

HOST AN IFTAR FOR POLIGON!





START HERE



This Ramadan, gather your friends and family together for a good cause! By hosting an iftar for Poligon, you'll raise awareness about the groundbreaking and vital work of a national non-profit dedicated to amplifying Muslim American and ally voices in Congress. In this toolkit, you'll learn more about Poligon, how to host an event, and where your donation collections will go.

NEXT STEPS



FIRST THINGS FIRST: ANSWERING YOUR **BURNING** QUESTIONS

WHAT IS RAMADAN?

Ramadan is the 9th and holiest month of the Islamic calendar. During this holy month, many of the nearly two billion Muslims around the world fast from sunrise to sunset. In addition to fasting, Muslims focus their attention on worship and acts of charity (zakat).

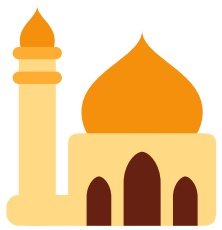
WHAT IS AN IFTAR?

Iftar is the sunset meal Muslims eat to end their fast every day during Ramadan.



SO YOU CAN'T EVEN DRINK WATER?

Not even water.



DO I NEED TO BE MUSLIM TO HOST AN IFTAR?

Nope! Anyone, Muslim or not, may host an iftar, and you can invite both Muslims and non-Muslims. If you care about equal access to power for religious minorities, promoting social justice, stopping racial injustice, fighting economic inequality, and combating Islamophobia, then you can definitely host or attend an iftar.

WHO ARE WE? & WHAT IS POLIGON?

1

Founded by millennial Muslim leaders with backgrounds in government, advocacy, law, and policy research, Polygon Education Fund (Polygon) is a national non-profit which aims to amplify the voices of America's 3.4 - 8 million Muslims on Capitol Hill.



2

Polygon offers Congressional advocacy trainings, weekly legislative updates, and policy guidance to help increase the community's political acumen. Polygon also educates policymakers, often with interfaith coalitions and advocacy groups, on issues of concern to Muslims and other marginalized communities such as civil rights, Islamophobia, and social, racial, and economic justice.

3

Polygon hopes to create an America where all people, regardless of background, are empowered in the policy making process, treated with justice and dignity, and can live together in peace and security.

4

Polygon Education Fund is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible and zakat eligible.



NOW LET'S GET STARTED ON HOSTING YOUR IFTAR:

STEP 1: PLAN THE DETAILS OF YOUR IFTAR



Start by picking the date and time. Since Muslims break their fast at sunset, it is highly recommended to host an iftar just before sunset. Please refer to the local sunset timetables. A Google search can provide the exact time of sunset. Please plan on having guests arrive about 30 minutes prior to sunset.

Be creative! You can do Taco Tuesday, make your own sushi, fondue night, potlocks, cook at home or go to your favorite restaurant. Iftars should be a fun event so the sky's the limit!

STEP 2: SET A FUNDRAISING GOAL



You can use Poligon's donation brackets for people with individual goals. What do your donations support?

\$25	Action Alert with instructions on how to contact your Senator or Representative about a pressing policy issue
\$50	Weekly "Hill Happenings" newsletter with a rundown of recent activities in Congress
\$100	Advocacy 101 webinar, accessible anywhere
\$250	Development of a comprehensive policy or "How To" guide
\$500	In person training inside the DC/MD/VA area
\$1,000	In person training outside of the DC/MD/VA area (within the Continental U.S.)
\$2,000	Sponsorship of two community leaders to attend our new "Congressional Corps" training the trainers program in D.C.

Set a goal for the evening, the more you're able to raise the more impact we as an organization can make. Personalize your fundraising to let people know why the cause is important to you.

STEP 3: INVITE YOUR GUESTS AND START FUNDRAISING

Use our [invitation template link](#) to send out to your email contact list.

There are also some other social media templates for you to use should you want to create a Facebook event* and share online. Don't forget to add a line about your event, the date, time, location, and any other relevant info.

*if you would like to start a Facebook donation campaign, we ask that you put **“Polygon Education Fund”** as your charity.

Share our one-pagers (<http://www.polygonnational.org/issues.html>) for your guests to get a sense of what issues we cover.

STEP 4: HOST YOUR IFTAR FOR POLIGON

Iftar night has arrived! During your event, play the video welcome message we will send you from our executive board. Take a moment to share with your guests why you support Polygon and why amplifying Muslim American and ally voices in Congress is so urgently needed (refer to handouts for inspiration).

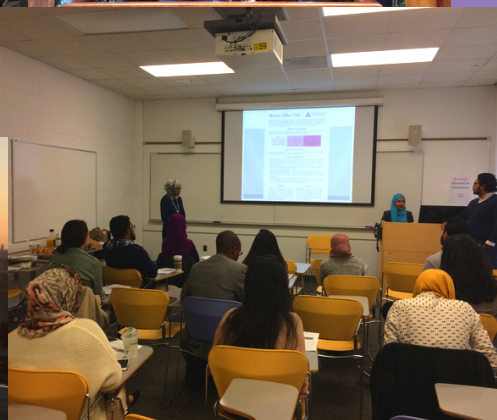
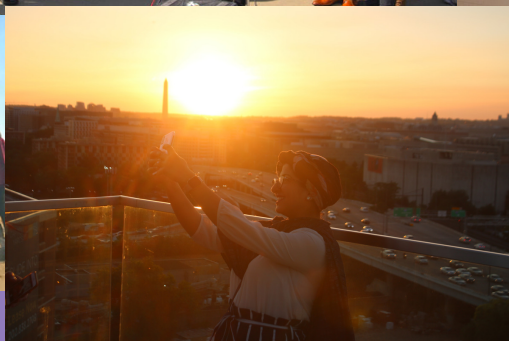
Before dinner is over, make a pitch for donations in order to meet your fundraising goal. Remember, people will not donate if you do not ask! Have a computer or tablet loaded with your fundraising page (if you have created one online) so people can make donations on the spot. Checks can be mailed to us, please email us at info@polygonnational.org for our address.

SPREAD THE LOVE WITH THE HASHTAG #POLIGONNATIONALIFTAR

We want people across the country to join together to support this cause and prove that Muslim American voices matter. Sharing your success online is critical to that (pics or it didn't happen, right?). Phones are definitely allowed at this dinner table. Use #polygonnationaliftar on Twitter and Instagram to share photos of the gathering. When your guests use the hashtag as well, you'll have a creatively curated collection of memories from the night. Besides Polygon liking and reposting any public photos, our Marketing Director will follow up with you after the iftar to discuss your success and collect photos from the evening.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING POLIGON!

Our team has the skills and expertise to help amplify your voice in Congress, but only you can make it happen. Thank you for investing in our community's future by hosting an iftar!



@poligonnational



@poligonnational



Poligon Education Fund

**DON'T BE A
STRANGER! KEEP UP
WITH US THROUGH
OUR SOCIALS**