

RESOLVE

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Faith & Vaccines Encourages COVID-19 Vaccination during Ramadan

April 24 vaccination event to be held at the Diyanet Center of America in Lanham, Maryland

RESOLVE's Faith & Vaccines initiative, which partners with faith-based organizations to support equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to communities that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, is hosting a COVID-19 vaccination event at the Diyanet Center of America in Lanham, Maryland on Saturday, April 24. By hosting this vaccination event on Saturday, Faith & Vaccines seeks to reassure members of the local Muslim community that vaccination is safe and appropriate during Ramadan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had tragic and disproportionately adverse effects on disadvantaged minority communities across the United States. Faith & Vaccines, led by Dr. Tasnuva Khan (Pharm. D.), works with faith-based organizations to improve vaccine access and uptake among underserved communities. The Faith & Vaccines initiative rallies healthcare professionals to provide vaccination services to faith communities and engages local faith-based organizations to host vaccination events and educate community members about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"The Faith & Vaccines team is excited to host the first vaccine clinic at the Diyanet Center of America," said Dr. Khan. "The center is located in Prince George's County which has had the highest number of Covid-19 cases in Maryland. Many members of the community have been hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine – especially during the month of Ramadan, where some worry that side effects from the vaccine could require individuals to disrupt the fast or impede them from participating in religious activities. Our team answered questions and made accommodations to alleviate these concerns by scheduling appointments closer to sunset when Muslims break their fast. Muslim leaders, religious scholars, and Islamic organizations worldwide have encouraged vaccinations to continue throughout Ramadan. We are happy to provide this service to the community."

In Maryland, Faith & Vaccines is working in partnership with the U.S. Army Maryland National Guard's Vaccine Equity Task Force (VETF) to break down barriers, expand access, and save lives in underserved and hard to reach areas. "Equity matters, so the Task Force strives to ensure that every

Marylander knows the facts and we facilitate opportunities such that all Marylanders may receive the vaccine,” said Brigadier General Janeen Birckhead, VETF lead and Assistant Adjutant General for the U.S. Army Maryland National Guard. “Faith-based partnerships like these make a difference and are helping communities that may not have access at larger sites.”

“We are all together in this global pandemic. We believe vaccination is very important for everyone,” said Prof. Bilal Kuspinar, President of the Diyanet Center of America. “Vaccination is the only available efficacious means, so far, to combat this virus and prevent its spread, in addition to the observance of restrictions and precautionary measures. Therefore, we wanted to bring the vaccine administration site closer to our people. At the Diyanet Center, we gladly open our facilities, not only to help the promotion of COVID-19 vaccines, but also to ensure that every member of our community receives their vaccine with ease. We have reached out to neighboring communities of any religious denomination – Muslim and non-Muslim alike – who are eligible for the vaccine. We are here to provide this important service to all our neighbors. It is our sincere hope that all our members will be vaccinated, so that we can all return to some sense of normalcy. As we are in the blessed and generous month of Ramadan, our center is distributing food boxes for those in need as well as to-go meals for breaking the fast every evening. Those who get the vaccine at our center are welcome to stay and break-fast with us.”

The Faith & Vaccines team has already held several COVID-19 vaccination events in Maryland, administering 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to date. RESOLVE seeks to replicate the initiative with various faith-based organizations in Maryland and in other states across the United States. Religious congregations or community organizations that are interested in co-hosting pop-up vaccination events are encouraged to contact Dr. Tasnuva Khan at tkhan@resolve.ngo.

About RESOLVE

[RESOLVE](#) is a Washington D.C. based non-governmental organization with more than 40 years of experience forging sustainable solutions to critical social, health, and environmental challenges by creating innovative partnerships where they are least likely and most needed. RESOLVE is known for designing innovative projects that create common ground, including several recent [COVID-19 response initiatives](#): [Makers Respond](#), which has put personal protective equipment (PPE) in the hands of first responders; [Open Source Medical Supplies](#), which has helped makers and manufacturers respond to shortages by providing rapid, expert review of open-source PPE designs; and [Gear Up to VoteSafe](#), a non-partisan initiative to support safe voting during the COVID-19 pandemic. RESOLVE has also partnered with several states to design and facilitate community engagement efforts regarding the [allocation of scarce life-sustaining resources](#) and participates in the Working Group on Equity in COVID-19 Vaccination for the [CommuniVax Coalition](#), which seeks to strengthen community involvement in an equitable COVID-19 vaccination rollout. For more information, visit www.resolve.ngo.