

# ISLAMIC RESOURCE GROUP

Annual Report  
2019



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

Collaboration has been an important theme for Islamic Resource Group this year. As we drive forward with our core mission of education, we have sought ways in which IRG can maximize the impact of our own resources while also enhancing the capacities of our allies. Whether it be facilitating mosque outreach across the state, working with multifaith communities to change narratives, or raising up the voices of Muslim youth, we are constantly reaching new audiences with our authentic narratives of the Minnesota Muslim experience.

IRG's work is made possible with the support of our generous donors, volunteers, and allies that share our vision. Much more than numbers, this report is a celebration of the visionary community who makes our work possible. The next year will certainly bring us new challenges, but the generosity of this community inspires us to continue making a difference in Minnesota communities and far beyond.

Thank you,

*John Emery*

**JOHN EMERY**

Executive Director

Islamic Resource Group



# OUR MISSION

---

IRG's mission is to build bridges of understanding between Muslim Americans and the greater community through education.



# OUR OBJECTIVES

- Educate for a diverse and globally connected world
- Build authentic relationships for the common good of our communities
- Train and certify speakers to present on Islam and Muslims

# OUR STAFF

---



**John Emery**  
Executive Director



**Rebecka Green**  
Communications &  
Engagement Coordinator



**Mayada Mahmoud**  
Administrative Program  
Manager

# NEW SPEAKERS

---

**Bilal Dar**

**Alisen Kendall**

**Younus Siddiqui**

**Mustariha Webo**

**Juwayriya Webo**



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

## **Naaïma Khan**

Chairwoman  
Master of Public Affairs  
University of Texas, Austin

## **Zafar Siddiqui**

Director of Interfaith & Civic Relations  
M.S. in Computer Science  
University of Louisiana

## **Dr. Elif Tokar Erdemir**

Vice Chair  
Ph.D. in Operations Research  
University at Buffalo, NY.

## **Farhana Ali**

Director of IRG Youth  
B.S. in Business Management  
University of Kentucky

## **Dr. Onder Uluyol**

Treasurer  
Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering  
University of Illinois

## **Rashed Ferdous**

Board Member  
M.S. in Computer Science  
St. Cloud State University

## **Jean Nackers**

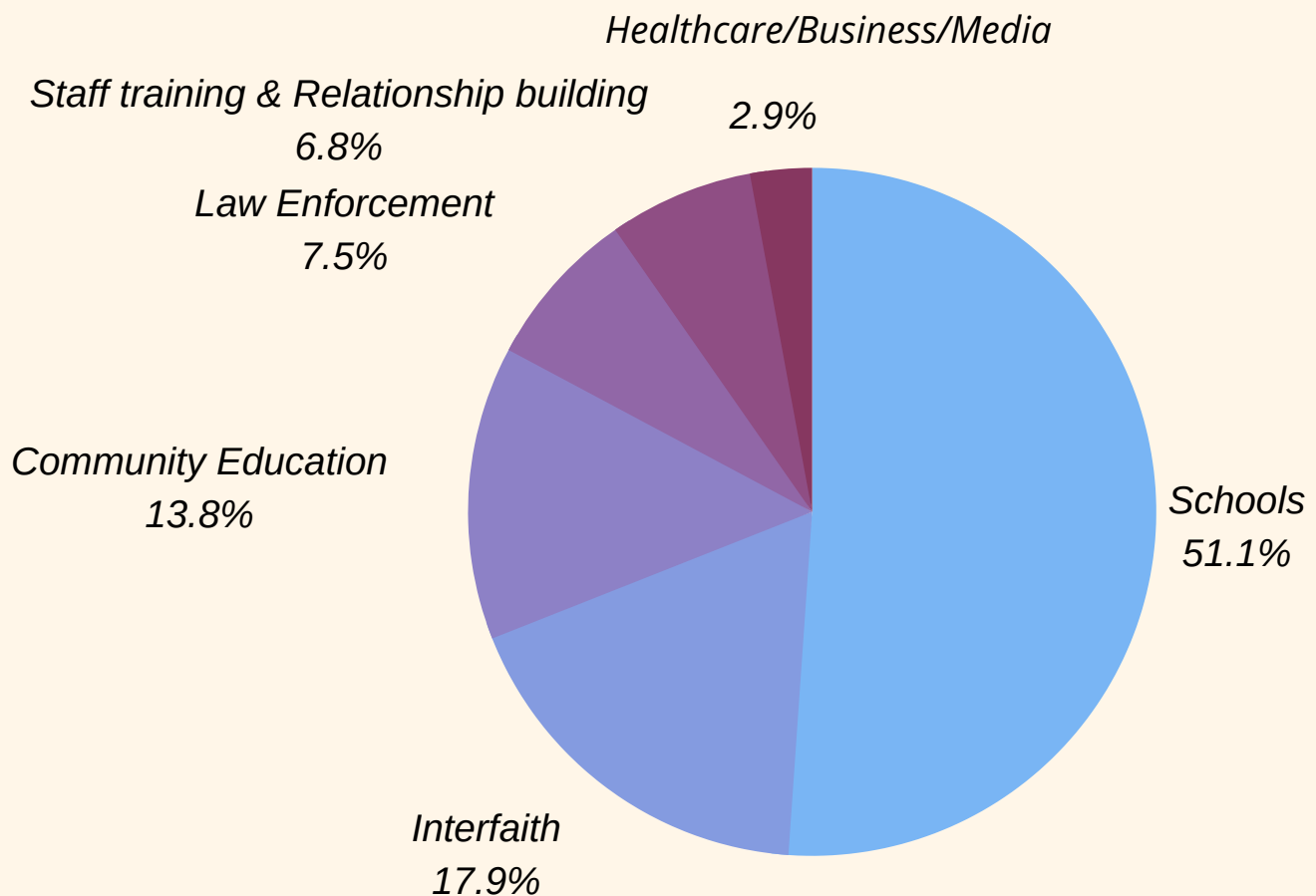
Secretary  
B.S. in Nutrition  
University of Minnesota

