



Al-Salamu Alaykum Respected Members of the National Network,

We hope this email finds you well. We are reaching out to summarize the National Network's latest meeting on March 15, 2025, covering several important topics for our community.

## DATABASE UPDATE

To ensure efficient communication, **please make sure to respond to National Network text messages and phone calls.** Keeping our database accurate and up to date allows us to better serve and support your organization.

## MOON SIGHTING & EID AL-FITR

The sighting of the new crescent moon (hilal) is crucial in determining the day of Eid al-Fitr. The discussion focused on proper practices, rulings, and community responsibilities:

- **Method of Sighting:** Depending on the scholar you follow, the hilal must be sighted either with the naked eye or using optical aids. Weather conditions and visibility are critical factors in confirming the sighting.
- **Use of Local or Distant Sightings:** Whether a sighting in one location (e.g., Dearborn, Michigan) applies to another (e.g., New York) depends on the scholar's ruling. Opinions differ, with common views being multiple horizons, shared horizons, or shared nights.
- **Handling Conflicting Reports:** Discrepancies may arise. Carefully examine the sources and focus on sharing accurate information, not issuing rulings.
- **Community Member Role:**
  - If you can go out and witness the crescent moon firsthand, be sure to take another witness with you, so if it is sighted there is a great sense of consensus.
  - Consult trusted scholars if conflicting information arises.
  - Respect diversity and maintain unity, even if communities celebrate on different days.



## GRANT RECIPIENT REMINDER

For those who have received Ramadan grants, please remember to capture videos and photos of your programs to **maintain grant eligibility and continue receiving grant funding from The Mainstay Foundation UK**. These materials will help us demonstrate the impact of your efforts and share success stories.

## ANNUAL ENGAGE CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Engage Conference is a gathering dedicated to empowering leaders, strengthening institutions, and opening up a space for meaningful discussions on the challenges and opportunities facing our communities. Bringing together scholars, activists, and professionals, ENGAGE provides a platform for collaboration, strategic planning, and impactful dialogue. **Join us on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at The Mainstay Foundation HQ in Dearborn, MI** for a day of inspiration, networking, and actionable insights.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 19, 2025, at 2:00 PM EST**. We look forward to your continued participation. [Click here to register for the next meeting.](#)

Best regards,  
*Haidar Bahrleleom*  
**The Mainstay Foundation**