scenes and intimate interviews, the film frames this local conflict as a means to explore larger dilemmas facing American Islam. It tells a story of competing paths to change and the nature of religion itself.

### What the film is not:

- THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN does not aim to present a representative picture of the Muslim experience in America, or a comprehensive view of Islam.
- It also doesn’t draw conclusions or tell viewers how to think about the issues it raises.
- The goal is not to promote the viewpoint of Asra Nomani or any other character.

### What the film is:

- THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN is a case study of how one controversial activist goes about her work, how her community members react, and how they counter with their own very different style of activism. It lives in some very gray areas and raises uncomfortable questions.
- The filmmakers’ hope is that viewers will take the film on its own terms while watching and then be open to share their personal views and truly listen to the opinions of others.

To read more about the film and watch the trailer, please visit [www.themosqueinmorgantown.com](http://www.themosqueinmorgantown.com).

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide will walk you through every stage of organizing a screening event at your school or in your community—from planning to publicity to execution.

Please note that you will need a DVD of the film with a public viewing license. This license allows the film to be shown in a classroom or screened by a public group, for educational purposes, when no admission is charged. To purchase a DVD of the full 76-minute version of THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN, please visit [teacher.shop.pbs.org](http://teacher.shop.pbs.org). To inquire about purchasing an edited 54-minute version, contact [screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com](mailto:screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com).

This guide is a presentation of the filmmakers and Altmuslimah.com in association with oneblue.org and Working Films.

*“This film demonstrated an exceptional skill with camera, editing and the ability to objectively respect—rather than objectify—its subject. The narrative was given room to speak and not deified or vilified, which is often the case with such an obvious and volatile political subject.”*

— San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival jury,  
in awarding THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN Best Documentary Feature in 2009



## FROM THE FILMMAKER



BRITTANY HUCKABEE

I am a non-Muslim, and viewers of *THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN* often ask what moved me to make a film about a Muslim community.

I grew up in a religious community that was also in an intense argument about gender and scriptural interpretation. It just so happened it was a church, not a mosque. After making this film, though, I am convinced that our faith communities are more similar than different. Many non-Muslims tell me they've come to the same conclusion after watching.

The story in Morgantown stands as a powerful illustration of the predicament of many religious communities today as they find themselves caught in a clash between tradition and modernity. In my view these are forces of nature, and most people embody a bit of both. Modernity moves the conversation forward while tradition keeps us in touch with who we are. But we all have different ideas of the proper proportion of each, and conflict is inevitable. Sometimes tradition is confused with truth, and sometimes progress is held as the highest end. People disagree on how best to bring change in their communities. Issues of power and control at times make resolution difficult.

Interfaith dialogue so often focuses on the positive similarities between faiths, overlooking the less agreeable attributes we also share. In the post-9/11 environment Muslims are understandably more hesitant to discuss internal conflicts, but I believe this has simply bred more skepticism among outsiders. Acknowledging all the things we share—positive and negative—can help rebuild trust and open the door to civil discourse between our faith communities.

Brittany Huckabee  
Director, *THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN*

## FROM ALTMUSLIMAH



ASMA T. UDDIN

Altmuslimah.com provides a space for compelling comment on gender in Islam from both the male and female, Muslim and non-Muslim, perspectives. "Gender in Islam" has multiple dimensions and evokes a wide array of emotions: fear, confusion, defiance, love. Altmuslimah explores all of these dimensions and provides a platform for intra- and inter-community dialogue on a variety of gender-related issues. In particular, it looks at the intersection of female and male sexuality and gender identity with society, politics, economics and culture.

The mode of exploration is a combination of analysis and personal stories. The editors at Altmuslimah are firm believers in the power of narratives to help explain social phenomena. By uncovering the stories of a wide cross-section of men and women in the community, Altmuslimah helps bring into sharper focus the gender issues that affect both men and women.

*THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN* combines precisely the sort of personal and analytical dimensions of gender-in-Islam that Altmuslimah is all about. It raises important questions about women's space and leadership in the mosque, proper reform methodology, women's rights and reformation of the tradition, women's dress, and cooperation between the sexes to bring about real change. It offers both sides of each debate and, in doing so, provides an important starting point for fuller analysis. Through discussion and dialogue, which this guide helps facilitate, the complexity of these issues can begin to be unraveled and their deeper significance appreciated.

