



6TH ANNUAL
**BRIDGING
COMMUNITIES IFTAR**

SPONSORSHIP PACKET

#VIGILANTLOVE

JOIN US VIRTUALLY FOR A NIGHT OF
COMMUNITY, RESISTANCE, CELEBRATION
& VIGILANT LOVE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021 | 6PM PST

Dear #VigilantLove family,

A year into a global pandemic and we are still gathering online to stay connected and celebrate in community during the blessed month of Ramadan. We honor the strength it took for us to get here. We are saddened by all the loss and hold onto hope for a near future where we can meet in person.

This year's Bridging Communities Iftar will create the space for us to reflect on this "Journey through the Night: Isra wa Miraj". Over 1400 years ago, the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) took a sacred journey through the night from Makkah to Jerusalem, and then up to the heavens. In heaven, he met with numerous prophets and in the presence of God, it was decreed upon mankind the obligation to pray 5 times a day. This journey was so miraculous and a pivotal moment in Islamic history as it brought about structure to the community at that time. We have also needed grounding and discipline during these unpredictable and difficult times. As we have witnessed from this past year - we are in pivotal juncture in Vigilant Love's history. We have been journeying through global pandemic, a stressful national election, horrifying white supremacist violence, and the resilient growth of our organization. We are in a new stage of this work which calls for greater dedication, resources, and reflection on how far we've come. And how powerful the journey has been. We take inspiration from this blessed journey of the Prophet (PBUH) and welcome this moment of deep reflection, gratitude and intention to invite a radical, spiritual grounding at this year's iftar.

Although it may feel challenging to join any form of festivities in moments of so much loss, we also feel it is a spiritual practice to actively nourish our hearts, minds, and bodies, especially in our movements toward deep personal and political transformation. As shared in the Buddha's Golden Chain of love, we hold each other close as we affirm that we are all interconnected and that, "what I do now depends not only on my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others." This year, we learned that we need each other more than ever, and we look forward to the opportunity to collectively strengthen all of our spirits at this year's Bridging Communities Iftar!

Through all the activities and performances we have planned for this year's program, we look forward to welcoming you and nourishing our hearts. This is also the best opportunity to support Vigilant Love and our team to stay strong and supported during these times, as we continue our rapid response organizing, our #ServicesNotSurveillance campaign, the Solidarity Arts Fellowship, and our Unpacking Anti-Blackness workshop series. Your generous sponsorships keep Vigilant Love alive, and we could not have made it throughout this year without you.

Thank you for your vigilant love, your friendship, and solidarity.

With #VigilantLOVE,
Sahar & traci

ABOUT VIGILANT LOVE

#VigilantLOVE creates spaces for connection and grassroots movement to ensure the safety and justice of communities impacted by Islamophobia and violence in the greater Los Angeles Area.

