



BMPC2024

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Longing for Home BMPC2024

Join us in Chicago on July 20-21 for the 2024 Black Muslim Psychology Conference with keynote speakers **Warsan Shire** & **Husain Abdullah** as we explore our need and desire for home - as a physical space, an emotional sanctuary, and cultural anchor; and consider the connection between the earth, faith, identity and notions of exile [migration/hijra] and freedom.



Conference Overview



"O My believing
servants!
My earth is truly
spacious, so worship
Me alone."

HOLY QURAN 29:56

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

"O My believing servants! My earth is truly spacious, so worship Me alone." - **Holy Qu'ran 29:56**

"I belong every place. I belong no place. I belong to myself." - **Maya Angelou**

"...The idea of place, where we belong, is a constant subject.. we want to know whether it is possible to live on the earth peacefully". - **bell hooks**

The 2024 Black Muslim Psychology Conference (BMPC2024): **Longing For Home - A Place Where A Soul Can Rest** will explore the multifaceted intersections of belonging, home, migration [voluntary or forced], and identity. It will center the diverse narratives that shape individuals and communities in an ever-evolving landscape from past, present and into the future.

A fundamental psychological human need is for **safety and belonging - deep connection, acceptance and support**. This need is undoubtedly more urgent and necessary for Black Muslims who are under constant threat of white supremacy, violence and systemic discrimination. Yet, history reminds us that we have sought and created deep wells of belonging and freedom - from the resistance of maroonage and efforts towards establishing autonomy and self-determination. In bell hooks' **Belonging: A Culture of Place** (2009), in the chapter titled '**A Place Where A Soul Can Rest**', hooks uses the metaphor of the porch as a place or site of resistance to this dehumanization. At MWF and BMPC, we argue that these places - porches or otherwise resistant and nourishing spaces - are keys to mitigating the harm caused by the violence of anti-black racism as well as religious marginalization. Black Muslims cultivate "places where our souls can rest" and this cultivation leads to collective well-being and fortification.

- **Longing for Home** delves into the concept of home as a physical space, a cultural anchor, and an emotional sanctuary.
- **Longing for Home** invites critical examination and appreciation of intentional African American communities in the US and West Africa (for example Medina Baye in Senegal) to migration of African descended people to Europe and North America (countries of former colonizers).
- **Longing for Home** acknowledges feelings of grief and nostalgia associated with the dispossession of Black/African people due to climate crises, gentrification, political instability (often fueled by interests of former colonizers, etc).

Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, this conference provides a platform for scholars, practitioners, and activists and community members to share insights, best practices and spiritual guidance as we reflect on all of the above. Sessions will explore the impact of displacement, the evolving meaning of home in a digital age, and the ways in which diverse Black Muslim communities create and sustain a sense of home in the face of oppression and marginalization.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

This unique gathering was held for the first time in Philadelphia, in the summer of 2015, on the auspicious coinciding occasions of Ramadan and the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth. Our inaugural conference brought together a small, but diverse group of Black Muslims from across the nation, representing a range of Afro-diasporic identities and approaches to Islamic practice—to create a community centered on the intersectional lived experiences that make up Black Islam in America.

That first year, we gathered together to explore the theme, “Faith, Identity, and Well-Being” and found something very special: that by centering our narratives, our knowledge, our creativity—we could effectively generate mechanisms for our own healing and spiritual uplift.

That inaugural conference relied on the insights of a talented, insightful cross-section of our community’s best and brightest: our community activists, physicians, psychologists, anthropologists, spiritual leaders, poets, historians, artists, educators, and other experts on the Black Muslim experience. The result was amazing—and we have been blessed to continue to grow the space, improve upon and expand what we offer to more members of our community.

Alhamdulillah, we are approaching our **9th year of organizing a one of kind experience centering Black Muslims and healing.** The theme of **Longing for Home** builds on Muslim Wellness Foundation’s year-long reflection on **Home & Hijra**: the beautifully complicated tapestry of emotions, experiences and memories connected to the places and people we call **HOME**. This thoughtful dialogue also challenges us to engage in meaningful conversations about what it means to seek safety, belonging and community through the act of **HIJRA or migration**.