Asma T. Uddin  
Editor-in-Chief, Altmuslimah.com



## PUTTING IT TOGETHER

### Goals and Target Audience

As you begin to plan your event, first consider who you hope will attend, what they will want to discuss and what you want them to take away when they leave.

Will the event be open exclusively to students and faculty at your university or to members of your faith group? Or will you try to reach out to the larger community?

Will you discuss insider issues relevant mostly to Muslims, or will you broaden the discussion to include an interfaith audience? Will you focus on how the film's issues have played out in your local community, or take a more general approach? Is your goal to raise awareness and provide a platform for discussion, or to prompt some kind of action?

You may decide to tailor your audience to the type of discussion you want to have, or to tailor the discussion to the interests of your intended audience. Whether your event is at a university, mosque, church, community center or in your dorm room, it is important to create a space where everyone can feel comfortable expressing their opinions about uncomfortable topics.

### Event Format

Next, structure your event in a way that best accommodates your goals and target audience. Post-film discussion can take many shapes, including a KEYNOTE SPEAKER, a moderated PANEL OF EXPERTS, a FILMMAKER Q&A or a BREAKOUT DIALOGUE. See the next page for more info on a BREAKOUT DIALOGUE.

If planning for a KEYNOTE SPEAKER, a PANEL OF EXPERTS or a FILMMAKER Q&A, consider the following tips:

- Know your potential audience to make sure the speaker/panelists will speak to its particular interests. Options for expert speakers include local religious leaders, activists and scholars in areas such as Islamic studies, women's studies or media. See the CONVERSATION GUIDE for more specific content ideas.
- Use a skilled moderator who is perceived as neutral and who can steer the discussion in a constructive direction.
- Pass out 3x5 index cards before the film screening and have audience members submit questions. The moderator selects the most relevant and passes them along to the speakers. This will keep the conversation focused and prevent one or two people from dominating the room.

To inquire about the availability of the filmmakers or film subjects to speak at your event, please contact [screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com](mailto:screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com). Keep in mind that you will likely need to be able to cover travel expenses and offer an honorarium.

### SUGGESTED AGENDA

START ON TIME	no more than 10 minutes late
FILM INTRODUCTION	5-15 minutes
FILM VIEWING	54 or 76 minutes
DISCUSSION AND WRAP	15 minutes to 1 hour
TOTAL EVENT LENGTH	2-3 hours



*If your goal is to appeal to a diverse audience, it is important to clarify at every stage along the way that the purpose of the film—and your event—is not to endorse a particular point of view but rather to create a space for open discussion.*

Based on test screenings, a BREAKOUT DIALOGUE is the format recommended for this film. After the screening, audience members split up into small groups to discuss topics of individual interest and then report back to the group. This format is especially useful when confronting controversial subject matter with strong emotional associations. It accommodates the unique interests of your audience, guaranteeing participation in and ownership of the discussion, and it prevents one or two people from dominating the conversation. Audience members leave the room feeling they have had a productive experience and perhaps have even learned something from one another. A breakout dialogue works well for smaller groups and is also easy to plan!

### BREAKOUT DIALOGUE HOW-TO

1. Select a facilitator who has watched the film and is familiar with its subject matter. Have a dry erase board or easel and paper handy.
2. If possible, choose a venue with chairs that can be moved into clusters for the discussion portion of the event.
3. Invite subject-matter experts to be present and available to answer questions if they arise. You may chose local religious leaders or scholars with expertise in areas such as Islamic studies, women’s studies and media.
4. Before screening the film, ask audience members to make note of questions and issues that spark their interest or emotions. You may want to pass out copies of discussion questions from the CONVERSATION GUIDE for reference.
5. At the conclusion of the film, ask the audience to suggest topics they would like to discuss, writing each on the board or easel. Allow 10-15 minutes for this activity.
6. When enough topics have been suggested, ask the audience to split up into groups of 3-10 people based on the topic that most interests each, combining similar themes if necessary. Appoint someone who suggested the topic as the facilitator of each group. Let everyone know if subject-matter experts are present to help answer questions, and tell them they will be expected to report back to the group at the end of the allotted discussion time.
7. Allow groups to discuss their topics for 15-30 minutes, depending on how much time you have. Subject-matter experts will circulate around the room as needed.
8. Reconvene and ask group facilitators to share three major points that came out of their discussions. Ask a follow up question or two to explore why members felt they way they did. Limit each report to 5 minutes if possible.