## **Khalil Hourì**

Board Member  
M.S. in Electrical Engineering  
University of Aachen, Germany

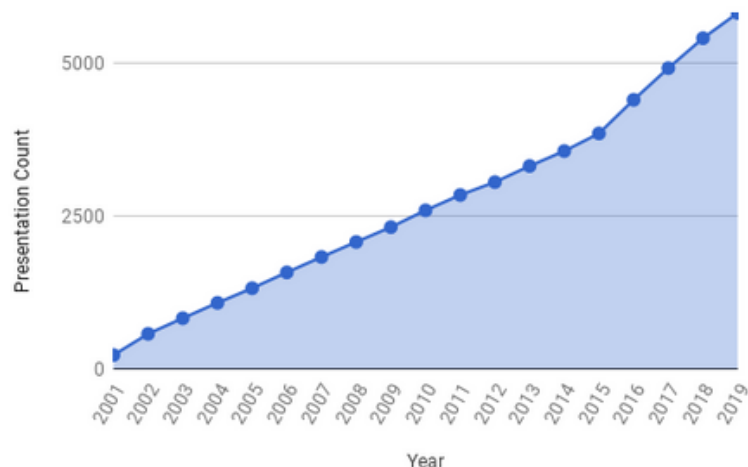
# 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Islamic Resource Group has traveled ~20,000 miles so far in 2019 to reach our audiences. We continue to give a majority of presentations at schools across the Upper Midwest. From high schools, to universities, to seminaries, IRG is committed to bringing religious understanding to education. In addition, our specially trained speakers facilitate house of worship presentations and visits. Professional development for the government, law enforcement, community centers, and more, has also been a 2019 initiative.



# 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

**Presentations Since Inception**

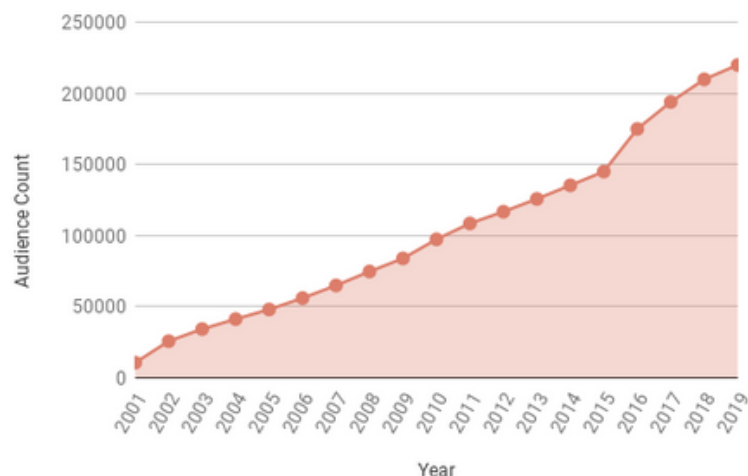


So far in 2019, IRG speakers have given **412 presentations** to **10,088 individuals**. With **172 unique hosts**, IRG speakers continue to maintain relationships with schools and houses of worship, as well as forge new opportunities beyond Minnesota in the Upper Midwest and internationally.

