

# Janan Najeeb

~~1117 W. Madison Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233, 414-771-1117~~

Founder & Executive Director | Community Leader | Advocate for Justice & Equity

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## Current Leadership Roles

- **Founder & Executive Director, Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition (MMWC)**
    - Oversees *Our Peaceful Home*, a culturally specific domestic violence and family strengthening program.
    - Established and directs the *Islamic Resource Center* and lending library.
  - **Founder, Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance**
  - **Chair, Religious Leaders Caucus, Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH)**
  - **Chair, Milwaukee Commission on Community Wellness & Safety**
  - **Co-Chair & Emcee, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Citywide Celebration (20+ years)**
  - **Board Member, Rotary Club of Milwaukee**
  - **Board Member, Wisconsin Public Radio**
  - **Board Member, Wisconsin Historical Society**
  - **Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse, State of Wisconsin**
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## Previous Positions & Leadership

- Board Member & Community Engagement Committee, Marcus Performing Arts Center
  - Co-Founder, Milwaukee Airport Meditation Room
  - Chair, Committee for Interfaith Understanding, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee
  - Trustee, University School of Milwaukee
  - Board President, Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
  - Advisory Council, *Mandela: The Official Exhibition*, Milwaukee Public Museum
  - Scholar in Residence, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
  - Adjunct Instructor, Cardinal Stritch University
  - Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Engagement, UW-Milwaukee
  - Co-Chair, Muslim-Catholic Women's Dialogue
  - Director, Medical Assistant Training Program for Limited English Speakers
  - Microbiologist, Woodhull Hospital (Brooklyn, NY) and Chr. Hansen Inc. (Milwaukee)
  - Debate & Forensics Coach
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## Education & Training

- B.S., University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
  - Islamic Studies Program, Al-Madina Institute
  - Fund Development Certificate, University of Wisconsin–Parkside
  - Director's University (one-year program), End Abuse Wisconsin
  - National Leadership Training, Gamaliel Network
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## Presentations

- Delivered 2,000+ presentations to universities, hospitals, businesses, faith institutions, and community groups nationwide.
- Topics include: Muslim beliefs & practices, women's rights, civil rights, refugees, health equity, domestic violence, and voting rights.

### Notable Highlights:

- Opening prayer, Wisconsin Legislature (first Muslim invited)
  - Keynote Speaker, Wisconsin State Teachers Convention
  - Archbishop Desmond Tutu's visit to Marquette University
  - Statewide training on transnational marriage abandonment
  - Four-part webinar for Wisconsin Domestic Violence Agencies
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## Publications

- *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* – “Taking on Hate: Muslim Women Build a Community-Driven Hate Watch” (with Dr. Louise Cainkar)
  - *Journal of Disability & Religion* – “Experiences of Muslim Mothers of Children with Disabilities” (with Marquette University professors)
  - Book Chapter – *History of Muslim Christian Dialogue in Milwaukee* (Marquette University)
  - Author of training manual section, WI DOJ – *Considerations for Working with Muslim Survivors*
  - Numerous articles and op-eds in *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Shepherd Express*, *Milwaukee Independent*, and others.
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## Media Features

- Frequent guest on state and national radio/TV programs
  - Featured in *The New York Times*, *Islamic Horizons*, *The Message Magazine*, and local press.
  - Public campaigns: WPR billboards/buses/theater ads; Milwaukee's "Many Faces/One Humanity" exhibit; *This Is Milwaukee* democracy project.
  - Profiled as *Hero of the Month*, *Shepherd Express* (Oct 2020).
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## Recognitions & Awards

- **2024** – Milwaukee County Women's History Month Citation; *Milwaukee Magazine* Woman of Distinction; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award
- **2023** – Lucille Berrien Humanitarian Award
- **2022** – Milwaukee Rotary *Person of the Year*
- **2020** – Dick Ringler Distinguished Peace Educator Award; Excellence Award, International Museum of Muslim Cultures (also awarded to Muhammad Ali)
- **2019** – Frank Zeidler Award for Social Justice and Activism

### Other Notable Honors:

- International Institute of Wisconsin, World Citizen Award
  - UW–Milwaukee Scholar-in-Residence Award
  - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Award
  - Woman of Honor Award (by six women's organizations including AAUW)
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## Personal

Married to Dr. Waleed Najeeb | Mother and grandmother of five