**RECOMMENDED MINIMUM DIALOGUE LENGTH: 45 MINUTES**



## Event Venue

Next, select and book a venue for your screening event. Confirm that you will have access to the room for the full duration of your event, plus setup and takedown. Additional things to consider:

**Size.** The room must be the right size to accommodate your anticipated audience, not too large and not too small. Check to make sure that all audience members will be able to see the screen and read any subtitles. Look for lights or windows that may bleed reflections onto the screen.

**Function.** The venue should be comfortable to your target audience and appropriate for your chosen discussion format. For a breakout dialogue, a smaller room with movable chairs may work best. For a well-known keynote speaker, a large auditorium may be in order.

**Accessibility.** The event location should be accessible to your audience. Some people may need to walk or take public transportation. Consider parking facilities. Make sure you can accommodate people with disabilities.

**Equipment.** You will need access to adequate audio-visual equipment, including a DVD player, projector, screen, good-quality speakers, the necessary cables and a person who knows how to set it all up. Consider whether you will need a microphone for your moderator or speakers. Test the DVD in advance of the event to make sure it plays properly, and check both image quality and sound levels before audience members arrive.

## Partner Organizations

Early in the planning process, make contact with potential partner organizations that might help with planning, publicizing or hosting the event. Delegating work to others will make your job easier and get more people invested in your event's success. Partners from diverse backgrounds can also provide perspectives that will enrich the discourse. Before proceeding, clarify the responsibilities of each organization involved.

### On campus

Religious studies, Islamic studies, women's studies, ethnic studies, film or journalism departments

Interdisciplinary academic centers

Muslim, Christian, Jewish or interfaith student groups

Arab or South Asian cultural student groups

### In the community

Interfaith community groups

Social justice, civics and women's organizations

Mosques, churches, synagogues and other places of worship

Middle Eastern, Pakistani and Indian restaurants

## How they can help you

- Serve as official co-sponsors of your event.
- Help you connect with broader audiences and provide advice on crafting the event to address their unique interests and concerns.
- Provide or suggest subject-matter experts to be present for breakout dialogue or to serve as panelists/speakers.
- Send out event announcements and reminders on email listservs and through social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.
- Post flyers and distribute postcards promoting your event.
- Make announcements in classes or at events. Professors may also be interested in tailoring assignments around your event and/or be willing to offer class credit to students who attend.
- Offer facilities for hosting your event and/or donate refreshments.



## GETTING THE WORD OUT

You can publicize your event through social networking, membership and general community mass mailings/emails, flyers, community calendar postings, newsletters, radio public service announcements and local media coverage.

Be sure to tailor invitations and announcements to your event format and target audience. Mention issues of local interest and make sure people understand why the event is relevant, timely and important. Always include information on the what, when and where, and don't forget transportation and parking details.

Be sure to email us at [screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com](mailto:screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com) to let us know about your event. We can help you with publicity upon request.

### Email and Social Media

At least two weeks before the event, create an event on your or your organization's Facebook page and invite the members of your organization and that of your partners. Encourage others to do the same. Describe the event, explain its relevance to your audience and include a brief film summary. Embed the film trailer and include links to THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN's website and Facebook page.

Around the same time, send out email invitations on organizational, departmental and community listservs. Include a film summary, event details and links to your event's Facebook page and the film trailer. Send reminder emails in the days just before the event.

Utilize other social networking tools such as Twitter to send out additional announcements and reminders. Always include a link to your Facebook page.

### The Classroom

Whether or not your event will be held on campus, professors and teachers can be great allies in spreading the word about your event. Contact high school teachers and university departments in areas such as religious studies, Islamic studies, women's studies, ethnic studies, media, film and journalism. Let them know that the film provides a case study for discussion on topics including:

- Gender and religion
- Methods of advancing social change
- Intra-faith community dynamics
- Interfaith parallels
- Immigrant identities
- The politics of representation
- The interpretation of religious texts
- The use of ideological labels
- Islam and the media
- Advocacy journalism

Professors and teachers can make announcements about the event in class and forward your email invitation to students. With enough advance notice, they can also create assignments around your event and/or offer class credit to students who attend.

Additional resources for background reading and ongoing discussion in the classroom are available at [www.themosqueinmorgantown.com/forum](http://www.themosqueinmorgantown.com/forum).



## Posters and Flyers

Post or leave stacks of flyers in areas where potential audience members will see them, including campus centers, places of worship, movie theaters and coffee shops. Distribute them at other events likely to attract similar audiences.

