

أحبب جارك المسلم

LOVE YOUR
MUSLIM
NEIGHBOR

INTERVARSITY

LOVE YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOR CAMPAIGN

AN INTERACTIVE CAMPUS STATION

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

Live out Jesus' words by loving Muslim students at a time when many feel particularly unwelcome in America.

GOALS

- Build trust and friendships between Christian and Muslim students on campus.
- Discuss how welcoming your campus is and invite students to be good neighbors to people different from them—particularly Muslims and international students.
- Christians and non-Christians alike experience the relevancy and goodness of obeying Jesus' words.

SYNOPSIS

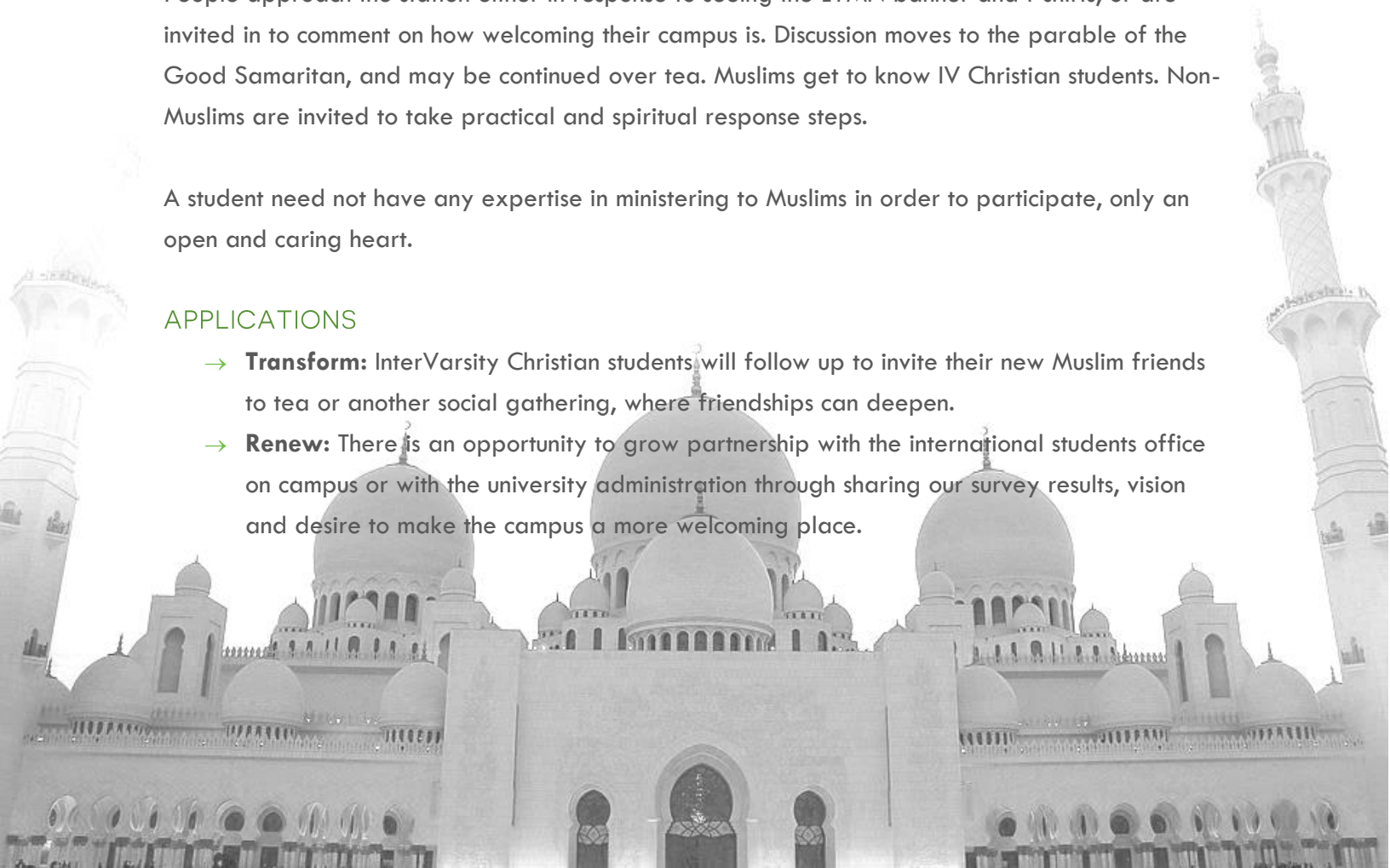
In our current political climate many Muslim students feel vulnerable. We, however, want them to experience God's welcome and our invitation into authentic spiritual friendships.

