



**MUSLIMS FOR
PROGRESSIVE VALUES**

Accomplishments Bulletin

September 2014

So far, 2014 has been an amazing year for Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV)! At the end of 2013, MPV secured Consultative Status at the United Nations (UN) and ever since, recognition and support for MPV's work has elevated to new levels. Every day, we work hard to advocate for peace and justice all over the world, while using progressive and egalitarian interpretations of Islam to undermine oppression and human rights abuses. While the year is not over yet and we have much more planned for the coming months, we are proud to share some highlights of our accomplishments and activities!

January

- ✓ MPV created a MPV Facebook page in Arabic and MPV Facebook Pages for supporters in South Africa and Malaysia.
- ✓ MPV launched a statement condemning the sentencing of Shezanne Cassim and demanding his release. [Read more >>>](#)
- ✓ MPV's Ani Zonneveld addressed a Christian conference "Christianity21", Denver.

February

- ✓ MPV participated in and contributed to the creation of an international faith organization *Global Interfaith Network* in South Africa.

March

- ✓ MPV attended the largest annual international women's rights conference in New York, the UN Commission on the Status of Women Session 58. During these two weeks, MPV monitored the high-level discussions on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls and attended panel discussions on women's empowerment and gender equality.

April

- ✓ MPV's Ani Zonneveld published an article in the Huffington Post titled "Museum of Intolerance". [Read more >>>](#)
- ✓ A screening of "Ijtihad: Feminism and Reform" took place at the Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., in partnership with British Muslims for Secular Democracy and the British Council for the program titled "Building Bridges: Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk".

May

- ✓ Another screening of "Ijtihad: Feminism and Reform" occurred at the School of Oriental and African Studies (of the University of London), in the UK in partnership with British Muslims for Secular Democracy and the British Council for a program titled "Building Bridges: Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk"

June

- ✓ MPV attended the workshop hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations titled "Religion and Foreign Policy".
- ✓ MPV's Ani Zonneveld participated in an interfaith feminism discussion in Paris, France.
- ✓ For the first time in MPV's history, we've made our mark at the UN in Geneva! MPV's Ani Zonneveld spoke on a side panel to the UN Human Rights Council Session 26 on the topic of Human Rights and Progressive Islam: its theological application on countering "blasphemy laws", the support for separation of religion and state, gender equality and LGBTQI rights. [Watch the video](#) and [read more >>>](#)

July

- ✓ MPV chapters around the world hosted iftar dinners throughout the month of Ramadan.

August

- ✓ This month was HUGE for MPV. We were successful in adding language to the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference Outcome Document Declaration, promoting a new vision for the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda. [Read more >>>](#); MPV participated on a side-panel at the UN in New York on the topic of "Interfaith Progressive Values Promote Universal Human Rights"; MPV-UN Youth Representative Mahfuzul Islam read the statement in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.
- ✓ MPV's 8th Annual Retreat was held in New York and discussed, amongst others: child marriage in the US and beyond, blasphemy laws and freedom of speech and critical analysis and interpretation.

September

- MPV attended The Inner Circle, an international gathering of Muslims from all over the world in Cape Town, South Africa. MPV's Ani Zonneveld presented a workshop on building an inclusive international Muslim movement that speaks with one voice.

Coming Up!

October

- MPV will participate in a meeting at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on US domestic efforts to prevent and respond to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting.
- MPV will be attending an "Islam Convening" conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, along with other Muslim human rights advocates from around the world, followed by a visit to Progressive Muslims of Malaysia, a sister organization of MPV.

December

- MPV will participate in the Daily Beast's LGBTNEXT: Global Voices event in New York.
- MPV will speak at a meeting with the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and NGO Committee on Human Rights in New York on women and human rights.
- MPV will return to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland for more meetings on issues of radicalism and human rights abuses in the name of Islam.



Muslims for Progressive Values is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered under ID # 26-1125983 in the USA



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1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Suite 702,
Los Angeles, CA 90028,
USA

www.mpvusa.org
info@mpvusa.org

Phone: 1.323.696.2678