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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Social Media
**Trump Delays
TikTok Ban
for 75 Days**

NYN Desk

President Donald Trump announced a 75-day delay in the implementation of a bipartisan TikTok ban, citing the need for further negotiations with the app's Chinese parent company, ByteDance. The proposed legislation, originally set to take effect before his inauguration, was aimed at addressing national security concerns over potential data breaches and foreign influence linked to the popular social media platform.

Trump prioritizes safeguarding U.S. data amid TikTok scrutiny.

Trump stressed that the delay would enable constructive dialogue while ensuring the government's commitment to safeguarding U.S. data. The decision drew mixed reactions, with critics voicing concerns over TikTok's security risks and supporters welcoming the opportunity for diplomatic engagement. Discussions with ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese parent company, will center on addressing national security concerns, including data privacy and foreign influence. The extension reflects a cautious approach aimed at finding a balanced solution to the app's contentious operations.

One of Trump's first actions was to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), citing the organization's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic

Trump ordered federal agencies to recognize only male and female as sexes, ending support for transgender-inclusive initiatives.



Trump's Vision in Motion

Executive Orders Signal Sweeping Policy Shifts

Adnan Fuad

In a dramatic return to the White House, President Donald Trump wasted no time reshaping the nation's policies, signing nearly 200 executive actions within his first 24 hours. From pardoning January 6 offenders to withdrawing from global agreements and reigniting border wall construction, Trump's bold and controversial moves have sparked fierce debate across

the political spectrum, setting the stage for a presidency that promises to leave an indelible mark on America's future. One of Trump's first actions was to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), citing the organization's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic and what he described as its financial burden on the U.S. This move revived Trump's earlier criticisms of the WHO,

signaling a shift in U.S. priorities away from multilateral health initiatives. The president also revoked 78 policies from the Biden administration, focusing on regulations that he argued hindered economic growth and national interests. Environmental protections, energy mandates, and diversity programs were among the policies overturned. Critics argue that these changes could harm climate initiatives and

efforts toward greater inclusivity. In one of his most contentious moves, Trump signed pardons for approximately 1,500 individuals convicted in connection with the January 6 Capitol attack. While the pardons included high-profile names such as Enrique Tarrio, the leader of the Proud Boys, some cases were left under review. Trump described the pardons as a step toward healing, though opponents saw the

move as undermining accountability for the attack. Immigration policy was a top priority during Trump's first day in office. He shut down CBP One, a mobile application that had facilitated legal entry for nearly one million migrants and declared a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border. Trump also reinstated plans for border wall construction, emphasizing the need to what he called a "crisis

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ICE Raids Surge in NYC

ICE Increases Arrests of Undocumented Immigrants

In January 2025, ICE conducted high-profile raids in New York City, arresting over 500 undocumented immigrants.

NYN Desk

During Donald Trump's presidency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intensified its efforts to arrest and detain undocumented immigrants across the United States. This move aligned with the administration's strict



immigration policies, which emphasized border security,

deportation of unauthorized residents, and enforcement of immigration laws. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) significantly increased arrests of undocumented immigrants in New York City. In February

2017, ICE arrested 41 individuals in the New York City area, with 95% having prior criminal convictions.

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today



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Resolution in NY State Senate to celebrate Bengali New Year

NYN Desk

New York State Senate has passed a resolution to celebrate Bengali New Year on April 14. The resolution introduced by State Senator Luis Sepulveda, was passed last Wednesday. The resolution was published on the New York State Senate website. Senate recognizes Bengali New

Year to strengthen the various communities living in New York State to increase awareness and enhance cultural diversity. In keeping with a long tradition, the legislature is declaring April 14 as Bengali New Year in New York State. Half of the total Bangladeshis in the United States live in New York City. Since the late 1990s, Bengali New Year

has been celebrated with pomp and joy in the vast area of Queens and Times Square in Manhattan. The New York-based organization Muktadhara Foundation has been promoting Bengali culture for the past three decades and introducing people to Bengali history and literature by organizing Bengali festivals and book fairs.



