

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR MUSLIM ADOLESCENTS: HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?"

<https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fdev0000856>  
For more information: <https://ccadlab.umbc.edu/research/project-image/>

Civic engagement is important for the positive adjustment of Muslim American adolescents, as it amplifies their voices when they encounter social injustices and promotes self-empowerment. However, Muslim American adolescents' civic participation may be undermined by rapidly rising levels of Islamophobia, hate crimes, and surveillance.



**Civic engagement** Is an indicator of positive youth development and refers to attitudes and behaviors that aim to improve conditions in society and contribute to the greater good. For example, adolescents can be civically engaged by volunteering their time, donating to charity and expressing their political opinions.

**Mothers' religious socialization** practices can help adolescents feel that the Islam is more central in their daily lives and feel more positive about belonging to the Muslim group. These positive feelings help adolescents internalize Islam's positive messages and contribute to their broader community.

- 1** Civic engagement is critical for Muslim adolescents as it contributes to self-esteem, self-efficacy, psychological well-being, and academic achievement.
- 2** Parents play an important role in supporting their children's civic engagement.



Religious socialization and the tenets of Islam can be means of self-empowerment for Muslim American youth and thus contribute to the greater good.

## What Can Parents Do?



**Discuss the** history and core values of Islam to children.



**Encourage open** discussions about activism and their civil rights as a Muslim in America.



**Provide a safe** environment where youth feel respected, valued, and encouraged to learn, internalize, and practice societal norms, such as compassion and social responsibility.



**Facilitate** activities such as voting, engaging in leadership activities in their communities, and being politically active.



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT !