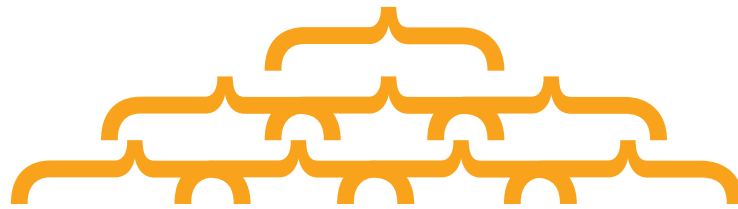


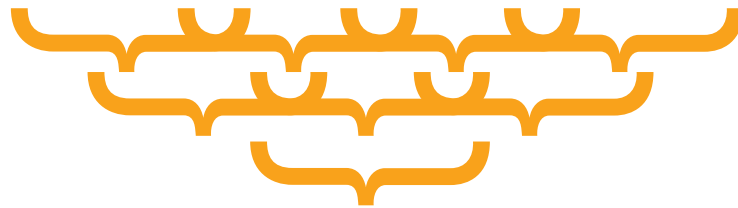


NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY




Keeping the Faith

What 400 converts want to tell YOU!



www.newmuslimacademy.org



The New Muslim Academy surveyed over 400 converts to Islam across the globe, asking for their personal advice to newly converted Muslims. Those surveyed presented these 10 invaluable insights into helping guide new converts on their journey:



1



**BREAKING
THE NEWS**

This is an especially sensitive task for new Muslims, considering they do not know how their families may react to the news. Accepting Islam – which is often at odds with your family’s religious and personal beliefs – can make the news a bitter

pill to swallow for them. Therefore, 60% of those surveyed advised gradually informing your family members about your conversion. A few recommended breaking the news over dinner or inviting them to an Islamic event.

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RECONCILING DIFFERENCES

Non-Muslim family members may continuously try to enter into debates with you over your choice of religion. 60% of those surveyed say that it is better for you to explain yourself

without disrespecting or attempting to debunk the other party. A few counsel that you should either connect them to an Imam/teacher or try to avoid these arguments entirely.

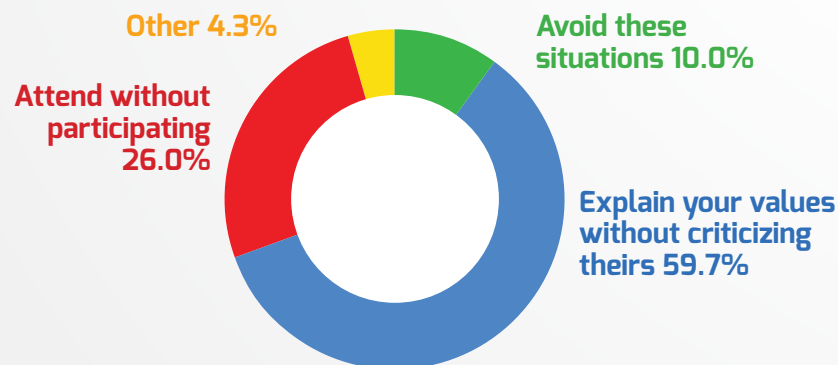
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BRIDGING THE GAP

It is important for new Muslims to show that they have not lost their identities by adopting Islamic values, especially to their families. Finding a balance can be difficult since you may not be able to participate in

some of the events that you used to before your conversion. These issues will continuously arise, and those surveyed urge you to be confident when explaining your values, but refrain from criticizing the values of your family.

How would you propose a new Muslim approach family events of conflicting values (i.e., celebrating Christmas)?





THE NEW MUSLIM COLLEAGUE

With a new set of practices like prayers, fasting, and wearing hijab or growing a beard, it may be difficult for new Muslims to keep their conversion “private.”

Over 60% of those surveyed encourage you to inform your co-workers through friendly conversation. Up to 20% say it is best to speak to your boss first or try another approach.



DESTINATION: PARADISE

The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, “Whoever treads a path in search of Knowledge, Allah will ease the way to Paradise for him.” The path of acquiring knowledge in Islam is a life-long journey. It is truly a noble endeavor

that paves the way to Paradise. Converts advise new Muslims to begin their studies through reading Islamic books. They also recommend attending Islamic events and enrolling in online studies.