NYN Desk

Masud Rana Tapan and Mainuddin Uddin Pintu have been elected as the Treasurer and Director of the Bangladeshi American Lions Club of New York. They were elected after discussion at the monthly meeting of the Bangladeshi American Lions Club held at the party hall of Sanai Restaurant in Jackson Heights on the evening of January 21. The monthly meeting, chaired by Rocky Alian, was attended

by District Governor Terry Palladia, First District Vice Governor Asef Bari Tutul, Region Chair and immediate past President Shah Newaz, Zone Chair Mohammad Saeed, Vice President Amena Newaz, Vice President Moonmoon Hasina Bari, S Alam, FMD Rocky, MN Haider Mukut, Shah Shahidul Haque, Hasan Jilani and Ahmed Sohel. With the support of the majority of the members in the meeting, Masud

Rana Tapan was elected as the new treasurer in place of former treasurer FEMD Rocky and ASM Mainuddin Pintu became the new director in place of Masud Rana Tapan. At this time, the new treasurer and director

Bangladeshi American Lions Club Treasurer Tapan, Director Pintu

were administered the oath of office by District Governor Terry Paladi. At this time, former president and region chair Shah Nawaz was announced as the candidate for the district first vice president.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHREB	ISHA
05:55	12:09	02:45	05:07	06:25
05:52	12:09	02:46	05:08	06:26
05:51	12:09	02:47	05:09	06:27
05:50	12:09	02:48	05:10	06:28
05:49	12:09	02:49	05:11	06:30
05:48	12:09	02:50	05:12	06:31
05:47	12:10	02:51	05:13	06:32

Number 31

Asef Bari Tutul's surprise, bought a building by \$31 million

NYN Desk

Asef Bari Tutul, a Bangladeshi millionaire living in the United States, showed a surprise. He bought the iconic building Bruson in Jackson Heights for \$31 million. This huge building, located on 35th Avenue and near 74th Street, is known as a professional business hub. There are several Bangladeshi and mainstream offices there. Members of the Bangladeshi community know it as the Bruson Building. The building became Bari Tower on Friday, January 24. Its purchase and transfer were completed by Asef Bari Tutul and Munmun Hasina Bari. After this became known, it became the talk of the week in the



Bangladeshi community. Asef Bari Tutul said that the building was purchased for \$31 million. There are plans to move all the offices of the Bari Group to its 4th floor. Asef Bari is an established businessman in New York. He is the former president of the New York Bangladeshi American Lions Club. He is going to take charge as the district governor in the future. Asef Bari, a son of Rangpur, is involved in politics as well as social activities. Recently, Hamtramck city Mayor Amir Galib Met Bari Group CEO Assef Bari in New York City. The meeting was held at Bari Group headquarters on January 16. Asef Bari greeted Amir Ghalib with flowers. Then, both discussed the development of the Yemeni and Bengali Muslim communities in New York and Michigan in a short meeting. In addition, the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was discussed. The two agreed that this ceasefire will bring peace to Palestine as well as Muslims around the world. The meeting was attended by Hamtramck Police Chief Jamiel Al Taheri, Bari Group Managing Director Saiful Islam, Blue Green Insurance CEO Mofizur Rahman, and Shah Group CEO Shah J. Chowdhury.

Entertainment

A Night of Quran

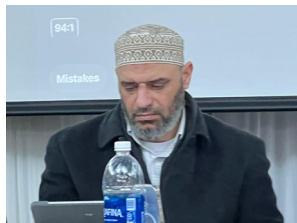
FMCC Hosts Spiritual Evening in Paramus

Verses of Unity: A Night of Quran
Echoes of Faith: Fusion Center Hosts
Quranic Night of Reflection and Unity

Jakir Zahid

Paramus, NJ – On Saturday, January 18, 2025, the Fusion Muslim Community Center of North Jersey hosted a deeply spiritual event titled “A Night of Quran” at its facility located at 650 Pascack Road.

community for heartfelt Quranic recitations, engaging insights, and moments of unity. The program featured some of the most esteemed Quran reciters and scholars from around the world, known for their ability to captivate audiences with the beauty and depth of their recitations. Hosted by Sh. Nady Kishk, the



The evening brought together a diverse

contemporary issues. The lineup of reciters included renowned



figures such as Sh. AbdelHamid Askam, Sh. Waleed El-Batrawish, Sh. Ahmed Tahoon, Sh. Rida El-Khodary, and Sh. Fouad El-Kassas. Their melodious and soothing recitations inspired reflection and fostered a deeper connection to the teachings of the Quran. Many attendees described the recitations as spiritually uplifting, leaving a profound impact on their hearts. The theme of the evening revolved around the Quranic verse, “So when the Quran is recited, then listen to it and pay attention so that you may receive Mercy.” (7:204). This verse underscored the importance of actively listening to Allah’s words, allowing them

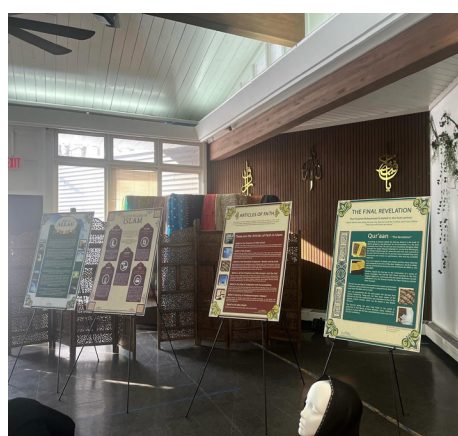
to guide and transform lives. Throughout the evening, participants were encouraged to engage with the Quran’s wisdom and reflect on its relevance in their daily lives. In addition to the recitations, scholars shared valuable insights on how to apply Quranic principles to modern challenges, emphasizing themes such as compassion, justice, and self-discipline. These discussions deepened the audience’s understanding and provided actionable steps for spiritual growth. The Fusion Muslim Community Center, widely recognized for its dedication to Islamic education and fostering community connections,

curated this event as part of its ongoing efforts to inspire faith and unity. Over the years, the center has hosted numerous programs that emphasize shared worship and collective spirituality, and “A Night of Quran” added another meaningful chapter to this tradition. Refreshments were served during the program, providing attendees with an opportunity to connect with others in a welcoming and serene environment. Many attendees expressed their gratitude for the thoughtful arrangements, which ensured everyone felt included and comfortable throughout the evening. The event succeeded

About the Quran

- 1.Number of Surahs (Chapters): 114
- 2.Number of Ayahs (Verses): 6,236 (without Bismillah)
- 3.Number of Words: Approximately 77,430
- 4.Number of Letters: Approximately 323,670
- 5.Longest Surah: Surah Al-Baqarah (Chapter 2) – 286 verses
- 6.Shortest Surah: Surah Al-Kawthar (Chapter 108) – 3 verses
- 7.Longest Verse: Ayat Al-Dain (Verse of Debt) – Surah Al-Baqarah (2:282)
- 8.Shortest Verse: Surah Ar-Rahman (55:64) – "ن أنتم آدم" (Mudham-mataan)
- 10.First Revelation: Surah Al-Alaq (96:1-5)
- 11.Last Revelation: Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:3)

in fostering a strong sense of togetherness among participants, underscoring the Quran’s role as a unifying force. Attendees left with a renewed sense of spiritual purpose and a deeper appreciation for the power of collective worship and shared faith experiences. “A Night of Quran” stands as a testament to the profound beauty of Allah’s words and the impact they continue to have on individuals and communities. For those who attended, it was an evening of inspiration and connection, leaving a lasting impression on their spiritual journeys. The Fusion Muslim Community Center continues to host events that celebrate faith,



Fusion Muslim Community Center to participate in their ‘Meet Your Muslim Neighbors’ event, as part of their programming for Muslim Heritage Month.

Faith & Peace

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)

'Nourishing NYC' Summit Held to Address Food Insecurity

Michael Miller

On January 15, 2025, the New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) held its Winter 2025 NYC Faith Sector Summit under the theme "Nourishing NYC"

A Faith and Community Call to Action on Food Insecurity." The event, hosted at the Metropolitan College of New York, brought together faith leaders, community advocates, and organizations to tackle the critical issue of food insecurity in New York City. The aim of the summit was to inspire collective action through dialogue, training, and collaboration. Food insecurity remains a growing concern for many New Yorkers, driven by economic disparities and a lack of access to nutritious and affordable food in vulnerable communities. NYDIS Executive Director Peter Gudaitis opened the summit with an urgent call to action. "This is not just a crisis of access; it's a matter of justice and equity,"

he emphasized, urging attendees to work toward solutions that go beyond short-term relief efforts. The summit featured several key components, beginning with panel discussions where experts from faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, and government agencies shared their insights. These discussions focused on the root causes of hunger, innovative approaches to relief, and the role of faith and community sectors in addressing systemic challenges. Workshops were another cornerstone of the event, providing practical training for attendees on how to establish and manage food assistance programs.