IRG's reach spans far beyond Minnesota. Facilitated by the U.S. State Department, IRG was selected to host a group of faith and community leaders from Southeast Asia.

In regards to our own travel, John Emery went to Ireland in October to present on interfaith nonprofits and combatting Islamophobia at The Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation's annual conference.

**Audience Since Inception**



**Since IRG's inception...**

**5,824 total presentations**

**219,795 total audience individuals**

2

0

1

9

## **KEY INITIATIVES**

---

- 5 new speakers
- Marketing and branding updates
- Multifaith community building
- Law enforcement training
- IRG Youth grant from IFYC
- Partnerships with local mosques



# MARKETING & BRANDING UPDATE

**88%**

**of 2019's visual marketing**  
have come from IRG owned or  
affiliated sources, including  
photography, graphics, and  
promotional material

**9.4%**

**increase in Facebook  
"likes"**  
since January 1, 2019



ISLAMIC RESOURCE GROUP PRESENTS  
**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
ISLAM AND MUSLIMS**



## Other significant updates include...

- IRG sourced photography
- Introduction to Islam and Muslims 101/102 presentation redesign
  - Website redesign coming soon
- Consistent usage and documentation of IRG branding on all digital and physical promotional materials



# MULTIFAITH COMMUNITY BUILDING

17.9% of Islamic Resource Group's 2019 presentations have been interfaith and house of worship-oriented. IRG has a specific 102 presentation for houses of worship and interfaith settings.

With the 101/102 redesign, we are incorporating Krister Stendahl's 3 Rules of Religious Understanding in an effort to ingrain interfaith literacy into the core of our presentations. Additionally, we will provide guidance on being an ally to Muslims and on combatting Islamophobia.

*"Create opportunities for face-to-face human interaction between people of different religious and cultural backgrounds while cooperating for the greater good." (ISPU poll 2019)*

IRG has four representatives on Minnesota Multifaith's Steering Committee. This new organization connects faith and interfaith leaders across Minnesota. Executive Director, John Emery, and board members, Naaima Khan, Zafar Siddiqui, and Onder Uluyol, represent IRG in this network. John is involved in the formation of an interfaith panel and consulting group for law enforcement.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

IRG is continuing to expand our outreach to law enforcement agencies and jails. By conducting training to these professions on reasonable accommodations in regards to prayer, fasting, and more, IRG helps jail staff better support the spiritual needs of incarcerated Muslims.

IRG is collaborating with other local faith communities to provide multifaith diversity training to law enforcement agencies, with the goal of reaching every agency in the metro area.







# IRG YOUTH + IFYC

---

**In September, IRG Youth received a starter grant from Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) to create a video series titled #myMNmosque.**

The grant formally runs through Summer 2020, but it is our hope the project will be successful enough to continue beyond then. IRG Youth participants will be involved in every aspect of the videos, from the planning, storyboarding, script writing, videotaping, video editing, and video distribution.

The aim of the project is to demystify Muslim places of worship and facilitate a look into these spaces, their diverse participants, and their contributions to local communities. So far, we have made a partnership with NWICC in Plymouth to conduct a video. We welcome any interested mosques in Minnesota to reach out to IRG if they are interested in being a part of the project.



# PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL MOSQUES



A key component of IRG's presentations is creating intentional space for non-Muslims to meet a Muslim. Many of our allies express a desire to engage even further with this relationship building, often through mosque visits facilitated by IRG speakers. The first photo on the left was taken at NWICC when a group of University of St. Thomas students arranged to visit a mosque. The second was at Masjid Hamza in Prior Lake with a church group also from Prior Lake.



The third photo is from a Taking Heart Ramadan Dinner at the MAS mosque in Blaine. During Ramadan, IRG helps mosques across the state hold Taking Heart Dinners. IRG is committed to working with local mosques to enhance their capacity and maximize their resources.







# HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:

**Donate:** [irgmn.org/donate](http://irgmn.org/donate)

**Become a Speaker:** Email [irg@irgmn.org](mailto:irg@irgmn.org)

**Invite a Speaker:** [irgmn.org/request-a-presentation](http://irgmn.org/request-a-presentation)



# THANK YOU!

---

## Stay in Touch:



[irgmn.org](http://irgmn.org)



3055 Old HWY 8, Suite 45  
St. Anthony, MN



[irg@irgmn.org](mailto:irg@irgmn.org)



[twitter.com/IRGMN](https://twitter.com/IRGMN)



[facebook.com/IRGMN](https://facebook.com/IRGMN)



[linkedin.com/company/islamic-resource-group](https://linkedin.com/company/islamic-resource-group)



