

## **2019 MAS/ICNA Chicago Convention** **Theme Description**

### **"Islam: Meeting Today's Challenges & Investing in a Better Future"**

#### **The Message:**

The 2019 MAS/ICNA Convention will address the most important, imminent challenges the American Muslim community is facing and will focus on how to secure a better future for generations to come.

#### **The Reference Ayah:**

“إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ ۗ سُوْرَةُ الرَّعْدِ”

[Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. ] (Ar-Ra'd 13:11)

#### **Theme Description:**

- The American Muslim community faces a myriad of daunting challenges. These challenges however bring about opportunities that can be realized through proactive actions taken by the Muslim community. Therefore, we will focus this year's convention on meeting these challenges and investing in our future.
- Amongst the many internal challenges, perhaps the greatest challenge is integrating younger Muslims into the Muslim community. According to a Pew Research Center article, nearly 30% of those raised Muslim have left Islam, with a significant number of those Muslims being amongst the youth. We cannot invest in a better future if we do not meet and address this challenge.
- Perhaps the most eminent external challenge the American Muslim community faces is the impending 2020 presidential election—Our communities must rally to influence this election and reduce the harm that would come from another four years of Islamophobia, xenophobia, and bigotry.
  - The American Muslim community must own its decision and take responsibility for its future. This will only be accomplished by proposing and implementing an action plan that will help Muslim communities and organizations:
    - Meet these challenges by leveraging the skills and resources of its individuals.
    - Impact the 2020 presidential elections
    - Empower the American Muslim community in the socio-political arena.
- We need to drive the community on a path toward positive change
- We need to continue providing the community with insight on the future of the American Muslim community with a tangible vision of the near and distant future. It is the duty of the community leadership to continue to overcome and eliminate challenges and utilize opportunities so that we may continue to meet today's challenges and build our future.

- **Investing in a Better Future** means:
  - Our efforts are everlasting, not temporary or transient.
  - Our resources utilized are the investments that will not go to waste.
- **Adopting the Islamic Approach:** Building on the message of the 2018 MAS/ICNA Convention (*Quran: The Light to the World*), the Quran lit up our way ahead. Through the Quran and its complementary source, the Sunnah, Islam will help us with the following:
  - (1) *Directing and guiding our life pursuits:* By understanding our life purpose, rethinking our priorities & life goals, maturing our decision making, developing our skills, evaluating our actions, fixing our mistakes & redefining our direction. Allah said in the Quran

قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ نُورٌ وَكِتَابٌ مُبِينٌ ﴿١٥﴾ يَهْدِي بِهِ اللَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ وَيُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿١٦﴾ [سورة المائدة]

[There has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book. By which Allah guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darkneses into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path.] (Al-Maidah (5:15-16)

- (2) *Effecting a positive changing in our surroundings:* Our tools for change must be as noble & Islamic as our objectives.

[وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكًا أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُ " ..... سورة مريم"]

[And He has made me blessed wherever I am ] (Mariam, 19:31)

- (3) *Facing & overcoming the challenges:* Standing for justice while maintaining our faith will lead to positive change

, يَا بُنَيَّ أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَكَ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ ﴿١٧﴾ سورة لقمان

[O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you. Indeed, [all] that is of the matters [requiring] determination.] (Loqman 31:17)

- (4) *Investing in a Better Future:* As the Prophet advised Saad Ibn Abi-Waqqas

(لأن تترك ورثتك أغنياً خيرٌ لك من أن تتركهم عالة يتكففون الناس)

(To leave your heirs rich is better than to leave them poor, begging from people).

The Prophet (pbuh) advised us to secure a better future regardless of the extent of the expected benefit saying:

إِنْ قَامَتْ عَلَىٰ أَحَدِكُمْ الْقِيَامَةُ وَفِي يَدِهِ فَسْلَةٌ فَلْيَغْرِسْهَا

The logo for MAS CON 2019, featuring the text 'MAS CON 2019' in white on a dark red square background.

# MAS-ICNA CONVENTION 2019

McCormick Place Convention Center | Chicago, Illinois

Knowledge Retreat **DEC 25-26** | Convention **DEC 27-29** | Departure **DEC 30**

(If the Resurrection were established upon one of you while he has in his hand a sapling, then let him plant it.)

- **To Cover the Concept of the Positive Change:** We need to cover the following aspects related to the process of change;
  - (1) Its central and important position in Islam,
  - (2) Its meaning- it must be positive change or development and not just any change.
  - (3) Its areas, domains, and recipients
  - (4) Its methodology & tools
  - (5) Its obstacles/challenges & how to overcome them.