People approach the station either in response to seeing the LYMN banner and t-shirts, or are invited in to comment on how welcoming their campus is. Discussion moves to the parable of the Good Samaritan, and may be continued over tea. Muslims get to know IV Christian students. Non-Muslims are invited to take practical and spiritual response steps.

A student need not have any expertise in ministering to Muslims in order to participate, only an open and caring heart.

APPLICATIONS

- **Transform:** InterVarsity Christian students will follow up to invite their new Muslim friends to tea or another social gathering, where friendships can deepen.
- **Renew:** There is an opportunity to grow partnership with the international students office on campus or with the university administration through sharing our survey results, vision and desire to make the campus a more welcoming place.



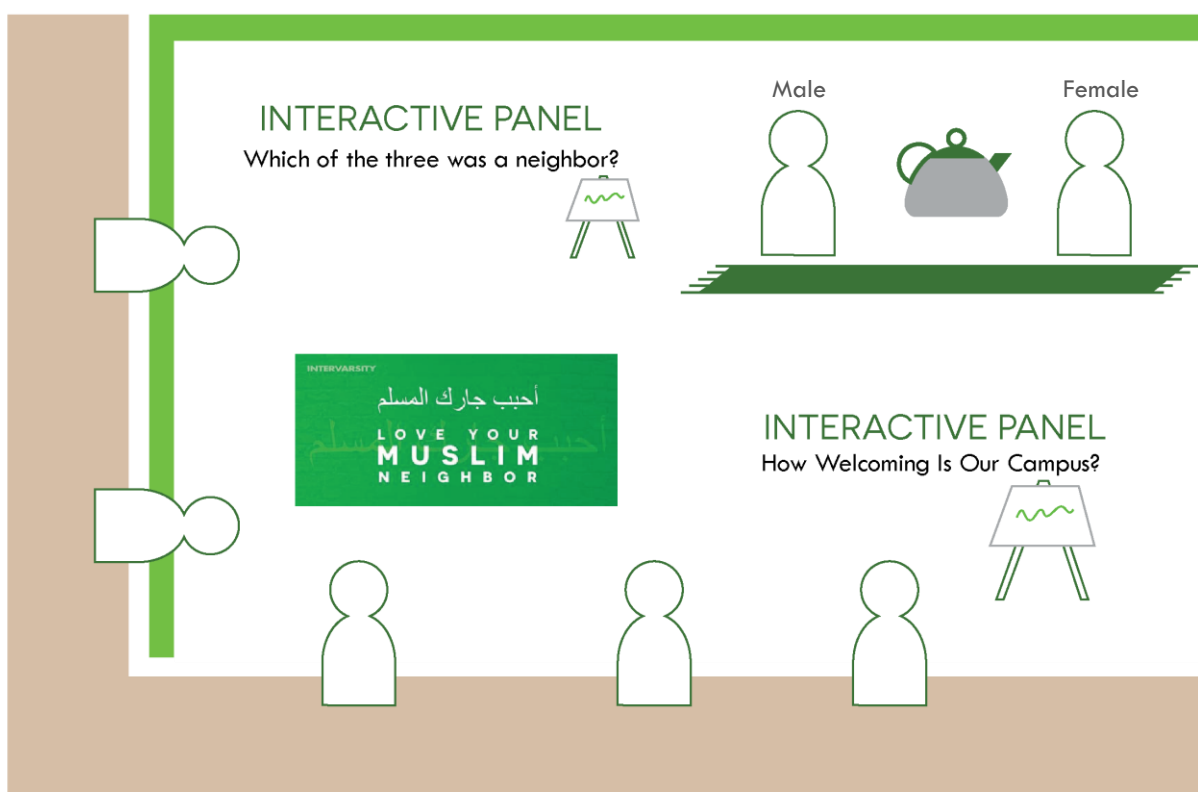
- **Change:** Consider planning a Peace Feast¹ within a couple weeks of the outreach. Even if you have few or no Muslim contacts before the outreach, you likely will afterward.

PLANNING

Read through this entire document, then refer to the Vision/Structure/People planning sheet for help as you set relevant dates², plans and deadlines. Find the VSP sheet under “Supplies.”

Get \$100/campus seed money for the LYMN campaign—contact paulforrester@intervarsity.org.

LAYOUT



¹ The Peace Feast is a flexible format event bringing Muslims and Christians together for a meal and trust-building conversation. Learn about it [here](#), and see the full webinar [here](#) (pw for both: mints). If you meet a student from the MSA/MSU, invite them to co-host the Peace Feast with InterVarsity.