## Local Media

With a little planning, local newspapers, blogs, television and radio can help attract much larger audiences and raise the profile of your organization. If you or your co-sponsors have communications or media-relations personnel, get them involved as early as possible for the greatest impact.

In addition to entertainment reporters and film/video reviewers, consider contacting religion reporters, metro reporters, lifestyle reporters, political reporters and columnists, and local talk-radio hosts or producers. Take advantage of any personal contacts. Get listed in local event calendars.

Write a press release and send it out to your press contacts as early as possible, ideally a month before the event. Be sure to highlight any local issues or connections. If issues relevant to the film have made news in your community, highlight that angle. List your co-sponsoring organizations and mention any special guests who will be present at the event. Arrange for a representative of your organization or a local subject-matter expert to be available to speak with the media. Follow up immediately after sending the press release and again with those who responded favorably in the days leading up to the event.

You can also direct media to THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN's companion website for photos, a film synopsis and filmmaker bios.

*Asra Nomani is a controversial figure in the American Muslim community. As you plan and promote your screening event, be prepared for questions about why the film or your event is providing a platform for her views. You will want to make clear that the film is a case study of different styles of activism. It does not promote the viewpoint of any one character or take a position on the issues it raises. The goal is not to tell viewers what to think, but rather to get them thinking—and talking.*



## MAKING IT HAPPEN

### Before the Event

Arrive early and check sound levels and image quality on your audio-visual equipment, including any microphones. If doing a BREAKOUT DIALOGUE, make sure you have a dry-erase board or easel available.

Set up a table with flyers, information about sponsoring organizations, and sign-up sheets that will allow you and your partners to stay in touch with the audience. Include a manned station near the exit for DVD sales, if applicable. You may also want to provide refreshments before or after the event.

### Before the Film

As people arrive, give them a copy of the CONVERSATION GUIDE, ACTION GUIDE and/or 3x5 index cards for notetaking and questions. Or, pass these out once everyone has taken a seat.

Try to start on time, waiting no longer than 10 minutes for latecomers to arrive.

Have the moderator introduce the film and briefly explain the discussion format to follow, inviting the audience to stay and participate. In drafting an introductory statement, you may want to reference the notes on p.4 of this guide from the filmmaker and Altmuslimah. Be sure to let everyone know that the film is meant to be taken as a case study and is not in any way representative of all Muslims. Also make clear that the film—and your event—does not aim to endorse a particular point of view but rather to create a space for open discussion. Remind audience members they are here to listen to one another, not to win or lose a debate.

If applicable, you may also want to make a brief introduction of local issues, introduce special guests and, if the group is small enough, ask audience members to make brief individual introductions.

### Before the Discussion

Before beginning the post-film discussion let people know that DVDs are for sale (if applicable) and that any profits will help defray the cost of your event. Explain the discussion format, and remind the audience once again of the need to be civil and respectful. For ideas on discussion format, see p.5-6 of this guide.

### At the Event's Conclusion

Appoint a timekeeper to keep the group on schedule for wrapping up. If people want to stay past the official discussion period, encourage them to keep talking in smaller groups or suggest the group hold a follow-up meeting.

Thank your event sponsors and invite people to stop by your information and DVD sales tables on their way out.

Finally, let us know how it went! Send an email to [screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com](mailto:screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com) to report back on what worked, what didn't, or anything interesting that happened at your event. Your feedback will help shape future versions of this guide.

*Allow 2-3 hours for your event. If screening the full 76-minute version of the film, a two-hour agenda will be tight. You will need to carefully monitor time to keep the event on track.*



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Many additional resources are available on the film's companion website, [www.themosqueinmorgantown.com](http://www.themosqueinmorgantown.com):

- Downloadable CONVERSATION GUIDE and ACTION GUIDE that include a list of discussion questions, additional information resources and potential action steps
- An interactive discussion forum featuring original essays on the film and its issues
- And much more, including bonus video, character updates, background information and filmmaker bios

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CENTER FOR  
**ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA**

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## EVENT PLANNING CHECKLIST

### 6+ weeks out

- Set a date and book your venue.
- Identify and confirm event partners.
- Determine event format and participants, including a moderator/facilitator and any speakers or panelists.
- Contact professors and teachers to suggest the possibility of incorporating the film and your event into a classroom assignment.
- Submit your event to local community calendars and contact long-lead media outlets such as talk radio programs.

### 3-4 weeks out

- Create a flyer with event details.
- Confirm access to audio-visual equipment, including a DVD player, projector, screen and speakers.
- Order refreshments, if applicable.
- Draft event agenda and circulate among partner organizations.
- Send out press releases to media contacts, including newspapers, blogs, television and radio. Follow up with phone calls to confirm they were received.

