

MARIA CANTWELL

WASHINGTON



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 21, 2023

Dear friends of the Muslim American community,

Salaam Alaikum, and Eid Mubarak to all Washingtonians and Muslim Americans who are celebrating another end to the Holy Month of Ramadan with their families, friends, and communities. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Islamic Relief USA for continuing to partner with local organizations to provide humanitarian relief to our underserved communities.

This Ramadan has been a joyous month filled with self-betterment and reflection, fasting to encourage self-discipline and devotion, praying five times a day, making Zakat, and, if one is able, to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. These are the five pillars of Islam, and they represent a spiritual testament that one can't help but have the utmost respect and admiration for. However, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and condemn the disturbing rise in anti-Muslim sentiments and attacks recently across the globe – from attacking worshippers in mosques and defacing holy sites, to restricting religious access to holy sites and harassing Muslims in and around their place of worship. The consequences of letting Islamophobia go unchecked can result in physical and emotional harm to our Muslim communities around the globe and further sew divisions at a time when we need each other most.

But even in the face of hardship and uncertainty, Muslim Americans and Muslims around the world have shown resilience by continuing to exude the spirit of Ramadan. No matter the obstacles, our Muslim brothers and sisters continue to give thanks for the good in life, make Zakat by donating to organizations that help our most vulnerable, and bring our communities together during Iftar so everyone can pray and break their fast together as one.

I am especially grateful to Islamic Relief USA for its work in providing relief to our most vulnerable and hardest hit communities domestically and abroad. Islamic Relief USA has over 3,200 active supporters in Washington state, including organizations such as Muslim Housing Services in Seattle, Washington. In 2022, Muslim Housing Services helped provide homeless prevention assistance to 820 people, housed 1,148 people across the greater Seattle area, and gave financial assistance to a total of 1,968 people.

Shukran jazeelan to Islamic Relief USA for your years of impactful work in anti-poverty and humanitarian contributions that help reinforce our community's sense of belonging, unity, and security. Eid Mubarak to all who are celebrating, and inshallah I wish you all a blessed and happy end to the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" being the most prominent part.

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator