*Who are American Muslims?*

I think the biggest misconception is that in order for you to be a good Muslim, you have to be a bad American. And in order for you to be a good American, you have to be a good Muslim. Yet, we don’t have that.

American Muslims represent the entire Muslim world in different proportions. But everybody’s here. What they share the most, is not necessarily being Muslim. Because in the practice of Islam, they have a lot of diversities. Their overarching identity, their most common denominator is being an American.

I’m an American Muslim (3x)

We often take part in American society. Business people, politicians, teachers.

I’m an activist.

I’m a U.S. Congressman.

I’m a fencer.

Muhammad Ali, the greatest American athlete of the 20th century, is a Muslim.

American Muslims contribute not just to sports but also music.

I’m a performing artist.

I’m a high school student.

I’m a doctor.

I’m an actress.

I’m a Boy Scout leader and an American Muslim.

Being an American Muslim, is being a mom, being someone who serves our community.

Being an American Muslim is a blessing and a challenge at the same time.

There is a lack of understanding of what Islam is, that gives us both a greater responsibility and a greater opportunity to make our contribution.

The American Muslims represent entire ethnic, linguistic, cultural, socio-economic communities. I think only in Kaba and only in the United States do you find that kind of Muslim diversity.

I am an American Muslim (2x).

American receives immigrants from all over the world. Historically, America is an immigrant country.

My parent are from the former Yugoslavia. They weren’t allowed to practice their Islam and they had no educational or economic opportunity. They flew to the United States so that my sister and I would have a chance at a better life.

I came here when I was about 12 years old directly from Somalia. I learned English and I eventually went to law school. I think Muslim Americans definitely have the same opportunities as non-Muslims.

I was born in Mexico City and raised as a Catholic.

There is a renaissance of Islam in America. You’re able to see these burgeoning communities of new Muslims.

There’s a great interest of the Spanish speaking population on (in) Islam. So we teach Islam in Spanish.

Part of the Muslim contribution in America is to create a wider sense of what America is in terms of who is a citizen and who is a participant.

What is so amazing I think about being an American is the freedom to practice your religion.

America is a nation with the soul of a church and a synagogue and a mosque and a Buddhist sangha and a Hindu temple.

There are mosques everywhere. You can start one wherever you want. The First Amendment guarantees our right to freely practice our religion.

The University of Colorado at Boulder has given the Muslim Student Association an office where Muslim students can come and pray. And we had to apply for that like any other student organization but just having that opportunity in place really helped us accommodate the Muslims on campus.

The American Muslim community has flourished here in the United States and there are many challenges that come with being an American Muslim in this day and age but that has not stopped us from taking full access of the opportunities that are available here.

It makes me proud that we can participate in the progress of this nation. America, invites its citizens to write the next chapter in its journey. I am as much a participant as somebody whose great-great grandparents were on the Mayflower.