### 2 weeks out

- Create an event listing on your organization's Facebook page.
- Create and send out invitations via email and social media; distribute flyers.
- Follow up with professors and teachers.
- Confirm attendance of subject-matter experts, if applicable.

### Several days out

- Test the DVD on your screening equipment to make sure it plays properly.
- Send out reminder emails and social media blasts; post more flyers.
- Follow up with media contacts who responded favorably to press release.
- Finalize event agenda and distribute to all organizers and speakers.
- Print out and make copies of handouts to distribute at event.

### At the event

- Check sound levels and image quality on your audio-visual equipment.
- As people arrive, distribute handouts and direct them to sign-up sheets.
- As you introduce the film make clear that it—and your event—does not aim to endorse a particular point of view but rather to create a space for open discussion. Remind the audience of the need to be civil and respectful.
- Before the discussion, announce that DVDs are available for sale (if applicable).
- Appoint a timekeeper to keep the event on track.
- Email screenings@themosqueinmorgantown.com to let us know how it went!*



# THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### STARTING THE CONVERSATION

The characters and issues in *THE MOSQUE IN MORGANTOWN* may touch deeply held beliefs and stir strong emotions. With such controversial subject matter, **DIALOGUE** is preferable to debate. In a debate, participants try to convince others that their position is right. In a dialogue, participants try to understand one another and expand their thinking by sharing viewpoints. Remember that **LISTENING** is as important as discussion. Try to "actively" listen without interrupting the speaker, and then rephrase statements to make sure they are understood. Listen for things that challenge your ideas or cause you to reconsider your assumptions, as well as comments that reinforce your beliefs. Most importantly, maintain an environment of **RESPECT**, where all participants can feel comfortable sharing their ideas, concerns and opinions.

To learn more about the film or to download the Event Planning Guide, please visit [WWW.THEMOSQUEINMORGANTOWN.COM](http://WWW.THEMOSQUEINMORGANTOWN.COM).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does the portrayal of American Muslim women and men in this film coincide with your impressions of the role and treatment of Muslim women and men before watching the film? Has watching the film changed your perspective?
2. Which of the three main voices presented (Asra Nomani and the progressives, Ihtishaam Qazi and the moderates, or Mona Fahmy Ammar and the traditionalists) were the most powerful to you? Why?
3. Asra and Ihtishaam disagreed about how best to bring change to their community. Describe the differences between their two approaches. Which was more effective? What style of activism has been most effective in your own experience?
4. What are some issues and struggles encountered by women in your community? How do those issues relate to what you saw in this film? How would you go about bringing attention to these issues?
5. In the long run, how do you think the movement espoused by progressives might have an impact on mainstream Muslims and conservative Muslims in America?
6. What role does culture play in how the various groups portrayed in the film follow and interpret their religion? How does culture affect the way you practice your religion?
7. Describe your experiences with trying to strike a balance between modernity and tradition in your way of life.
8. Asra Nomani sees her struggle as extending beyond the issue of women's rights to a broader system of intolerance. In advocating mixed-gender prayer, she feels she is taking a step toward preventing her community from traveling down a "slippery slope" of intolerance that could lead to violence. What are your thoughts on her connection of gender segregation with violence and extremism?
9. What about Asra Nomani's character do you think seems threatening to people at her mosque, and perhaps to audience members as well? What is actually motivating her? What is at stake for the people at the mosque? What things in our own lives serve as triggers that prompt us to act out of emotion rather than thought? How can we restart the thought process when this happens?
10. Since Asra Nomani's activism began, similar protest pray-ins have sprung up in the Washington, DC, area. Mosque officials responded by calling the police. In June 2010, the police made the decision not to escort women off mosque premises, and protest organizers saw this as a victory. What are your views on police involvement with peaceful protests that are in breach of the rules of places of worship?
11. Which are most important to you: equality and justice, or diversity and tolerance? How did these core American values clash in the film? Do you think these values are compatible?
12. Is religion about transcendent, non-negotiable absolutes—or is it simply a set of guidelines open to human interpretation? Can such competing visions coexist in one religion? What is a believer in absolutes to do if those absolutes seem to endorse something the larger society sees as wrong?

*Successful dialogue requires an environment of civility and respect. Be sure to listen carefully to others even if you disagree with their opinions.*



# 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).*