Photo : NYDIS

Topics included fundraising strategies, community pantry operations, and building partnerships for greater impact. Attendees left inspired and equipped with actionable tools to implement within their own communities. "These sessions provided exactly what we need to make a real difference," said Naomi Carter, a community organizer from the Bronx. The



event also fostered critical networking opportunities, allowing faith leaders, non-profits, and local government representatives to form valuable connections. The importance of collaboration was a recurring theme throughout the summit, with many attendees recognizing the power of partnerships in addressing hunger more effectively. One participant noted, "We can accomplish so much more when we work together, combining our strengths and resources." NYDIS worked in collaboration with several prominent organizations to make the summit a success. Key partners included the NYC Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, NYC Voluntary Organizations

Active in Disaster (VOAD), and Feeding America. These partnerships brought diverse expertise and resources, enabling a well-rounded approach to the discussions and training sessions. Inclusivity was also a priority at the summit, reflecting New York City's diverse population. Halal, Kosher, and vegetarian meals were provided, ensuring that all attendees felt respected and welcome. This small gesture embodied the spirit of unity and collaboration that defined the event. Although the summit focused on immediate actions, it also addressed the systemic changes necessary to combat food insecurity on a larger scale. Discussions emphasized the need to address

food deserts, improve food affordability, and advocate for local food production. Gudaitis closed the event by urging attendees to continue working together, saying, "Our collective efforts can build a city where no one has to go to bed hungry. This summit is just the beginning." The success of the "Nourishing NYC" summit highlights the vital role of faith and community organizations in addressing critical issues like food insecurity. By fostering collaboration, equipping leaders with tools, and advocating for systemic change, NYDIS and its partners continue to pave the way for a more equitable and hunger-free future for all New Yorkers.



Philanthropy

Voices of Compassion Tour: Nasheed Nights for Orphans



The evening commenced with a touching speech by Imran Hossain Ansari, Regional Director of the Zakat Foundation in New York, emphasizing the importance of such events in fostering unity and aligning with the organization's mission to celebrate compassion, faith, and shared humanity.

Muhammad A Rahman

●Zakat Foundation Hosts Spiritual Song Night to Support the Underprivileged

The Zakat Foundation of America recently organized a remarkable event, "Voices of Compassion: Nasheed Evening for Orphans," at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale, New York. Featuring internationally renowned artists Al Firdaus Ensemble and Ibrahim Aldardasawi, the event offered a unique blend of faith, music, and community, captivating an audience from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. This gathering is part of the Zakat Foundation's broader mission to unite faith-based communities while shedding light on their extensive charitable work across the U.S. and in over 40 countries. The event not only provided spiritual enrichment but also reinforced

the importance of compassion and collective action in addressing global challenges, such as orphan care and humanitarian relief. The evening began with a heartfelt opening speech by Imran Hossain Ansari, the Regional Director of the Zakat Foundation in New York. Ansari highlighted the significance of events like these in connecting people with the organization's mission and creating a sense of unity. "Through these gatherings, we aim to bring people together in celebration of compassion, faith, and our shared humanity," he stated. At the heart of the event were the soul-stirring performances of Al Firdaus Ensemble and Ibrahim Aldardasawi. Their renditions of Nasheed, a traditional form of Islamic devotional music, resonated deeply with the audience. The performances

emphasized themes of love, faith, and

tradition of organizing community-focused



community, creating an atmosphere of spiritual reflection and emotional connection. Attendees remarked on how the music served as a reminder of the role spirituality plays in nurturing mental and emotional well-being. The Zakat Foundation has a long-standing

events in New York and other cities across the country. These gatherings serve dual purposes: offering cultural and spiritual enrichment while raising awareness about the foundation's impactful initiatives. Proceeds from the evening were dedicated to

supporting orphan care programs, highlighting the organization's commitment to vulnerable populations worldwide. The event also provided an opportunity to showcase the foundation's extensive work in areas such as education, healthcare, disaster relief, and interfaith collaboration. By bringing together people from various religious and cultural backgrounds, the Zakat Foundation demonstrated its commitment to fostering mutual understanding and compassion. This inclusive approach underscores the foundation's belief in the power of collective action to address global challenges. Music, particularly spiritual music like Nasheed, has long been a unifying force across cultures and communities. Recognizing its potential, the Zakat Foundation uses events

