



## Juneteenth Panel Discussion Ideas for Masjids & Islamic Centers

### Theme 1: Freedom in Islam — From Bondage to Tawhid

**Central Question:** What does true freedom mean from an Islamic perspective?

**Discussion Points:**

- Physical freedom vs. spiritual freedom
- Liberation from racism, oppression, and injustice
- Liberation from the nafs and worldly attachments
- Why becoming a servant of Allah is the highest form of freedom

**Ideal Panelists:**

- Imam
  - Muslim chaplain
  - Islamic studies professor
  - Community elder
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### Theme 2: Before Malcolm — The Hidden History of Black Muslims in America

**Central Question:** What do Muslims need to know about the deep roots of Islam in Black America?

**Discussion Points:**

- Enslaved West African Muslims in early America
  - Preservation of faith under oppression
  - Contributions of African American Muslims to American Islam
  - Recovering forgotten history
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### Theme 3: The Black American Muslim Legacy: A Gift to the Entire Ummah

**Central Question:** How has the African American Muslim experience strengthened Islam in America?

**Discussion Points:**

- Da'wah and institution building
- Leadership in civil rights and social justice
- Islamic schools, masjids, businesses, and community development
- The resilience and faith that shaped generations

Invite leaders from different ethnic communities to reflect on what they have learned from this legacy.

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### Theme 4: Islam, Race, and Brotherhood — Living Beyond Diversity Statements

**Central Question:** What does genuine Islamic brotherhood and sisterhood require?

**Discussion Points:**

- The Prophet ﷺ's Farewell Sermon and equality
- Recognizing unconscious bias
- Building authentic relationships across cultures
- Creating welcoming masjids where everyone belongs

Include audience discussion about practical next steps.

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## **Theme 5: Juneteenth Through the Lens of the Qur'an**

**Central Question:** What guidance does the Qur'an provide regarding justice and human dignity?

### **Possible verses for reflection:**

- Surah An-Nisa (4:75) on defending the oppressed
  - Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13) on diversity and taqwa
  - Surah An-Nahl (16:90) on justice and excellence
  - Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:8) on being steadfast in justice
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## **Theme 6: Listening Across Our Histories**

**Format:** Storytelling evening

Invite African American Muslims of different generations to share:

- Their journey to Islam or family history
- Experiences with discrimination and resilience
- Lessons learned through faith
- Hopes for the future of the American Muslim community

Allow time for respectful questions and dialogue.

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## **Theme 7: From Solidarity to Shared Action**

**Central Question:** What can our communities build together?

Explore collaborative efforts such as:

- Youth mentorship
- Prison outreach
- Marriage and family initiatives
- Economic empowerment
- Civic engagement
- Joint service projects in underserved neighborhoods

The goal is to leave with commitments, not just conversation.

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## **Theme 8: Healing Historical Wounds While Building a Shared Future**

**Central Question:** How can we acknowledge painful histories without becoming trapped by them?

Topics include:

- The role of forgiveness and justice in Islam
  - Honoring ancestors while cultivating hope
  - Building trust across communities
  - Choosing mercy without ignoring truth
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## **Theme 9: Raising Children Who Understand Black Muslim History For families and educators**

Discuss:

- Age-appropriate ways to teach Juneteenth
  - Books and resources about Black Muslim history
  - Cultivating empathy and historical literacy
  - Encouraging children to value every member of the Ummah
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## **Theme 10: "Many Backgrounds, One Ummah"**

**A community-wide dialogue featuring African American, Arab, South Asian, African, Latino, convert, and immigrant Muslims.**

Guiding questions:

- What do you wish other Muslims understood about your experience?
- What misconceptions should be corrected?
- What strengths does your community bring to the Ummah?
- How can we deepen unity while appreciating our diversity?

The objective is not uniformity but mutual respect rooted in taqwa.

**Closing Reflection**

End every Juneteenth program with a collective reminder that the pursuit of justice is an act of worship. Juneteenth is not only about commemorating emancipation; it is about renewing our commitment to uphold the dignity of every human being, strengthen the bonds of the Ummah, and work together for a society that reflects the Qur'anic ideals of justice, mercy, and compassion.