**Queer Muslims In Australia Network- Revised**

**Names Suggested:**

* Queer Australian Leadership Block (QALB): QALB-E-MUSLIM
* Ihsas- For Same-sex & Gender Diverse Muslims In Australia
* LUT- Living Under Taboos – Support Group for LGBTQIA+ Muslim

**Values elaborated:**

* *Accountability:* Obligation or willingness to accept responsibility.
* *Compassion & Empathy:* Compassion is Deep awareness of the suffering of others coupled with the wish to relieve it. Empathy is identification with and understanding of another’s situation, feelings and motives.
* *Collaboration:* To work cooperatively especially in a joint intellectual effort.
* *Courage:* The state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger, fear or challenges with confidence and resolution.
* *Diversity:* A point of respect in which things differ; variety.
* *Justice:* Conformity to moral rightness in action or attitude.
* *Reconciliation:* Jointly working through divergent ideas or positions so all involved can work together.
* *Resilience:* The ability to rebound quickly from misfortune or change.
* *Respect & Tolerance:* Respect is showing due deference to the innate dignity and value of others and Tolerance is recognizing and respecting the beliefs or practices of others.

Source: <https://www.ethics.org/resources/free-toolkit/definition-values/>

**General Principles:**

1. This group is for Muslim LGBT+, their Muslim allies and Muslim parents & family who have LGBT+ family members. Should anyone not identify as Muslim or LGBT+ or a Muslim family/friend of a LGBT+ Muslim, they cannot be part of this space.
2. This group observes and celebrates all the LGBT+ days of significance, as well as days of significance to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities, multicultural festivities and other humanitarian causes relevant to the rights of Muslim LGBT+. It is important to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land at the start of the events and meetings.
3. This group is **not** to be used as a dating, relationship and matrimonial service. This is a friendship network and professional resource platform regarding Muslim LGBT+ issues. Should a relationship form within group members, please keep the intimate behaviour outside the group space.
4. This group has ZERO Tolerance for hate speech towards Muslims and/or LGBT+ persons of Muslim backgrounds. This principle applies to allies as well so that they are mindful of Islamophobia and stereotyping of Muslims which could hurt the sentiments of the members of the groups.
5. Please dress appropriately in the group. Open nudity is not allowed in this space.
6. This group does not have an individual leader or a board thus everything is decided collectively and democratically by members.
7. New members must be given a copy of Vision, Mission and Values statements, as well as Code of Conduct upon joining. Furthermore, their feedback is valued to upgrade any changes. There is NO membership fee.
8. Online Survey is to be completed upon joining the group as part of record keeping and the data will be kept confidential by the person reviewing the survey. The survey includes things like emergency contact, so group members know whom to call in case of an emergency or incident.

**Islamic Principles:**

1. It is not encouraged to have theological debates on Islam especially if group members lack Arabic language skills, degree or qualification in Islamic studies and theology. This is a support group for Muslim LGBT+ rather than an invitation to debate Islam. Should you be interested in learning about Islam, we can refer you to an Imam, give access to Islamic literature and websites.
2. This group observes all 5 basic Islamic obligations such as:

A: Shahada- Belief in Allah (One monotheistic God) & his Prophets & the 4 Holly Books (Torah, Psalm, Bible & Quran).

B: Salaat- The mandatory prayer performed by Muslims.

C: Saum- Fasting during the month of Ramadan and celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr & Eid-ul-Adha. Just be mindful that Muslim women, intersex and transgenders are not obliged to pray or fast during their periods.

D: Hajj- Respect is given to Islamic Holy Sites recognising Pilgrimage to Mecca as a duty to Muslim should they be able to afford it. Respect is also given to holy sites of other Islamic caliphs, sahabas, saints and scholars.

E: Zakat- Charity (done in various forms, not just monetarily) and Community Service participation is encouraged in the group, whether individually or collectively.

1. We encourage donations such as Quran, prayer mats, tasbih, prayer caps, hijab (headscarf), White Shroud (Kaffan for burial services) and Islamic books regarding social justice no matter which school of thought.
2. Only Halal or Kosher or Vegetarian food is to be served for the members of this group. No alcohol or drugs are served in this space.
3. Group members have the right to withdraw meetings/ panel discussions if the timing clashes with their prayer timings, cultural and/or religious days of observance. We encourage LGBT+ community to be mindful of interfaith LGBT+ religious obligations.
4. Female members of the group have the right to ask/access a separate space if uncomfortable with male members of the group.
5. Prayer rooms and water access in the toilet is to be provided for the members to perform ablution and prayer.
6. We welcome non-Muslim LGBT+ to observe our religious practices and learn about the diversity within Islam represented harmoniously.