We invite you to join us on this journey of truth, resistance, and commitment to liberation and wellness. We also invite you to join this dialogue with an open heart and mind. May we all learn and grow from the wisdom and experiences shared.

Taking inspiration from the words of our beloved Mother Betty Shabazz—we wish you power that equals your intelligence and strength, we wish you success that equals your talent and determination. And, above all, we wish you faith.

Ameen.



Keynote Speaker

Husain

Abdullah

Husain Abdullah has been recognized for his quiet and focused leadership being named "Captain" of the team in High School, College and NFL. Carrying a Bachelors in Sociology and a Masters in Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, Husain uses his education to leave a positive mark on society. During his seven year NFL career (Minnesota Vikings/Kansas City Chiefs), Husain used his status and platform to speak on issues such as concussions/traumatic brain injuries, mental health, social injustices and educating worldwide audiences on Islam. NFL Films, ABC, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, Players Tribune, and more have documented his life's journey and shared his young wisdom with the world. Husain is an Executive Coach and Career Coach. Conflict Resolution specialist. Author. International speaker. And Owner of Luminous Logistics LLC.



Keynote Speaker

Warsan *Shire*

Warsan Shire is a Somali-British writer and poet. Her full-length debut collection *Bless the Daughter Raised by a Voice in Her Head* (2022) was Shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize, Griffin Poetry Prize, Forward Prize, and Dylan Thomas Prize and her chapbook *Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth* (2011) was a poetry bestseller. Her limited edition chapbook, *Her Blue Body* (2015) sold out overnight. Shire is a member of the Royal Society of Literature and served as the first Young Poet Laureate of London in (2013). Shire wrote the poetry for the Peabody Award-winning visual album *Lemonade* as well as *Black Is King* in collaboration with Beyoncé Knowles-Carter (2016, 2020). She also wrote the short film *Brave Girl Rising* (2019), highlighting the voices and faces of Somali girls in Africa's largest refugee camp.

BMPC2024 SUMMER SOCIAL

HOMEPLACE

JULY 20, 2024 | DOORS OPEN 7PM



TAZEEN & LUFUKI



ANGELICA LINDSEY-ALI



DREA D'NUR

Ida Noyes Hall - Cloister Club [UChicago] | 1212 E. 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

Tixx: \$45 - BlackMuslimPsychology.org/Homeplace

**All are welcome; conference attendance NOT required!*



I belong every place.
I belong no place.
I belong to myself.

-MAYA ANGELOU





Sponsorship Levels

BMPC2024 SPONSORSHIP

As we embark on our next DECADE of service to the community, we will continue to lead the way in shifting the conversation on mental health, addiction and trauma - from one narrowly focused on stigma to a healing-centered model of collective well-being which prioritizes identity, faith, and belonging. **We believe that MWF is best positioned to lead in this area of mental health advocacy and healing justice** - we emphasis on an intersectional, intergenerational, justice-oriented approach to wellness is **innovative and interdisciplinary**; our **theory of change is holistic, collaborative and inclusive**. We understand the connection between wellness and context (racial violence and trauma, religious discrimination and bigotry, surveillance, oppression) and how we heal, grow, thrive, experience joy in the midst of it all. We are humbled by how impactful MWF has been in the community and want to ensure that the services we provide can grow into the future.

BMPC is the only conference in the country to center the voices and experiences of Black Muslims with respect to race, religion, trauma and healing. The growth of the conference as a resource to the Black Muslim community and its allies has been extraordinary. We are small non-profit organization relying on volunteer labor, donations and sponsorship in order to provide insightful, innovative, and quality programming to the community. **We have done all we can to keep the registration fee as reasonable and inexpensive as possible. We are seeking support at this time to help offset the costs of travel and lodging for our awardees and keynote speakers, reduce ticket prices for students, and provide scholarships for low income community members.** Your tax-deductible contribution will also help advance scholarship and initiatives to support Black Muslim wellness, a largely underserved community.

We invite YOU to be a meaningful part of that growth and impact. Learn more about sponsorship options here.

Jazakallah Khair!

