

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10th Annual LGBTQ+ Community Iftar to Celebrate a Decade of Ummah in New York City

The breaking of the fast meal and celebration is a safe space for LGBTQ+ Muslims to honor the traditions of Ramadan.

NEW YORK, NY, March 12, 2026 — [The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center](#) (The Center) announced today that it will host its **[10th Annual LGBTQ+ Community Iftar](#) on Thursday, March 12, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 208 W 13th Street, New York, NY**. This year's theme, *A Decade of Ummah*, honors 10 years of coming together in faith, fellowship, and radical belonging.

"For the past decade, this event has been a vital safe space for LGBTQ+ Muslims to fully embrace our intersectional and multicultural identities," **said Mohamed Q. Amin, Founder and Executive Director of the Caribbean Equality Project**. "In the face of escalating attacks on immigrants and renewed attempts to erase transgender and queer people from public life, creating and protecting sacred spaces like this has never been more urgent. Our ummah continues to guide us in building communities rooted in care and collective power."

Established by leaders from the [Caribbean Equality Project](#), [Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity](#), [SALGA NYC](#), and [Tarab NYC](#), in partnership with The Center and the [NYC Commission on Human Rights](#), the Iftar provides a safe, affirming space for queer Muslims and allies to break fast during Ramadan. This year's event is co-produced by Caribbean Equality Project, Tarab NYC, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, [Fordham University Division of External Affairs](#), [NYC Commission on Racial Equity](#), [New York State Division of Human Rights](#), SALGA NYC, [Safe Horizon Streetwork Project](#), [The Ayah Project](#), [The Nur Ashki Jerrahi Community \(A Sufi Order\)](#), and [Anti Violence Project](#).

"For the past decade, the annual Iftar has been a steady space where the religious, cultural, gender identity, and sexual orientation intersectionalities have united under one roof, broken bread, and shared emotions," **said the Imam for the event, Mohammed Shaik Hussain Ali, board member of SALGA NYC**.

"Community is both a feeling and an embodiment of souls. The annual LGBTQ+ Community Iftar has become a place to cherish our privileges while recognizing those who never got or get the same."

The event features gender-neutral prayer, education, storytelling, culturally responsive entertainment, and a shared meal to break the fast. It will also include

remarks from community partners, performances, and resource sharing. This year's Azaan will be led by [Fazeela Siddiqui](#), a community organizer, educator, and LGBTQ+ woman. In celebration of the LGBTQ+ Community Iftar's 10th anniversary, performers from all ten years will return for a reunion performance.

"The LGBTQ+ Community Iftar at The Center is a vital tradition celebrating the rich intersections of faith and identity within our community," **said Dr. Carla Smith, CEO of The Center.** "The Center prioritizes providing all LGBTQ+ New Yorkers a place to celebrate their unique and intersecting identities. We are honored to continue this inclusive event, fostering a space where LGBTQ+ Muslims and their allies can come together in solidarity and joy."

"Many LGBTQ+ Muslims balance their faith, gender, and sexual orientation in a world that doesn't always make room for all parts of who they are," **said Christine Clarke, Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights.** "The New York City Commission on Human Rights works every day to enforce the protections in the New York City Human Rights Law, ensuring that every New Yorker can live openly, participate in their communities, and practice their religion without fear. We are proud to co-produce the 10th Annual LGBTQ+ Community Iftar to stand with this community and support those protections."

LGBTQ+ Muslims often navigate a complex intersection of identities, facing discrimination within both religious and LGBTQ+ communities. The LGBTQ+ Community Iftar maintains the core traditions of a traditional Iftar while adapting certain elements to ensure a fully inclusive and affirming space for all attendees.

The first LGBTQ+ Community Iftar was held in response to the previous Trump administration's ban on individuals from predominantly Muslim countries traveling to the US. Interest and attendance at the Iftar continue to grow, with this year's event selling out within hours.

"This Iftar was created out of necessity, a response to fear, exclusion, and violence. Ten years later, it remains an important space of connection, healing, and action for queer and trans Muslims," **said Bashar Makhay, Founder of Tarab NYC.** "At a time when hate is being normalized at home, and colonial violence is escalating in our homelands, gathering in joy and safety is sacred, and it is a form of resistance."

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About The Center

[The NYC LGBT Community Center](#) (The Center) was established in 1983 at the height of the AIDS crisis to provide a safe and affirming place for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers to respond to the urgent threats facing the community. For over 40 years,

The Center has grown to meet the changing needs of New York’s LGBTQ+ community, providing programs and services that empower LGBTQ+ people to lead healthy and successful lives. We operate in-person and virtually, providing recovery and wellness programs, economic advancement initiatives, family and youth support, advocacy, arts and cultural events, and space for community organizing and connection. To learn more about The Center, visit gaycenter.org.

About Caribbean Equality Project

[Caribbean Equality Project](#) (CEP) is New York’s only Caribbean LGBTQ+ immigrant rights organization. For a decade, the grassroots organization has been serving Afro and Indo-Caribbean LGBTQ+ New Yorkers and Caribbean communities through advocacy for LGBTQ+ and immigrant rights, gender equity, racial justice, immigration, and mental health services through public education, community organizing, civic engagement, storytelling, and cultural programming to end hate violence in the Caribbean diaspora.

About The New York City Commission on Human Rights

[The NYC Commission on Human Rights](#) (NYCCHR) enforces the New York City Human Rights Law and educates the public about their rights. The New York City Human Rights Law is one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation—prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in over 25 protected categories, including sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, and more. If you have experienced or witnessed discrimination, contact NYCCHR online or call directly at (212) 416-0197.

About SALGA NYC

[SALGA NYC](#): Serving the desi queer community of New York City, offering community and safe space for all South Asian queer and trans people. We are a social and support group for queer and trans people who trace their descent from the South Asian region, as well as people of South Asian descent.

About Tarab NYC

[Tarab NYC](#) is a community organization for LGBTQ+ Middle Eastern and North African people in NYC, fostering connection, empowerment, and cultural celebration. Organizing diverse programs—including support groups, happy hours, potlucks, drag shows, and advocacy efforts—Tarab NYC creates spaces for community building and social justice. Through events and partnerships, the organization uplifts queer MENA voices and strengthens a supportive network. For more information, visit tarabnyc.org and follow @tarabnycorg on Instagram.