like this one to build bridges and promote dialogue. The artists' powerful performances were more than just entertainment—they were an invitation for reflection and a call to action for attendees to contribute to the foundation's humanitarian mission. As the night drew to a close, attendees left inspired not only by the music but also by the stories of hope and resilience shared throughout the evening. For the Zakat Foundation, Quran Night was yet another successful step in its mission to create meaningful connections and bring positive change to communities worldwide. Through events like these, the Zakat Foundation continues to strengthen its role as a leader in humanitarian work, blending faith, culture, and service to society.



Education



Students Engage with Dr. George A. Garland on SDG Projects for 2025

Youth collaborate with UN for SDGs.

Ma. Uddin Ali

On January 23, 2025, an inspiring session unfolded at 87-41, 165th St, Jamaica, NY, where Dr. George A. Garland, President of the United Nations Association-USA Southern New York Division,

met with students to discuss actionable approaches to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event served as a platform for empowering young minds to tackle global challenges through innovative, youth-led projects. Dr. Garland opened the session by emphasizing the importance of the SDGs in fostering a sustainable and equitable future. He encouraged the students

to see themselves as changemakers capable of driving significant impact on issues such as climate change, education inequality, clean water access, and sustainable urban development. "The SDGs are not just a blueprint; they are a call to action for everyone, especially the youth," he remarked passionately. These stories resonated deeply with the students, illustrating how grassroots efforts can lead to substantial change. From recycling campaigns to tree-planting drives, the examples showcased how even small actions could make a big difference when adopted on a larger scale. Following the presentation, students brainstormed project ideas, with many committing to implement SDG-aligned initiatives

HIGHLIGHT

The session was interactive and engaging, with Dr. Garland sharing real-world examples of successful SDG initiatives from around the globe.

in their schools and communities. Suggestions included organizing mental health awareness workshops, launching local recycling campaigns, and increasing environmental literacy among peers. The event organizers encouraged participants to translate these ideas into tangible actions, offering support and resources to ensure success. Youth empowerment was a central theme throughout the event, as Dr. Garland encouraged attendees to take

ownership of their role as global citizens. He reminded them that their voices and efforts are crucial to achieving the United Nations' Agenda 2030. "The world is looking to you, the youth, to be the architects of a sustainable future," he told the audience. The students left the event inspired, pledging to begin their journey as advocates for change. "This session has opened my eyes to how much we can do, even as students, to make the world a better place," shared Maya, a high school junior. Others echoed her sentiments, expressing excitement about taking on projects that align with the SDGs. Event organizers expressed their gratitude to Dr. Garland for his invaluable insights and guidance.

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

No Poverty

Poverty eradication is foundational for global equity and prosperity

By targeting the systemic causes of poverty and empowering vulnerable populations, this goal envisions a world where basic needs such as food, shelter, and access to opportunities are universally met. Initiatives under this goal focus on economic growth, fair wages.

Zero Hunger

Hunger and malnutrition remain critical challenges.

This goal aims to achieve food security and improve nutrition while promoting sustainable agriculture. By fostering equitable food distribution systems and reducing food waste, this goal addresses one of the most fundamental human rights—access to nutritious food.

Chart of SDG Goals

Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 .
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-chart>



What were Reading

SDG Publishers Compact

This Compact is designed to inspire action among publishers. Launched in collaboration with the International Publishers Association, the Compact aims to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.



Signatories aspire to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the SDGs during the Decade of Action (2020-2030), publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop, and inspire action in that direction.

Good Health

Health is wealth, and this goal ensures that all individuals can access quality healthcare services

From reducing maternal and child mortality to combating diseases such as HIV/AIDS and ensuring mental well-being, it underscores the importance of comprehensive healthcare for all.

Quality Education

Education is a cornerstone of sustainable development This goal emphasizes

inclusive and equitable quality education, focusing on lifelong learning opportunities for all. It highlights the need for skill-building, gender equality in education, and accessible learning resources worldwide.