² Note: Do not plan the station for Friday midday, as this is Jummah, the “Sunday morning of the Muslim world” and most Muslims will be at the mosque.

PREPARATION

SUPPLIES

All downloadable files can be found in [this zip folder](#) and are formatted for printing at FedEx.

Download the entire folder to access the files. These include:

- Love Your Muslim Neighbor Banners, horizontal or vertical
 - Or [order from the Staff Store](#) (Vertical: #73, Horizontal: #74) three weeks ahead
- “How welcoming is our campus?” display board
- Interactive “Neighbor” Response board (with space for student ideas)
- Good Samaritan story ([English](#)), ([Arabic](#)), ([Persian/Farsi](#))
 - Optionally available on a printable banner.
- Vision/Structure/People planning sheet

Other supplies:

- [LYMN t-shirts](#), to be worn by student leaders. Consider purchasing extras to sell or raffle off to people who participate in the station.
- Post-its, stickers and markers for the interactive panels
- Tea station: tea, hot water carafes, blankets/rugs/pillows on the ground
 - Serving [dates](#) is also recommended.
 - Have one male and one female student there at all times
 - Ideally set up on a rug or large blankets on the ground; welcoming and warm
- Optional: Easy-up tent, tables and chairs
- [Conversation Cheat Sheet](#)



INTERACTIVE PANELS

HOW WELCOMING IS OUR CAMPUS?

“My campus is a welcoming place for people of every culture and religion”

Very True ————— Very False

“WHICH OF THE THREE WAS A NEIGHBOR?”

“The one who treated him kindly.”

“Go and do the same.”

Space for students to write or artistically express their ideas/applications

TRAINING STUDENTS

Have a training session with your Christian students (see sample training session [here](#)):

- Discuss the goals and purpose of this outreach.
- Prepare them to interact with Muslims³ by discussing the [3x3](#) and [cultural do's and don'ts](#).
- Role play
 - the talking points for the station, and
 - how you will [follow-up](#) with people. Don't overlook the importance of practicing this, or you may end up regretting a missed student connection!
- Schedule students. Be sure to have both men and women involved.

For Planning deadline suggestions, see the [VSP Planning sheet](#).

³ Note that you will likely meet both Muslim international students and American Muslim students—though based on your campus dynamics there may be more of one group. All the content here is relevant for both.

HAVING CONVERSATIONS

A NOTE ABOUT GENDER

Muslim ministry needs to be same-gender. Do not touch a Muslim of the opposite gender, including shaking hands—unless they offer a hand to you first. The most natural way for interactions to progress is if InterVarsity students initiate with same-gender Muslim passerby from the start and stay with them through the entire station. It is ok for male student leaders to start conversations with female Muslim students and vice-versa, but if the conversation moves to the tea station you will hand off the Muslim guest to the same-gender follow-up person, staying just long enough to facilitate the connection.

POSITIONING STUDENT LEADERS

- Put most student leaders on the edge of the station to engage passerby and invite them in.
- One male and one female student leader stationed at the tea station the entire time for same-gender connections.

THE HOOK

“Is [school name] welcoming to Muslims?” or
“Is [school name] welcoming to different religions?”

INVITATION AND SURVEY

“Hi, I’m _____ with InterVarsity.
We’re surveying students on how
welcoming our campus is to people of
different cultures and religions. Would
you like to participate?”

Yes? “Great. Here’s a sticker for you. How do you rate our school?”

Have them place a sticker on the continuum:

"MY CAMPUS IS A WELCOMING PLACE FOR PEOPLE OF EVERY CULTURE AND RELIGION."
VERY TRUE ————— VERY FALSE



"Can you tell me why you placed your sticker there?"

Listen carefully so that you can reflect what you are hearing. What 1-3 words describe their reasons?

Label their sticker with 1-3 words that they use (e.g., "professors yes, students no"; "not for international students," etc.)



TRANSITION

"This exhibit came out of a sense that there is a lot of distrust of people perceived as different, particularly Muslims, in America today.



"We in InterVarsity want all students to know that they are wanted and welcome here, including Muslims since Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors. Would you like to hear a surprising story Jesus told about neighbors?"

Note that Muslims deeply respect Jesus, so when talking with them make clear that this is *his* story.

No? "OK. Thanks for talking, and have a good day!"

Yes? "Great! ...Would you join me for a cup of tea over here?"

Note: If you can tell the person is in a hurry, you can skip the tea invitation entirely and just tell the story while standing there. But *invite every Muslim to tea*. Be persistent and warm, as in some Muslim cultures it is normal to refuse an offer several times before consenting.

