



Discussions Held Around the 2019 Roundtables

| Themes | What we have now (that wasn't there before) | Gaps | Challenges | Women's Role |
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| Identity | <p>Citizenship; much larger Muslim population; ability to work and vote; "ability to be who you are"; ability to wear hijab and burkini publicly/in sport, Mixing of races and cultures ;</p> <p>Negative: still feeling like dual identity</p> | <p>Confusion between culture and religion in families</p> | <p>Wearing the hijab means women are a target</p> <p>White supremacy and privileges for those who are white</p> <p>Muslims feel they have to be exceptional to be accepted</p> <p>Have to justify themselves all the time</p> <p>Difficulty with identity formation and feeling of belonging</p> | <p>Need programs to assist young people to address their identity issues</p> |
| Facilities | <p>Halal food (default at large conference venues), Modest fashion shops, Mosques, Schools, organisations; Islamic Childcare; Muslim Aged care: Lots of apps to support Islamic practice;</p> <p>Gradually getting infrastructure and a voice</p> <p>Better catering for diversity – with prayer rooms in our schools and corporate areas</p> | <p>Regional areas short on facilities</p> <p>Sufficient funding to build urgently needed capacity</p> <p>Sufficient consultation with women on what support they need</p> | <p>Backlash against Muslims in Regional areas</p> <p>Muslim women's access to services and resources is poor</p> | <p>Women need a greater range of welfare service e.g. a one-stop shop for Premarital counselling, Psychology, DV, prenatal and postnatal, women's health in general</p> <p>Spaces for Muslim women in mosques etc need to be equally beautified</p> <p>We need women's spaces with regular forums and support</p> |

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| | A LOT more mosques | | | groups – professional women’s alliances |
| Government | Laws designed to protect, Muslim representatives in local, State and Fed gov, Anti-discrimination legislation Leaders are more tolerant and accepting than they used to be Gradually developing a political lobby | Not consistent in recognising who we are and what we need – e.g. holding exams through the Eid Needs wider representation of different culture | Do not understand the best way to integrate migrants into society Politicians are not accountable for what they say and how it affects the Muslim community Detention policies are terrible Middle East politics Surveillance of Muslims | Need to ask what opportunities exist for Muslim women to have a role in contributing to government policy |
| Media | Positive: Cultural recognition on ABC, SBS Muslims on cooking shows, reality TV, more balanced in presenting Muslims Negative: Islamophobia, negative media with shock jocks, comments in Parliament | A consistent reliable voice Relevant, educated and community connected voices that are trained on how to deal with media. Consistent voice for external community issues | We’ve moved from being a cultural threat to a security threat: Political leaders do not help in giving us positive media Externally media vilifies Muslims and Islam – internally too many voices, often the same ones, often Arab, with no media training, no public relations skills, not connected to the community | Policies that ensure there is a wide representation of Muslims in the media. Need to have dedicated spokespeople for different areas Family programs that represent the Muslim community – Muslim women should be involved in producing, directing, strategizing etc more media programs |
| Community | Positives: Interfaith initiatives, volunteer opportunities, sports for Muslim women; Muslims active in the community; | Need to be more active in the community Lack of representation of important religious events in the media, society and community e.g. the Eids | Muslim behaviour is collective – there are no isolated moments or individual acts – the whole community is blamed | Must have mandatory female representation on community religious organisations The mosque and especially the Khutbah needs to be leveraged to better support women |

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| | Support from non-Muslim groups Negative: Pressure for Islam to 'evolve' | Converts do not have the right support and are vulnerable Not enough networking | Internally we have racism, sectarianism and schisms Lots of judgemental attitudes amongst the sisters Cultural ghettos – not diverse communities Socio-economic problems | More Muslim women's networking addressing change that is needed and working on solutions |
| Programs | Youth Services and Centres | Not enough female shelters Not enough foster systems for our kids More cohesion and raising awareness of issues and gaps Assistance for raising Muslim youth Mental health for men and women Training on sexuality, drugs, alcohol, social media and gender relations Marriage education and marriage counselling Sex education – many kids have no idea what is halal and not (disturbing stats on anal disease) Mediation training for Sheiks | Discrimination in employment, Islamophobia at work, and racism | Transition to work after having children Cultural sensitivity in programs that are developed Need more youth focussed programs that will also empower Muslim women and help youth to know where to go to for help Women need to help plan these programs Financial empowerment programs for Muslim women Programs to stop repeat offenders going to jail and supporting wives and children of jailed men More fostering programs for children removed from families |
| Agency | Forums to discuss issues – like this | Not enough community support for entrepreneurs – especially for women | Muslims have to justify travel to their home countries, and | Need to use influencers to help effect our message to the community |

