

Working with Muslim Communities

An introduction to the Religion, Family Structure and Social Life of Muslims to Better Work with and Understand the Muslim Population in the U.S. and Abroad

Training overview

This conference has been developed for anyone working in a state, local or federal government capacity working with Muslims in the U.S. and abroad. This training session will detail the basic beliefs of Muslims, sources of ruling in Islam, demographic information, analysis of different Islamic groups and political affiliations and organizations. The goal of the training is to heighten the awareness of social service employees both government and private - of any rank or level – that works with Muslims. By attending this session, you will be privy to a great deal of information that will help you to better work with the Muslim community. Whether you are working with Muslim populations in the U.S., or abroad, you will find this session very informative.

In this session YOU WILL

- Explore basics of Islam and Muslims.
- Learn about the difference groups of Muslims such as Sunni and Shiite and the background of these differences and how to deal with them.
- Understand the social structure of Muslims such as the role of men and women, parents and children, relationships, marriage, conflict resolution, Islamic dress, food, residuals and holidays.
- Explore issues that are important for public work employees to know when working with Muslim communities.
- Recognize misconceptions about Muslims from the facts about Islam and Muslims.
- Explore how to approach and effectively communicate with Muslims.
- Explore common mistakes made by the people in dealing with Muslim communities and how to avoid them.
- Learn important things that healthcare professionals, law enforcement officers, attorneys, social workers and other public servants should know about Muslims.
- Get answers to all your questions about Islam and Muslims.

Who Should Attend?

The training will benefit anyone interested in learning: more about Muslims, the principles of Islamic religion and social structure of the Muslim families. It is highly recommended to those who work with Muslim communities and families including social workers, law enforcement officers, attorneys, healthcare professionals, media staff and psychologists.

About the Speaker

Abdi Elmi is founder and director of AGE Associates, a multi-ethnic training and consulting organization. AGE Associates provides diversity training and consulting to various organizations in health and Human services, law enforcement, public schools and other social services. Abdi provided consulting services to many projects run by international organizations including WHO, UNICEF and UNISOM. He lived and extensively traveled to the Middle East and many African countries. His areas of expertise are diversity trainings, culture and competence, exploring Islamic and Muslim cultures, exploring African cultures and evaluation of translation/interpreting in Arabic and Somali. Mr. Elmi has got a Masters degree in Health and Human Services Administration and speaks fluent Somali, Arabic and English. He can be reached at director@ageassociate.com

Duration : 3 hours (can be customized to the organization needs)

CEU : 3 Credits

What participants said about our trainings?

I thought the presentation was very interesting. You covered a lot of ground in a relatively short period of time. I appreciate that you took questions throughout the presentation, and let people feel comfortable asking about anything. I have witnessed in other cultural competency-types of trainings that people are afraid to ask something and look bad, or risk offending someone. It was a very useful 3 hours for me, and I definitely learned a lot. It could easily have been a 4-hour training, and then the pace could have slowed down a bit. It felt like a lot of new information in rapid succession.

Thank you so much for sharing this information with us, and I hope to see you at another training soon!

Sarah Senseman, MPH

“Training really comes to life when a trainer can tell stories about his material. It was very helpful to hear some of your stories about East African immigrants and some of the ways their culture has clashed with U.S. native culture. Those stories really bring our cultural differences to light and show us how we should not rush to judge people from other cultures”

**Cathy Woodbury
Staff Development Specialist**

“It reinforced and reminded me that recent immigrants will soon be integrated into this society and frictions/problems will resolve themselves. History bears this to be true”.

***Police officer
Anoka Police Department, Minnesota.***