## بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم Islamic Cultural Community Center Masjid Al-Huda & Masjid Al-Tawba

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2020

We are deeply saddened by the recent allegations of sexual abuse in the Muslim community in Minnesota in sacred places where innocent and vulnerable children come to learn about their religion. We join our voices with all those who are mindful of Allah in condemning these heinous acts that transgress against Allah and humanity.

To fulfill our duties to Allah and our community, we commit to not only condemn sexual abuse and exploitation, but also to implement all necessary steps to ensure the safety for our attendees and service users. In response to this crisis, the following policies are effective immediately at all ICCC facilities:

- Develop a detailed sexual abuse and misconduct prevention policy.
- All staff, contractors, or individuals volunteering at ICCC facilities shall be required to undergo screening procedures such as background checks, among others.
- All staff, contractors, or individuals volunteering at ICCC facilities shall be informed about the ICCC sexual abuse and misconduct prevention policy and shall acknowledge to abide by it.
- Cameras shall be placed throughout the building to monitor when children or vulnerable adults are in the building.
- At least one independent staff member shall be present at all times when children are in the building to supervise interactions and to avoid unattended one-on-one interactions between adults and children.
- All staff and volunteers shall be trained in mandated reporting.
- Should there be an accusation of any form of sexual abuse, there shall be no internal investigation. Instead, as mandated reporters, we are obligated by law to report the reported matter to the appropriate responsible authorities who are authorized and trained in such investigation.
- During the investigation, accused staff/volunteer shall be (1) relieved from their duties at the Masjid and the organization and (2) suspended from attending the Masjid until the results of the investigation are known.

We will not tolerate sexual abuse or behavioral misconduct in our Mosques and during all our organization activities. Sexual abuse is a criminal act and forbidden in Islam; we will deal with it swiftly and justly. We are committed to a secure a safe environment in our Mosques so that each individual can enjoy a healthy environment and development. We are also committed to provide support to victims of sexual abuse to regain their honor, dignity, and wholeness.

Board of Directors Islamic Cultural Community Center (ICCC) Masjid Al-Huda and Masjid Al-Tawba