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| | | Need more mentoring for Sisters | women with hijab feel particularly targeted Hijabi women feel particularly targeted – we can't have a bad day or it will reflect on the whole community and Islam in general Inability to speak out about the reality of our situation Muslim women's representation is insufficient | Need to have support networks in different areas, taking good ideas, building them together. Should have monthly women's social forums |
| Leadership | Positive: Leadership programs Negative: No restrictions on who can represent Islam (therefore get charlatans – false 'leaders') More positive female role models (Susan Carland, Randa Abdel Fattah, Maha Abdo) | Unlike in Canada, the Prime Minister attends Iftars in Ramadan - You're not made to feel a foreigner in Canada Muslim women holding high positions internally and externally (some progress though) There is more cultural and gender diversity, as mandatory on corporate boards, but often token | Muslim leadership is very patriarchal Muslim male clergy add barriers to women No real support for women in leadership and a different type of community leader Roles need to be flexible to support mothers roles | More education and workforce representation for Muslim women There are already positive role models for women – but we need more Need to upskill females in leadership and mentoring Need more scholarly reliable advice We need a vision which includes prior consultation with women Need to have active dialogue between male and female leaders |
| Education | Islamic schools, Islamic lectures; Islam incorporated into many subjects in school | Remote areas have little access to Islamic education, scholarship or support; | Need to bring top Muslim scholars to Australia in order | Need more programs which increase accurate and relevant knowledge in the community – |

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| | and Uni; Christian and Public schools address basic Islamic teaching; Some scholarship in Islam | Public school lack understanding of Muslim religious events and requirements Motivational speakers to speak in schools about Muslims and Islam (to standard of TedX training) Training for Imams and Sheikhs on Muslim women's issues, DV, women's rights, parenting Media training programs for religious leaders | to develop indigenous but traditional scholarship If scholars train overseas, must be Australian educated first, and with a vision of how to integrate Islam into Australia Much of the knowledge of Islam in the community is cultural and superficial or ignorant Schools are surveyed for potential terrorists | with women's consultation and leadership in the content Women need more education on how organisations are run, and help in establishing useful and relevant ones to meet their needs More training opportunities for newly arrived Muslim women Education for dads on how to support their sons and daughters better |
| Recognition | Faith, Fashion, Fusion at Powerhouse; More people are open to learning about Islam; Prayer rooms in hospitals, airports, corporate offices; | Young Muslims grow up expecting that life will be more difficult for them | Should have choice to work or to stay with the family and volunteer Lack of unity and respect for diversity in the wider community, combined with racism | Need to promote programs through our social networks that benefit Muslim women Women need to invite men to forums to discuss on an equal level |
| Security | Negative: Security checks everywhere – mostly highlighting a Muslim threat | | Feeling vulnerable and targeted for security issues all the time Safety issues for Muslim women Constant negativity with trouble from overseas events, and wars | |

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| <p>Family</p> | | <p>Family dynamics are under pressure. Premarital education on rights of husband and wife Understanding what intimacy assault is in marriage What are the responsibilities of each partner in marriage</p> | <p>Many families are still very patriarchal Many older Muslims who have special needs Negotiating divorce between Imams, 'Sharia' and the courts Muslim family is changing Single mothers and many divorcees</p> | <p>Need more childcare services that are affordable to help Muslim women get out more Need to have a Muslim family conference</p> |
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How helpful have the following been to building community resilience?

| Support – Ranking (1 – low, 5 high) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
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| Imams | 36% | 18% | 18% | 27% | 0% |
| Community Leaders | 36% | 10% | 9% | 18% | 18% |
| Muslims interviewed in the media | 20% | 40% | 20% | 0% | 20% |
| Mosques | 27% | 36% | 9% | 9% | 18% |
| Public Schools | 20% | 30% | 30% | 0% | 20% |
| Muslim Schools | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 10% |
| Local Councils | 30% | 10% | 20% | 10% | 20% |
| Islamic Teachers online | 40% | 0% | 20% | 10% | 20% |
| Islamic Speakers | 0% | 30% | 20% | 30% | 10% |
| Experts – lawyers, lobbyists | 20% | 0% | 30% | 20% | 20% |
| Psychologists | 0% | 0% | 30% | 20% | 50% |
| Family Counsellors | 20% | 0% | 30% | 10% | 40% |