



In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

Islamic Council of Queensland Inc.

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Media Release

Qld Muslims say no to extremism and reclaim Islam from radicals

Queensland is a state which has not had to worry too much about religious radicals unlike other southern states and the Islamic Council of Queensland Inc (ICQ) wants to keep it that way. Working in collaboration with the Attorney-General's Community Resilience Building Program, ICQ will hold a major anti radicalisation event on **November 26** at the Islamic College of Brisbane, 45 Acacia Rd, Karawatha, from **6.30pm**.

The ICQ and the Attorney-General's Community Resilience Building Program funded program is to initiate and empower the Qld Muslim community, specially the youth, to become ambassadors of a peaceful Islam and proactively counter radical and extremist messages.

The event will be attended renowned Islamic scholars like Doctor Mohammed Abdalla of the Griffith University and Queensland's leading Islamic Scholar Maulana Uzair Buksh. The star attraction will be the IBF World feather Weight Champion Bilal Dib or Billy the Kid as he is known in the ring.

ICQ believes that the vast majority of Muslims who adhere to the peaceful religion of Islam as espoused by the Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him) need to become proactive in countering any radical message that may be propagated within the community at any level. Islamic militants and radicals hide amongst the Muslim community. While open debate has raged in the media about Islamic militancy, the Islamic community has generally shunned this debate. It is time the community had this debate and openly. Community leaders have been cautious in openly condemning militancy and extremism of any sort in Islam for fear of personal reprisals. While the wider Muslim community has erroneously hoped that the problem of radicalisation would die a natural death by not directly confronting it as an issue directly involving the Muslim community, terrorist elements have made serious inroads into the youth via web based media. This workshop (to be followed by a series of smaller workshops) hopes to change the passive resistance of the Muslim communities to one of proactive involvement and

empowerment of the youth to be able to say no to radicalisation without fear of repercussions knowing that the State and the community is behind them in fighting religious intolerance and radicalisation. While Qld has been relatively untouched by the same levels of radicalisation seen in NSW and Vic, ICQ sincerely believes that prevention is better than cure.

ICQ encourages all different Islamic cultural groups and societies to participate in the November 26 event.

The co-ordinator for the series of workshops, ICQ President, Mohammed Yusuf, said the workshops would encourage Muslims to be able to live as constructive and peaceful Australian citizens as is expected by the ethos of Islam.

“The Prophet of Islam was a mercy to mankind. His entire life was dedicated to bringing about peace amongst warring communities for the greater good,” Mr Yusuf said

“The key message ICQ wants to get out to our community, specially the youth, is that they will be fully supported in their endeavors to resist the approaches of radical groups and gangs. Our objective is to make our participants aware of how they can identify ways through which the radicalization process takes place and what they as individual law abiding Australian citizens and residents can do to say no to such processes” he said.

During the workshop ICQ will have prominent Australians, both from the Islamic community and the non-Islamic communities, to speak to participants about a range of issues, including the process of radicalization, the support available to those who may feel disenfranchised, and the need to make Australia truly a home and refuge from the atrocities around the globe.

The workshop, while primarily geared towards Muslim youth, is open for anyone wishing to attend. All interested parties are welcome to register their interest with the project officer Yunus Rashid on 0402023550 or by emailing yunusrashid@hotmail.com .

For further information please contact the Project Officer, Yunus Rashid, mob 0402023550 or email yunusrashid@hotmail.com.