BRINGING IN SCRIPTURE

Invite them to read Luke 10:30-37 aloud with you from a handout

The Story of the Good Samaritan

Jesus told a story:

“There was once a man traveling through a dangerous neighborhood. On the way he was robbed and beat up, and left in the gutter. A pastor was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man. A man from another religion* traveling the road came upon him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid and bandaged his wounds. Then he lifted him into his car, drove him to a hotel, and made him comfortable. In the morning he paid the hotel extra, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill and I’ll pay you on my way back.’

“What do you think? Which of the three was a neighbor to the man who was attacked?”

“The one who treated him kindly,” his audience responded.

Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

*The original text identifies the man from another religion as “a Samaritan”. In 1st Century Palestine, Samaritans and Jews did not interact and viewed each other with deep suspicion. Their religions were similar but had some notable differences. They lived in separate communities with little overlap. Jesus and his audience, as Jews, would be expected to look down on Samaritans.

“From this story, who are our neighbors today, and how should we respond to them?”

- Neighbors today: Really, anyone who is different from you. Particularly, those who you are predisposed to dislike, be suspicious of or view as the “other”. Other religions. International students⁴.
- Responses: See them, not avoid, serve/help them, pray for them, take action on their behalf.



⁴ The [immigration ban](#) may come up in conversation.

- This challenges our natural tendency to only see people we like, or people who are like us, as our neighbors and to be good neighbors only when convenient.

“How does that compare to the atmosphere on our campus?”

- It may be helpful to refer back to the survey board.

“Can I ask your spiritual background?”

What response you invite next depends on whom you’re speaking with...



INVITING RESPONSES

RESPONSE WITH MUSLIMS

Your goal is simple: show love and start a friendship! Get to know them and listen well. Do not rush the conversation or end it prematurely. We do not recommend inviting them to large group, small group, or other IV events at this time.⁵ Instead build a personal relationship.

Here are some discussion suggestions:



“I’d love to hear more about your experience as a Muslim in America⁶, if you are willing to share.”

Listen well. If your Muslim friend shares a painful experience, offer to pray for them. Ask if you can put a hand on their shoulder (same gender).

“How can InterVarsity serve Muslim students on campus in this volatile time?”

If you are planning a Peace Feast:

“We’re planning a meal where Muslims and Christians come together to listen to and get to know each other. Would you be interested in coming? We’d be happy to have you invite other Muslims.”

The Peace Feast is ideally planned by Muslims and Christians together. If your friend is interested and connected to a community, consider this!

Conclude with...

“Would you like to meet again?”

Swap numbers or Facebook info. *Message them within an hour* to say that you enjoyed talking and invite them to meet again *in a day or two*. Welcome them to bring a friend along, and you can do

⁵ Welcoming, showing love, and listening break down misconceptions and represent Christ well. If the conversation is warm and open, you could [share more quotes and stories from Jesus](#). Spiritual conversations build trust with Muslims, so don’t shy away from them. If they are curious about your faith, ask if they’ve ever read the Bible and would like to...then start a GIG.

⁶ Be careful not to ask “Where are you from?” or a question about immigrating unless you are certain they were not born in the US.

the same. At that meeting, keep getting to know them. Share another Jesus story, and if they are curious invite them to a GIG.

RESPONSE WITH NON-MUSLIMS

Practical response options

Based on your context you can use some of these ideas or create your own:

- **Response board:** “We’re inviting students on our campus to respond by being good neighbors to people different from us. Would you like to participate by writing an idea on the board?”
- **Meet international students:** If the conversation has touched on international students... “Did you know that only 1 in 10 international students are ever invited into an American’s home? Have you met any international students on our campus? How could you help them feel welcomed?”
- **English conversation help:** Since many Muslims on campus are internationals and need English help, if your campus offers a program where volunteers practice English with internationals, give them information about the program.
- **Respond to the immigration ban.** If the conversation has touched on the executive order immigration ban, or you know any affected Muslim students from your campus, you could invite them to sign a petition or take another action (see the [InterVarsity toolkit](#)).



Spiritual response options

Depending on the person's spiritual interest you could:

- **Share the 4 Circles gospel diagram**—potential explanation: In Jesus, God showed himself the ultimate neighbor—He came to us and served us in our sin and brokenness, and invites us to move from “other” into his family, then extend his welcome to others through service and action.
- **Invite them to a GIG or small group.**
- **Invite them to a special large group** focused on the Good Samaritan, like [this sample](#).

Thank you for taking part in the LYMN campaign!

We welcome your feedback on the project, and look forward to your stories of God's work.

