



7TH ANNUAL

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES IFTAR

SPONSORSHIP PACKET



#VIGILANTLOVE

Cultivating Liberation

APRIL 14TH, 2022
6 PM - 7:30 PM

ABOUT VIGILANT LOVE

#VigilantLOVE creates spaces for connection and grassroots movement to protect the safety and justice of communities impacted by Islamophobia and white supremacist 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.

OUR GROWING LEADERSHIP & TEAM

Our organization has grown & transformed over the last 6 years under the care and hard work of our founding co-directorship with traci and Sahar. In the last year, Sahar transitioned onto our steering committee, and the VL team utilized this as an opportunity to grow closer to our anti-oppressive values for healing justice and solidarity. After a year of transition planning, VL is excited to announce the news of an expanded and strengthened shared leadership model with 4 incredible co-directors!

The four co-directors - traci, Mehak, Yazan, and Gayle- all share varying responsibilities to steward the mission, vision & growth of Vigilant Love. We have also been joined by three new and amazing part-time staff - Aria, Joseph, and Gloria. And last but not least, traci (kato-kiriya) is our talented longtime core artist. Our growing team looks forward to greeting our expansive VL community at the 7th annual Bridging Communities Iftar!

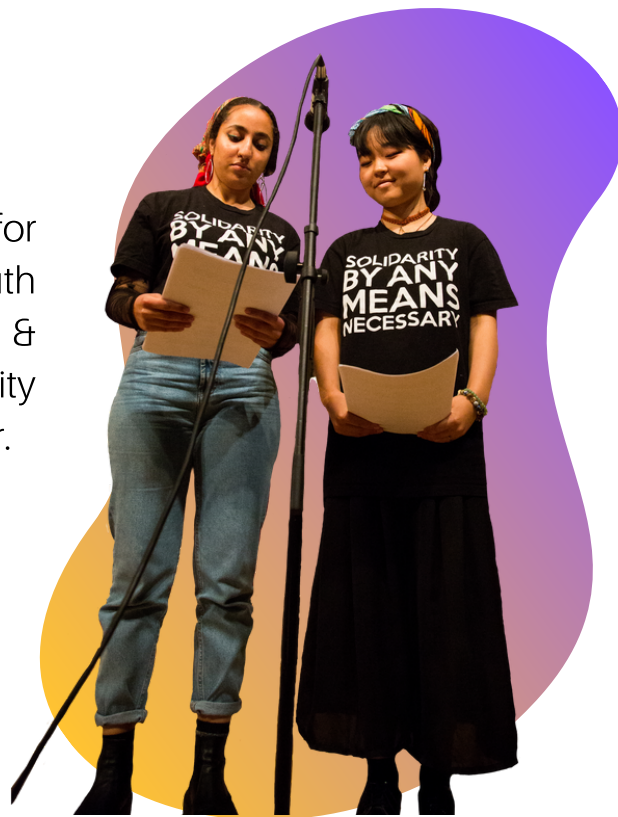


ABOUT THE SOLIDARITY ARTS FELLOWSHIP

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.

In January 2022, we welcomed our fourth cohort of the Solidarity Arts Fellowship. We look forward to sharing and witnessing their powerful creative performances at upcoming Iftar. Since the first cohort in 2019, we have had the opportunity to build with 58 fellows, many of whom continue to stay engaged in our programs, organizing, and steering committee leadership.



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 200 attendees, the 2021 Vigilant Love Bridging Communities virtual Iftar demonstrated that the spirited atmosphere of community solidarity that has characterized the Iftar since its beginning seven years ago could be sustained online. This year, we have decided to again host our Iftar online for the safety and wellbeing of our expansive communities. We hope you will join us on April 22nd, 2022 from 6:00 pm to sunset!



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 2022 Iftar is "Cultivating Liberation," inspired by all the ways our communities have seeded and nurtured collective power, care, and resilience over the last two years and beyond. This theme speaks to our committed process that is deeply rooted in building community through the arts, healing justice and relational organizing, as well as our organizing toward visions of abolition and a world without surveillance and policing. As we reflect on this theme, we hold the complexity of our own journeys during the last two years and beyond — journeys that included grief & hardship, resilience & care, truth-telling & freedom — and invite everyone to join us on April 14th as we reflect and re-ground in our commitment to each other, and re-commit ourselves to our intentional movements for liberation through art, activism, and celebration.