SAVE the People has launched a campaign titled "Immigration Support." For more information, contact 718-200-3050.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS
If you get detained by
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)



Legal Aid Hotline: (844) 955-3425

NY Immigrant Family Unity Project (Bronx Defenders): (718) 838-7878

Legal Services NYC (Bronx): (917) 928-3700

Immigrant Defense Project Hotline: (212) 725-6422

Immigration Rights Project Rapid Response: IRPraisupport@aclu.org

The El Barrio Angels: (718) 986-577



For more information, visit: www.nydis.org/asylum-seeker-shelter-services



Save Our Students Mentorship Project

Designed to support youth ages 11-18 in Jamaica, NY!

Academic Support: Math, English, and Science tutoring 3 evenings a week

Life Skills & Job Readiness: Workshops for ages 15-18 to prepare for future success

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Education

Governor Hochul's Bold Push for a Statewide

Cellphone Ban to Revitalize New York's Schools



Paul Khan

In a decisive move aimed at transforming New York's classrooms, Governor Kathy Hochul has proposed a statewide ban on cellphones in public and charter schools during instructional hours.

Part of her comprehensive \$252 billion budget plan, this initiative seeks to reduce distractions, improve academic performance, and address the mental health challenges associated with excessive device usage. Under the proposal, schools would be

required to enforce strict policies mandating that all student devices be securely stored throughout the school day. Exceptions would apply for specific educational purposes, medical needs, or language translation services. To support schools in executing this policy, the governor

has allocated \$13.5 million in state funding, ensuring they can implement measures such as locking pouches or secure storage areas effectively. "This is about ensuring students can focus on learning without the constant distraction of their devices," Governor Hochul

said during a press briefing. "Teachers, parents, and students themselves have expressed concerns about the negative impact of cellphones step toward creating an environment that prioritizes education and social interaction." The proposal forms part of a broader strategy to

foster improved learning environments while addressing issues like cyberbullying, digital addiction, and social disconnection among students. If approved, schools would need to finalize their implementation plans by August, ahead of the 2025–26 academic year.

The Negative Impacts of Cellphone Use in Schools

Samira Mina

The debate over cellphone use in schools is fueled by mounting evidence of its adverse effects on students' academic performance, behavior, and mental health.

Research published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology* highlights that the mere presence of cellphones, even when unused, can significantly impair concentration and memory retention. This cognitive distraction stems from the brain subconsciously allocating resources to monitor the device, detracting from the primary task of learning. A study by the London School of Economics revealed that schools implementing cellphone bans experienced a 6.4% improvement in test scores, particularly



among low-performing students. These findings indicate that restricting cellphone access can help close the achievement gap, especially for students in underserved communities. Behavioral issues linked to cellphone use also

disrupt classroom environments. According to a survey by the Pew Research Center, 72% of U.S. public school teachers report that cellphones are a major source of distraction. Students frequently use their devices for non-educational activities,

such as texting, gaming, or social media, which not only hinders their own learning but also disrupts their peers. Excessive device usage has also been associated with mental health challenges. Dr. Jean Twenge, a psychologist and author

of *iGen*, warns that teenagers who spend more than three hours daily on social media are at a higher risk of developing anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. She argues that digital addiction among adolescents mirrors patterns seen

in substance abuse, highlighting the urgency of addressing this issue. The social dynamics of schools are also affected by cellphone usage. Research has shown that excessive screen time diminishes face-to-face interactions, eroding interpersonal communication skills. Advocates for the ban believe that restricting devices during school hours could foster a stronger sense of community and improve social relationships among students. Concerns about cyberbullying further strengthen the case for limiting cellphones in schools. A report by the Cyberbullying Research Center revealed that nearly 34% of students aged 12–17 have experienced cyberbullying, much of it occurring during school hours. By restricting cellphone use, schools could create a safer and better environment.

Concerns About Implementation and Discipline

Micheal M

While the proposed ban has been met with support from many educators and parents, some advocates worry that its implementation could create new

challenges. Critics argue that enforcing a statewide cellphone ban might lead to increased conflicts between students and staff, particularly if the policy is seen as overly punitive. "Creating an



adversarial environment is counterproductive," said an education advocate. "Policies need to be clear, fair, and accompanied by comprehensive training for staff to handle

potential pushback." Past experiences in cities like San Francisco and Boston demonstrate that successful implementation of similar bans depends on effective communication

and collaboration. Schools must engage students, parents, and teachers in the process, emphasizing the long-term benefits of the policy to gain widespread buy-in.



