



Community Conversation with Imam Taha Hassane
Community Hero for Civility in Politics
Monday, June 18, 2018

How can we increase civility among the diverse communities (cultural, religious and political) of San Diego?

- Bi-annual global multicultural fair: share food, pamphlets, and fun!
- Create relationships by joining activities you've been reluctant to join in the past.
- Hold the media accountable for their role in this work. Citizens can help by not being tempted to click on articles that highlight division.
- Be proactive about learning different skills – languages, cooking etc. from different cultures.
- Encourage and attend community events where the purpose is to meet and engage with new people.
- Stretch yourself and be courageous: have deeper, more significant discussions about the hardest issues we face (ex. sexism, racism).
- Add cultural awareness milestones to K-12 school curriculum. Make these milestones required in order for them to move on.
- Create leadership/mentor program for youth that includes training about cultural sensitivity, inclusiveness and respect.
- Have a neutral party (“non-threatening organization”) host an event or gathering of a group of people with different perspectives. This will provide a safe, neutral space for healthy discussion and debate.
- Do good deeds with strangers and get to know each other in the process: have people of diverse backgrounds get together to do a service project, and involve children so the adults can model good behavior for them.
- Take NCRC’s training in the art of inclusive communication.
- Participate in the “We Love Our Neighbors” project. Host a block party with your neighbors and then tap the neighborhood next door to do the same. Soon this will spread all over the county.
- Reach out to others on an individual level to create a sense of community at the grassroots level.
- Get out of the win-lose mindset: define a goal and discuss a solution.
- Get involved with an interfaith organization and stay involved with their community outreach programs.
- Be true to your religious life and respect that of others. Recognize that others have been authorized to do good by God, just as you have.
- Hold round table discussions with immigrants from different countries to share their stories. These kinds of activities should start at an early age and continue throughout your life.
- Serve on corporate and community boards.



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- Create strategic partners and allies in our communities.
- Put together a project so that people of different backgrounds can share a common goal. Look for projects that are already happening like building a house with Habitat for Humanity.
- Start at the elementary school level and go through high school with round table discussions to help children talk about the things they're experiencing so that they are familiar with the process of being open and able to discuss tough issues.
- Discourage certainty by challenging assumptions through learning and asking questions. Take a youth group from a church to a mosque and then discuss it, deconstructing the assumptions they had previously.
- Do not objectify others and don't let one (bad) example represent an entire community.
- Start with the education system and instill values of civility in children early.
- Truth is at the heart of morality – instill the importance of it in children.
- The interfaith groups should put together a committee whose job it is to enact these ideas.