#SERVICESNOTSURVEILLANCE

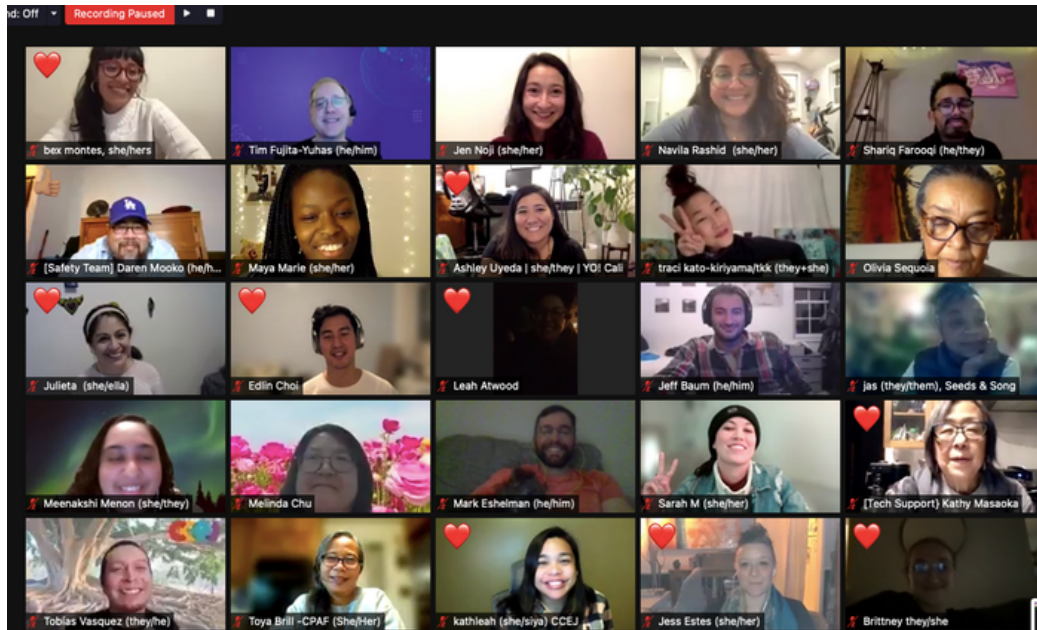
Vigilant Love's #ServicesNotSurveillance (#SNS) campaign aims to abolish racialized profiling and surveillance of Muslim patients in therapy, social work, school counseling, and other related spaces. Under the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) & Targeted Violence 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.

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!



Liberatory Lineages: Unpacking & Resisting Anti-Blackness



Vigilant Love's "Liberatory Lineages: Unpacking and Resisting Anti-Blackness" is an online, four-part workshop series that deepens our community's individual capacity and collective joint struggle and solidarity to unpack, resist, and intervene in anti-Blackness.

Created and led by a group of inter-generational Black and Non-Black POC organizers, community leaders, scholars, artists, and landworkers, this program was developed with our partners from the Palestinian Youth Movement, Nikkei Progressives, National Young Farmers Coalition, Seeds & Song, and SoCal Grantmakers.

From October-December 2021, over 100 participants met every two weeks & gained access to political radical and grassroots curriculum that built collective clarity and understanding of anti-Blackness, shared lessons about collective power-building & organizing, and offered collaborative strategies to inform, practice, intervene, and engage in joint struggle. VL plans to offer this reflective program on an annual basis to continue supporting and challenging individual participants and the collective to deepen our resourcefulness & commitment to resist and heal from anti-Blackness in our life and communities.

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/BCIftar2022>

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 2022 Iftar programming!

Step 3: Join us on Thursday, April 22nd, 2022 at 6 PM on Zoom!



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

VIGILANT VISIONARIES

\$10,000

- 10 raffle entries for awesome giveaways
- VL's Iftar recipe e-book, name recognition in program e-materials and the Vigilant Love website
- 10 Solidarity By Any Means Necessary t-shirts & stickers
- A chance to experience a VL exclusive trip or event next year
- A personal conversation over coffee or tea with our co-directors
- Big acknowledgement during the online Iftar
- Immediate recognition on Facebook and Instagram

SOLIDARITY SUPERSTARS

\$5,000

- 10 raffle entries for awesome giveaways,
- VL's Iftar recipe e-book
- Name recognition in program e-materials and the Vigilant Love website
- 5 Solidarity By Any Means Necessary t-shirts & stickers
- A chance to experience a VL exclusive trip or event next year
- Big acknowledgement during the online Iftar
- Immediate recognition on Facebook and Instagram

REVOLUTIONARY ROCKSTARS

\$2,500

- 10 raffle entries for awesome giveaways, - VL's Iftar recipe e-book
- name recognition in program e-materials and the Vigilant Love website
- 2 Solidarity By Any Means Necessary t-shirts & stickers
- A chance to experience a VL exclusive trip or event next year
- Big acknowledgement during the online Iftar

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

LEGENDARY LIBERATORS

\$1,000

10 raffle entries for awesome giveaways

VL's Iftar recipe e-book

Name recognition in program e-materials and the Vigilant Love website

1 Solidarity By Any Means Necessary t-shirt & sticker

COMMUNITY CATALYST

\$500

- 10 raffle entries for awesome giveaways

- VL's Iftar recipe e-book

- Name recognition in program e-materials and the Vigilant Love website

FABULOUS FAMILY

\$300

- 5 raffle entries for awesome giveaways

- VL's Iftar recipe e-book

- Name recognition in program e-materials and the Vigilant Love website

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

\$250

- up to 10 raffle entries (1 per alumni fellow)

- VL's Iftar Recipe e-book

- name recognition on program e-materials, and the Vigilant Love website

VIGILANT LOVE COMMUNITY SPONSOR

\$100

- 2 raffle entries

- VL's Iftar Recipe e-book

- name recognition on program e-materials, and the Vigilant Love website

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION - \$25

- 1 raffle entry for awesome giveaways

- VL's Iftar recipe e-book

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES IFTAR 2022 COMMITTEE

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

AMINA ABUTHAHIR
DAREN MOOKO
JOSEPH TSUBOI
NOOR AL-RIYAMI
NORA FUJITA-YUHAS
SAHAR PIRZADA
SARAH JACOBUS
SEIJI IGEI
TAZ AHMED
TRACI KATO-KIRIYAMA
YUKI TORREY
ZENITH FARIN
ARIA LYNN SERGANY
GAYLE ISA
MEHAK
TRACI ISHIGO
YAZAN





**READY TO JOIN US
AS AN OFFICIAL
2022 IFTAR
SPONSOR?**

**Visit our official Online
Iftar Registration page
for more information:**

<https://bit.ly/BCIftar2022>