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NEW YORK CITY HOLDS 4TH ANNUAL IFTAR IN THE CITY

Tomorrow's sundown meal will commemorate Ramadan and celebrate the strength of NYC's Muslim community and the diversity of immigrants living in the city.

NEW YORK—The de Blasio Administration—led by the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Mayor's Center for Faith and Community Partnerships, the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, and Thrive NYC—is hosting the 4th annual "Iftar in the City" in the Bronx. The event will host over 700 community members of all faiths to celebrate Ramadan with a fast-breaking meal at sundown. A speaking program will begin at 7pm with First Lady Chirlane McCray followed by agency commissioners, activists, and community members.

The Iftar in the City is a welcome tradition for Muslim New Yorkers to openly celebrate their faith and for people of all faith traditions to come together in solidarity and community strength. This year's theme, "Building Community Power," is recognition of both the resilience of Muslim New Yorkers and the need for continued strength at a time of heightened anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric, including from the federal government. Attendees are expected from Sunni, Shia, secular and observant Muslims, as well as people from every faith and walk of life.

"Tonight's iftar is an act of resilience and resistance, and represents what Ramadan is all about: hope, strength, connection and healing," said **First Lady Chirlane McCray**. "As we continue to see acts of hatred and violence in communities around the world, New York City is proud to stand with Muslim New Yorkers – today, tomorrow and always."

"At a time when Muslim communities face an increased amount of discrimination and anti-Muslim rhetoric, the Iftar in the City offers a place where our vibrant NYC community can come together and honor our strength in diversity," said **Carmelyn P. Malalis, Commissioner and Chair of the NYC Commission on Human Rights**. "Now is the time that we double down on recognizing and celebrating the people who build, maintain, and nurture our city."

"We are proud to join our Muslim New Yorkers in celebrating Ramadan together, by breaking fast right on City streets," said **Bitta Mostofi, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs**. "The diversity of our Muslim communities, including those who call the Bronx home, is part of what makes New York City so great. I look forward to sharing in this incredible celebration and committing to stand alongside my Muslim sisters and brothers in the year ahead."

Reports of bias incidents increased 480% after the 2016 election, and a recent survey by the Commission on Human Rights found that Muslims, Arabs, Jews, South Asians, and Sikh communities were often the target of discrimination but less than 30% of people reported it. The Commission launched a bias response unit to swiftly respond to incidents of bias and hate and reach out to communities affected, partnered with community organizations such as the Arab American Association of New York to teach de-escalation and self-defense skills and developed a training for city agencies and schools entitled “Understanding Muslim Experiences and Combating Anti-Muslim Bias”

The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs originally created Iftar in the City, with the Commission on Human Rights and the Community Affairs Unit as vital partners, as part of its work to empower all immigrant communities in NYC. Following the announcement of the first travel ban, MOIA has been on the front lines in responding to discriminatory federal policies. From rapid-response work at JFK airport, to organizing with community leaders at bodegas and mosques, and informing New Yorkers about the travel ban’s latest developments. Throughout these efforts, connecting people with mental health services through Thrive NYC has been critical for communities grappling with trauma and toxic stress. In these efforts, Iftar in the City is a time for empowering Muslim New Yorkers to live their faith proudly on our city streets.

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