

## About ILIA

ILIA is a 501c(3) non-profit education and research organization headquartered in Maryland, offering services to all students regardless of race, religion, belief, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran.

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Organizational Excellence

Value Proposition



## A Guide to Muslim Professional Social Interactions

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## A Guide to Muslim Professional Social Interactions



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Organizational Services Division*



**M**odesty is a key value in the Islamic faith. In Islam modesty extends to the physical as well as the spiritual sides of an individual. Hence the following might be noticed when dealing with Muslims.

## Greetings

Islam call for opposite genders not to shake hands or touch physically, except in cases related by marriage or blood (husband, brother, father, sister, etc...) – When greeting Muslims of opposite gender a simple smile and verbal greeting is appropriate. Handshakes are not encouraged and in some cases could be offensive with the opposite gender. A handshake with same gender is encouraged and respected.

## Eye Contact

Islamic faith discourages looking to the opposite gender in the eye, hence usually when speaking with the opposite gender a Muslim will be looking slightly in a different direction. This gesture should not be seen as disrespect; on the contrary it is an action of modesty by not intruding on the opposite gender's privacy.

## Planning

Muslims always say “inshaa Allah” (God willing) when planning activities and projects. This means they intend to do what the plan calls, but cannot guarantee success, as the results are in the hands of God, this should not be understood as lack of commitment.

## Claiming Credit

Islam calls for modesty in speech, hence discussing one's accomplishments might not be a typical thing with many Muslims, and many are bashful to take credit for work, accomplishments or progress, even at organizational level.

## Dress Code

Islam calls for modesty in dress code. As a minimum, Muslim women would cover hair and neck to ankle; men cover mid chest to knees.



## Happy Hours

Islam calls for prohibition of anything that intoxicates the mind (regardless of quantity), and also dealing with such item. Hence Muslims should not drink, purchase, transport, serve or produce liquor, this also includes sitting in a gathering where liquor is consumed.

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