DIAMOND: \$10,000+

- Prominent recognition as Diamond Sponsor on all conference materials (website, program + signage)
- Exclusive speaking opportunity during the opening or closing ceremony
- Logo placement on conference website with link to sponsor's website
- Acknowledgement in press releases, media coverage and social media
- Four [4] complimentary conference registrations
- Two [2] complimentary VIP passes for Saturday evening social event hosted by The Village Auntie - Angelica Lindsey-Ali; featuring book signing by Warsan Shire and performances by Drea d'Nur and Tazeen & LuFuki
- Full-page ad in the conference program
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials to attendees

PLATINUM: \$5,000+

- Recognition as Platinum Sponsor on all conference materials (website, program + signage)
- Logo placement on conference website and social media with link to sponsor's website
- Two [2] complimentary conference registrations
- One [1] complimentary VIP passes for Saturday evening social event: hosted by The Village Auntie - Angelica Lindsey-Ali; featuring book signing by Warsan Shire and performances by Drea d'Nur and Tazeen & LuFuki
- Full-page ad in the conference program
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials to attendees

GOLD: \$2,500+

- Recognition as Gold Sponsor on all conference materials
- Logo placement on conference website with link to sponsor's website
- One [1] complimentary conference registration
- Half-page ad in the conference program
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials to attendees

OTHER

Other Advertising Opportunities

- Full Page Ad [8.5" x 11"] - Program Booklet \$500
- Half Page Ad - Program Booklet \$250
- Quarter Page Ad - Program Booklet \$125
- Business Card Size Ad - Program Booklet \$60

METHODS OF PAYMENT

- **Zelle** [Direct Payment via Bank of America]:
 - info@muslimwellness.com
 - Please note BMPC2024 in the note/memo line
- **Check or Money Order:**
 - Payable to Muslim Wellness Foundation
 - Please note BMPC2024 in the note/memo line
 - Address:
 - Muslim Wellness Foundation
 - c/o Kameelah Mu'Min Oseguera
 - 7636 S Marquette Avenue, Chicago, IL 60649



CONFERENCE VENUE: RUBENSTEIN FORUM @ UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1201 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
blackmuslimpsychology.org/venue



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: THE STUDY @ UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1227 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
blackmuslimpsychology.org/hotel



SUMMER SOCIAL: IDA NOYES CLOISTER CLUB @ UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1212 E. 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
blackmuslimpsychology.org/homeplace



BLACK MUSLIM PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE (BMPC)

BMPC was established in 2015 by Muslim Wellness Foundation and is the only conference in the country to center the voices and experiences of Black Muslims with respect to race, religion, trauma and healing. The conference gathers grassroots activists, youth leaders, community organizers, community members, religious scholars and multidisciplinary experts in conversation about the effect of continued systemic racism on the psychological well-being of Black Muslims and strategies to facilitate community healing. This conference is also dedicated to exploring strategies and opportunities for solidarity and authentic allyship with other marginalized as well as privileged communities. **BMPC intentionally and unapologetically centers the narratives, voices, and strengths of Black Muslims with a special emphasis on healing and collective well-being.** This unique gathering is dedicated to expanding the conversation on self-love, self-acceptance and self-determination. We engage in honest dialogue through didactic workshops, small group discussions, interactive group learning exercises and creative expression. We invite and welcome ALL members of the community to this dialogue - laypersons and professionals alike. BMPC is open to nonBlack Muslims, nonMuslim allies and people of all faiths (or none) and backgrounds are encouraged to attend and engage in a spirit of humility, curiosity and respect.

*Please note: Our use of the term Black Muslim is inclusive of all those who identify as Muslim and of African descent:

- Black African
- Black American/Descendant of Enslaved Africans in the United States
- Afro/Black Arab
- AfroLatinx
- AfroCaribbean/West Indian, etc.



blackmuslimpsychology.org



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Muslim Wellness Foundation is the foremost pioneer in the formal establishment of Black Muslim Psychology as a legitimate and necessary field of inquiry. Black Muslim Psychology is grounded in the experiences, strengths, perspective, racial/sociocultural identity and spiritual orientation of those who identify as Muslim and of Black/African descent, living in the diaspora. It acknowledges the rich ethnic, cultural, sectarian and linguistic diversity of the Black Muslim community. It seeks to understand and enhance protective factors, mitigate systemic stressors and promote psychological well-being within the Black Muslim community. BMPC is a featured initiative within MWF's Omar ibn Said Institute for Black Muslim Studies & Research.