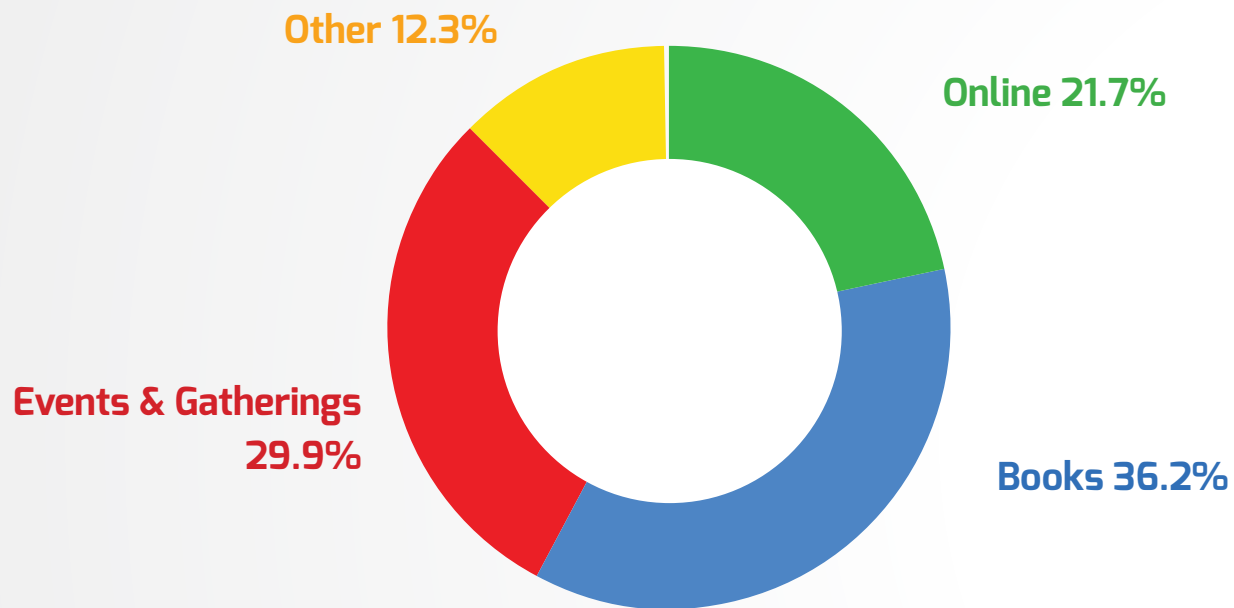


THE STARTING POINT

Having a good starting point may help new Muslims avoid confusion while on the path of gaining sacred knowledge. Those surveyed highly recommend that you begin with a general

understanding of the major practices and prohibitions of Islam. Some suggest learning commonly used Islamic terms and phrases and only a few recommend a broad understanding of the main schools of theory.

Where would you suggest new Muslims begin their religious education?



7

TAKING THE
BEST
ROUTE

Treading the path of knowledge means learning and understanding the ins and outs of Islam in order to follow the beneficial avenues of knowledge and avoid the unfavorable ones.

In order to do so, over 55% of those surveyed advise new Muslims to first find a reliable source of learning, followed by seeking a mentor or a supportive community.

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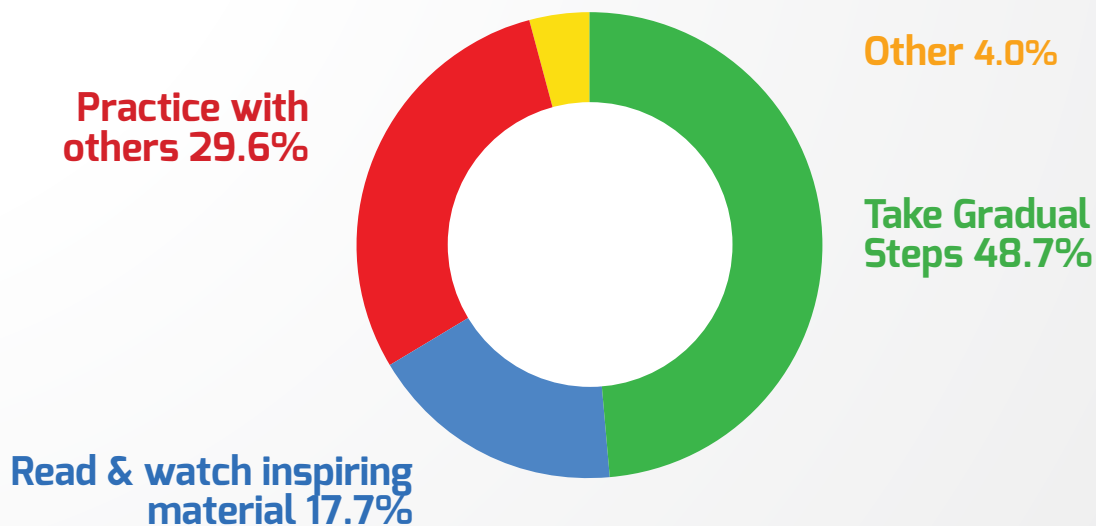
SLOW DOWN!

Immersed in an abundance of knowledge and the desire to implement it can be an overwhelming and sometimes confusing experience. By taking on too much too soon, new converts may find it challenging to keep up with prayers, fasting and other obligatory Islamic practices. This is why nearly 50% of those surveyed urge

you to take gradual steps, reminding you that you “don’t have to do everything in a day, week or month’s time.”

Others suggest a “Muslim buddy system” where participants can keep in touch and check up on each other, offering continued support. Others proposed perpetual reading and watching inspiring material.

What tip would you give a new Muslim in keeping up with prayers, fasting and Islamic practices?



9



ROADBLOCKS AND OPEN ROADS

It's natural for new Muslims to have questions and concerns about the knowledge they are acquiring and implementing. Mosques provide a common ground where Muslim leaders, groups, classes and peers meet.

Over 50% of the surveyed encourage and direct new Muslims to their local mosques for guidance with their religious concerns; 25% suggested turning to Muslim peers; and 13% preferred seeking online resources.

10



CROSSING BORDERS: "ASSALAMU ALAIKUM!"

Oftentimes the newly converted Muslim finds him/herself entering a foreign community complete with its own language, cultures and unique dynamics. In an effort to integrate into the Muslim community, 70% of those surveyed advise new Muslims to

regularly attend Islamic events and gatherings. 20% of the surveyed advised offering your volunteer services to local Islamic programs in order to better acquaint yourself with the community while also developing your own confidence and skills.

A convert's journey is paved with many tests. It is also marked by many blessings. For the convert, answering the call of Allah by way of embracing and practicing Islam is the path that is the most worthy of being tread.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "When Allah loves a servant, He tests him." (Tirmidhi)

In the Qur'an Allah (S.W.T) says, "Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear . " (2:286).

Therein, fellow converts advise their new Muslim brothers and sisters to "keep the faith, be patient and remain grateful to Allah, as He bestowed His mercy upon you and has chosen you to be guided on the right path." So, "never give up" and "keep gaining knowledge, it will give you strength."



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