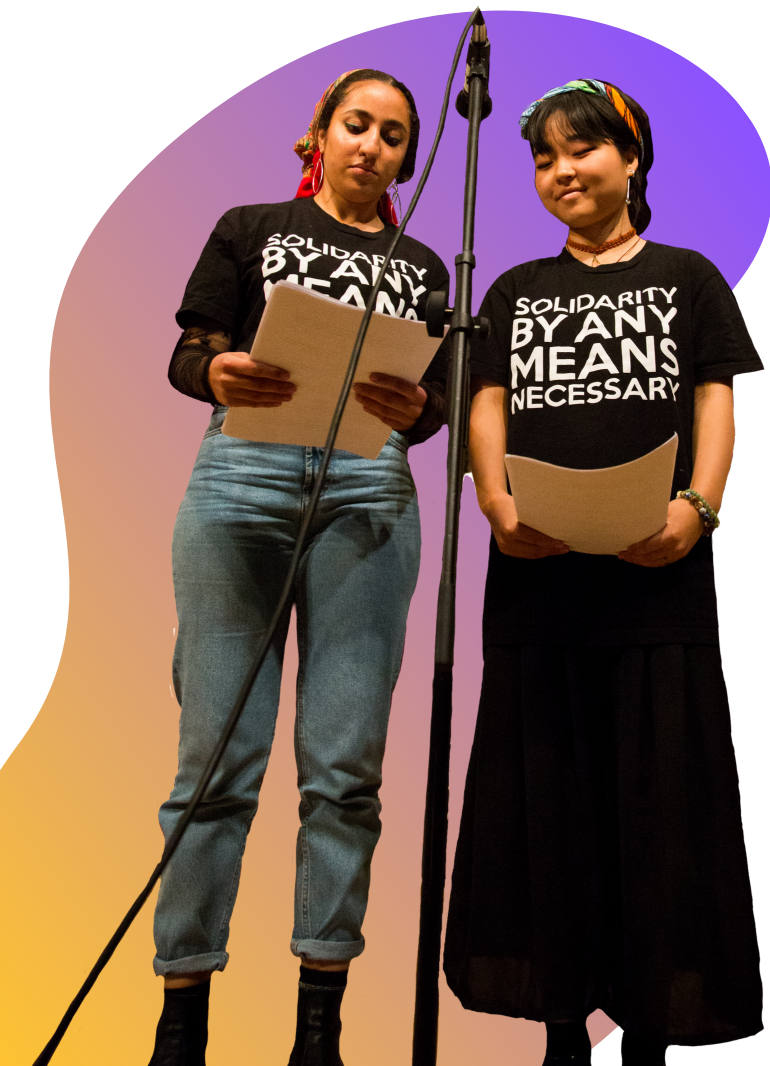
Vigilant Love actively counters Islamophobic policies that profile, surveil, criminalize, and incarcerate Muslim communities — also known as the the War on Terror or Terror Industrial Complex. Through a grassroots arts-and-healing approach, our advocacy work connects the struggles of various communities impacted by state violence to build a multigenerational, multiethnic base that engages in creative resistance today.



ABOUT THE SOLIDARITY ARTS FELLOWSHIP

The Solidarity Arts Fellowship (SAF), a program for Japanese and Muslim American college-aged youth builds upon a decade-long commitment of Muslim & Japanese Americans building a groundswell of solidarity and resistance together — now needed more than ever.

Fellows gain access to arts-and-healing based training and mentorship from long-time leaders and artists from Muslim and Japanese American communities, as well as other directly impacted communities. At the annual Iftar, fellows have the opportunity to share parts of their journey and collective strength with community members.



ABOUT THE BRIDGING COMMUNITIES ONLINE IFTAR

In November 2001, our elders hosted the first iftar called "Breaking the Fast" amongst Muslim and Japanese Americans in LA to build intentional relationships during an isolating and critical time in our country. In 2016, Vigilant Love began to carry on this tradition when we hosted the 1st Annual Bridging Communities Iftar. Each year, we have gathered and grown.

With over 180 attendees, the 2020 #VigilantLOVE Bridging Communities virtual Iftar demonstrated that the spirited atmosphere of community solidarity that has characterized the Iftar since its beginning six years ago could be sustained online. This year, we have decided to host our Iftar online again for the safety and wellbeing of our communities. We hope you will join us!



From our 2019 Iftar with our first cohort of Solidarity Arts Fellows!

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT AN IFTAR?



During the sacred month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. The fasting period is meant to be a time of deep reflection of one's relationship with Allah, renewal of religious practice in community, and solidarity with oppressed peoples everywhere.

In the evening, Muslims break the fast during a meal called Iftar (which translates to "break of fast") with their family, friends, neighbors, and community members. It's a time for celebration, connection, and togetherness and a beautiful reminder of the power of community.

Our theme for the 2021 Iftar is "journey through the night," inspired deeply by a physical and spiritual journey the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) took to the farthest mosque and then the heavens. As we reflect on this theme, we hold the complexity of our own journeys during this last year and beyond — journeys that included grief & hardship, resilience & care — and invite everyone to join us on April 29th as we reflect and re-ground in our commitment to each other, and re-commit ourselves to our righteous movements for liberation through art, activism, and celebration.



