

Mercy Dawah Centre, Calgary, AB, Canada

Code of Conduct and Policies

Note: these codes of conduct and policies are in effect immediately and are binding upon all volunteers, members, affiliates, directors, or anyone associated with the organization, whether directly or indirectly.

Update as of January 2024.

Non-Sectarian Organization

1. Mercy Dawah Centre is a non-sectarian Dawah organization. This means that the organization does not strictly adhere to any single school of thought (Madhhab or Manhaj). Mercy Dawah Centre not only accepts but welcomes brothers and sisters from all Sunni schools of thought and traditions, that adhere to the teachings of the Quran and the sunnah of the Prophet Mohammad (SAW) as well as the practice of the Prophet's companions. This includes but not limited to, the Hanafi, Shafii, Hanbali, Maliki Schools, as well as those from Salafi tradition.

2. Mercy Dawah Centre acknowledges legitimate differences of opinion in the religion and sees them as a source of Divine Mercy for Muslims.

3. Mercy Dawah Centre prohibits any one of its volunteers, members, directors, affiliates, or any person associated in any way with the organization to disrespect, shun, make inferior, or otherwise mock any legitimate opinion of the 4 schools of thought or other reputable scholars, whether contemporary or traditional.

4. Mercy Dawah Centre does not accept, nor tolerate fringe and/or minority opinions that go against the Quran and Sunnah; specifically, those pertaining to the obligatory nature of the Hijab, the LGBTQ+ community, and music. Mercy Dawah Centre, specifically, does not promote nor accept the following opinions:

- a. Music is permissible
- b. The Hijab is not obligatory
- c. Homosexual relationships are permissible under Islamic law
- d. Heterosexual relationships outside of marriage are permissible under Islamic law

Brothers' Policy

1. Mercy Dawah Centre welcomes and encourages brothers from all backgrounds to give Dawah.

2. Mercy Dawah Centre acknowledges that "Dawah" is a diverse term that does not only

include street dawah, but also encompasses online dawah, informal dawah (i.e. dawah through acquaintance, such as at work or school), and other ways to share the beautiful religion of Islam.

3. Mercy Dawah Centre acknowledges that Dawah done by both men and women must always be performed in a way that is based on the Quran and Sunnah, is pleasing to Allah, and minimizes “Fitnah.”

4. When giving Dawah, the following guidelines must be adhered to by all members:

a. Men should avoid unnecessarily initiating, engaging and/or continuing conversation with women/sisters when sisters are available and present.

b. Men are strongly encouraged to initiate and continue conversations with other men/brothers.

c. When there is a need to exchange contact information with a female/sister following a discussion, men may provide the contact information of a female team member (with their permission). Brothers may take a female’s contact information, however, that contact information should be immediately forwarded to a female team member who will continue the conversation with the sister.

5. In cases where a male/brother engages in a conversation with the opposite gender for legitimate reasons (as determined by this policy, the Quran, and Sunnah, with the latter two taking precedence over the former), the following standards must be upheld (**note: the following standards also apply equally to sisters who give Dawah to brothers**):

a. The conversation must never take place in isolation (i.e. Khalwa)

b. The brother must be dressed in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah

c. The conversation must be professional, direct, and to the point

d. The conversation must be respectful

e. The conversation must never be “overly friendly” or “flirtatious”

f. Appropriate distance should be maintained

g. The brother should try their best to display the islamic concept of “Haya” (Modesty)

h. There must be no physical touching of any kind, including handshakes and hugs

Sisters’ Policy

1. Mercy Dawah Centre strongly values the participation of sisters from all backgrounds in their Dawah activities.

2. Mercy Dawah Centre acknowledges and understands that sisters are an integral part of Dawah in Canada.

3. Mercy Dawah Centre acknowledges that sisters can engage in multiple forms of Dawah, including, but not limited to, street dawah, online dawah, and informal dawah (i.e. dawah through acquaintance, such as at work or school).

4. Mercy Dawah Centre acknowledges that Dawah done by both men and women must always be performed in a way that is based on the Quran and Sunnah, is pleasing to Allah, and minimizes “Fitnah.”

6. When giving Dawah, the following guidelines must be adhered to by all sisters:

a. Sisters should avoid unnecessarily initiating, engaging and/or continuing conversation with men/brothers when brothers are available and present.

b. Sisters are strongly encouraged to initiate and continue conversations with sisters.

c. Sisters must not exchange personal contact information with men/brothers. When wishing to follow up or share resources with men/brothers, they may take a man’s contact information and forward it to a male team member who will continue the dialogue, but sisters can never hand out their own contact information.

7. In cases where a sister does end up speaking to a male/brother for legitimate reasons (as determined by this policy, the Quran, and Sunnah, with the latter two taking precedence over the former), the following standards must be upheld (**note: the following standards also apply equally to brothers who give Dawah to sisters**):

a. The conversation must never take place in isolation (i.e. Khalwa)

b. The sister must be dressed in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah

c. The conversation must be professional, direct, and to the point

d. The conversation must be respectful

e. The conversation must never be “overly friendly” or “flirtatious”

f. Appropriate distance should be maintained

g. Sisters must try their best to display the islamic concept of “Haya” (Modesty)

h. There must be no physical touching of any kind, including handshakes and hugs

Anti-Extremism & Anti-Terrorism Policy

1. Mercy Dawah Centre believes in and promotes the peaceful propagation of the religion of Islam.

2. In line with the following verse of the Quran, Mercy Dawah Centre prohibits its volunteers, members, affiliates, directors, or anyone associated with the organization, whether directly or indirectly to force anyone to accept the religion of Islam:

- a. "There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong" [Quran, 2: 256].
3. Mercy Dawah Centre prohibits its volunteers, members, affiliates, directors, or anyone associated with the organization, whether directly or indirectly to use any kind of physical violence, coercion, and or threat as means of getting one or more people to enter Islam.
 4. Mercy Dawah Centre believes in informed consent and free will when it comes to people choosing to enter Islam.
 5. Mercy Dawah Centre believes that Islam was and is a balanced religion, from the onset of its revelation until today, and thus, does not require modification and/or a change of any kind.
 6. Mercy Dawah Centre prohibits the preaching of unjust violence. It also prohibits the preaching of injustice, and hatred towards any individual or group, regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation/gender identity, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.
 7. Mercy Dawah Centre requires all its volunteers, members, affiliates, directors, or anyone associated with the organization, whether directly or indirectly to establish and maintain a correct understanding of the religion based on the Quran, authentic Sunnah, and the majority and/or consensus of accepted scholars. Mercy Dawah Centre acknowledges and accepts that in some, but not all, cases, certain opinions may be legitimate despite being minority opinions.
 8. Mercy Dawah Centre prohibits its volunteers, members, affiliates, directors, or anyone associated with the organization, whether directly or indirectly to formulate their own understanding of the religion that is based on misunderstood or mis contextualized verses and or Ahadith. Mercy Dawah Centre promotes the acquisition of knowledge through qualified teachers as opposed to self-study.