13th Annual
WORLD HIJAB DAY®
#HijabisUnsilenced
February 1st, 2025 | 150+ Countries

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World Hijab Day & Nazma Khan

WHD : February 1st, 2013 marked the first annual World Hijab Day® (WHD) in recognition of millions of Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab and live a life of modesty. The brainchild of this movement is a Bangladeshi-New Yorker, Nazma Khan, who came up with the idea as a means to foster personal freedom of religious expression and cultural understanding by inviting women from all walks of life to experience the hijab for one day on February 1st annually. By opening up new pathways to understanding, Nazma hopes to counteract some of the controversies surrounding why Muslim women choose to wear the hijab. Nazma, the social activist came to this country from Bangladesh at the tender age of eleven where she found herself being the only hijabi in middle school. She remembers her experience as a difficult one. “Growing up in the Bronx, New York City, I experienced a great deal of discrimination due to my hijab. In middle school, I was ‘Batman’ or ‘ninja.’ When I entered University 9/11 happened. Now, I was called Osama bin laden or terrorist. It was awful. I figured the only way to

end discrimination is if we ask our fellow sisters to experience hijab themselves.” Watch Nazma’s TEDx talk to learn more. It’s estimated that people in over 150 countries take part in World Hijab Day® every year. WHD has many volunteers and ambassadors worldwide to conduct WHD events in order to bring awareness about hijab. These ambassadors come from all walks of life. In addition, WHD has been endorsed by many world renowned

HIGHLIGHT

The brainchild of this movement is a Bangladeshi-New Yorker, Nazma Khan,

individuals including scholars, politicians, and celebrities worldwide. WHD has been covered in mainstream news media including TIME, BBC, CNN, Al-Jazeera and Huffington Post, etc. There were many milestones since the inception of World Hijab Day®. One of them has been the recognition of the day by New York State since 2017. The same year, the House of Commons of the U.K. hosted an event marking the day, where former UK Prime Minister Theresa May also attended. The event was organized by Tasmina



Ahmed-Sheikh, SNP MP for Ochil and South Perthshire. SNP MP Tasmina wrote in THE TIMES:

“Given the current climate, World Hijab Day® is even greater importance. We must stand up and clearly say that women

have a right to choose what they want to wear- whenever, wherever, and however. World Hijab Day® is an event that we

should be proud of celebrating, not just for religious tolerance but for women’s rights around the world.”



10 WAYS SCHOOLS/UNIVERSITIES CAN GET INVOLVED IN WORLD HIJAB DAY®

#WorldHijabDay
#HijabisUnsilenced

WorldHijabDay.org

COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

09 Social Media Campaigns, Personal Blogs/Vlogs: Launch social media campaigns or raise awareness via your personal blog or vlog to share stories, photos, and messages of solidarity with the hashtag #WorldHijabDay. Tag us @WorldHijabDay

10 Signup for our Diversity Workshop: Secure your spot early for our workshop focused on understanding Muslim culture and countering anti-Muslim discrimination in educational settings. Sign up at bit.ly/4fUd7gt.

For World Hijab Day graphic templates and curated social media captions, visit bit.ly/3pkPlxg. Tag us @WorldHijabDay.

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01 Awareness Campaigns: Organize awareness campaigns to educate students about the significance of World Hijab Day and its goals.

02 Wear a Hijab: Encourage students and staff to voluntarily wear a hijab for a day on February 1st to experience and understand the perspectives of hijabi individuals. Document it and share it on social media with the hashtags #HijabisUnsilenced & #WorldHijabDay. Tag us @WorldHijabDay.

03 Panel Discussions: Host panel discussions or forums with hijab wearing students (hijabis) and community members to promote dialogue and understanding.

04 Workshops: Offer workshops on the religious, cultural, and historical aspects of wearing the hijab.

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05 Guest Speakers: Invite guest speakers, such as hijabi scholars or activists, to address the importance of religious expression and tolerance.

06 Community Outreach: Engage in community service projects that promote unity and support local Muslim communities.

07 Make a Commitment: Take the pledge at bit.ly/30RD6EE to stand against discrimination toward hijabi students, staff, and teachers in school environments. With your help, we can create safe spaces for Muslim girls and women worldwide!

08 Send words of encouragement and support! Ask students to write cards to hijabi students and teachers to express how strong they are for wearing the hijab.

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