#SERVICESNOTSURVEILLANCE

Vigilant Love's #ServicesNotSurveillance (#SNS) campaign aims to abolish racialized profiling and surveillance of Muslim patients in therapy, social work, school counseling, and other related spaces. Under the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) & Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) programs, Muslim, refugee, and immigrant communities are at increased risk of surveillance through the program's reliance on local partnerships in mental health, social services, and education.

Since it launched last year, VL has hosted multiple #SNS workshops to share political education with community members & mental health professionals on how to ethically reject CVE, started cultivating a coalition space to build relationships and power within community, and continued organizing locally and nationally to resist CVE & TVTP.

Join us as we need your support to take active steps towards ensuring that communities impacted by Islamophobia, anti-blackness, and xenophobic racism have safe access to quality mental health sources they deserve!

HOW TO CONNECT ONLINE!



We're doing our best to make this Iftar celebration easy for all ages & levels of experience with technology.

Step 1: Register for our online Iftar via this link - <https://bit.ly/VL2021Iftar>

Step 2: You will receive an email with the online event link, and easy-to-follow instructions on how to access and be ready for our 2021 Iftar programming!



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

VIGILANT VISIONARIES

\$10,000

- 10 raffle entries for awesome giveaways
- 10 "Solidarity By Any Means Necessary" t-shirts
- 10 "Solidarity By Any Means Necessary" stickers
 - Vigilant Love's Iftar recipe e-book
- A chance to experience a VL-exclusive trip in 2022
 - Name recognition on program materials
 - Name recognition on social media channels
 - Big acknowledgement during Iftar program

SOLIDARITY SUPERSTARS

\$5,000

- 8 raffle entries for awesome giveaways
- 5 "Solidarity By Any Means Necessary" t-shirts & stickers
 - Vigilant Love's Iftar recipe e-book
- A chance to experience a VL-exclusive trip in 2022
 - Name recognition on program materials
 - Name recognition on social media channels
 - Big acknowledgement during Iftar program

REVOLUTIONARY ROCKSTARS

\$2,500

- 7 raffle entries for awesome giveaways
- 2 "Solidarity By Any Means Necessary" t-shirts & stickers
 - Vigilant Love's Iftar recipe e-book
- A chance to experience a VL-exclusive trip in 2022
 - Name recognition on program materials
 - Name recognition on social media channels
 - Big acknowledgement during Iftar program

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

LEGENDARY LIBERATORS \$1,000

- 5 raffle entries for awesome giveaways
- 1 "Solidarity By Any Means Necessary" t-shirt & sticker
 - Vigilant Love's Iftar recipe e-book
 - Name recognition on program materials

FABULOUS FAMILY \$300

- 3 raffle entries for awesome giveaways
- Vigilant Love's Iftar recipe e-book
- Name recognition on program materials

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FELLOWS (ONLY OPEN TO PAST & CURRENT FELLOWS) \$250

- 1 raffle entry for up to 10 guests
 - Vigilant Love's Iftar recipe e-book
 - Name recognition on program materials

VIGILANT LOVE COMMUNITY SPONSOR \$100

- 2 raffle entry for awesome giveaways
- Vigilant Love's Iftar recipe e-book
- Name recognition on program materials

- ## INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION - \$25
- 1 raffle entry for awesome giveaways
 - VL's Iftar recipe e-book

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES IFTAR 2021 COMMITTEE

Our annual iftar is made possible by the hard work and dedication of staff, volunteers, and community members!

**TAZ AHMED
HALA DILLSI
NORA FUJITA-YUHAS
DAREN MOOKO
SARAH JACOBUS
TRACI KATO-KIRIYAMA
TRACI ISHIGO
SAHAR PIRZADA
MEHAK ANWAR
YAZAN ZAHZAH**





**READY TO JOIN US
AS AN OFFICIAL
2021 IFTAR
SPONSOR?**

Visit our official Online
iftar Registration page
for more information:

<https://bit.ly/VL2021Iftar>



SCAN ME