



The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)

Imams Code of Honor

Adopted Date: 18th of March 2018



Introduction

{وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا}

It is stated in the Quran (Book of Allah) and further clarified from the Sunnah of his Prophet Muhammed (SAW), peace and blessings be upon him:

- a) the importance of the unity of the Ummah;
- b) the condemnation of disunity, and shows that disputing and retaliating with harm is against the core values of Islam,
- c) the status of the Scholars and Imams in Islam and them being the heirs of the Prophets and the best role models of the Muslim Ummah.

Therefore, the Muslim nation today is in dire need of the wisdom of the Imams in their unity, in their action and in their interaction with one another.

This code of honor will govern the special relationship between the Imams, which is embodied in the Quran, the Sunnah and the work of the righteous predecessors.

The following are etiquettes and code of Honor that each Imam should respect and abide by:

1. Preservation of Islamic Identity:

- a. To fulfil the trust that Allah had entrusted the Scholars and Imams and lead by the best example in society.
- b. To strive towards preserving the Islamic identity without compromising on the core agreed values of Islam.
- c. Demonstrate greater accommodation to dissenting views based on the authentic Shariah principles.
- d. Seek clarification to understand the basis of dissenting views prior to making public comments refuting such views.



2. Sincerity and Good counselling:

- a. As heirs to the Prophet (SAW), Imams are expected to act sincerely and behave seeking the pleasure of Allah (SWT) alone.
- b. As brothers in faith, Imams are expected to give Good counselling and advice to each other with sincerity and good faith.
- c. Being watchful of Allah SWT and practice self-accountability.

3. Ethics of Disagreements:

- a. Uphold highest ethical behaviour in dealing with juristic disagreements and strictly avoid confrontation among fellow Imams.
- b. Avoid deliberately seeking faults and shortcomings of fellow Imams to bring him/them to disrepute in the community.
- c. Not to exaggerate or comment on the mistakes of other Imams in public.

4. Respectful behaviour:

- a. To care for and provide the utmost respect to our fellow Imams in the same way that you would like to be treated.
- b. To always use appropriate and respectful words and titles when addressing each other specifically in the public and in front of others.
- c. Engage in healthy debates on subjects that need to be debated with mutual respect using respectful expressions and avoid being disrespectful to fellow Imams.

5. Professional conduct:

- a. Sincerity in working for Allah (SWT) and serving Islam and the community.
- b. Uphold collective decisions (Ijma) made by the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) or State Council of Imams even if disagreed as an Individual.
- c. Strive for the success of the work with common objectives that bring together the Imams and the Muslim Community.
- d. Avoid exerting force on others to follow a particular contentious opinion or school of thought in a way that creates intolerance to other opinions or Imams.
- e. Accommodate healthy dialog on contemporary issues in the spirit of seeking the truth without prejudice and not feeling offensive when personal opinions are not accepted by fellow Imams.
- f. Not to expose other Imams negatively in the public unless there's a religious and ethical need after it's agreed upon by the majority Imams of the ANIC Executive committee or an appointed arbitration committee.



6. Professional Solidarity:

- a. Strive hard to maintain solidarity among fellow Imams and abstain from any activity that may cause disunity and disharmony among the Imams.
- b. Commit to uphold the unity and common good amongst the Imams and the Muslim community.
- c. Stand by each other in solidarity in particular in times of need and times in where Imams and Muslim leaders are under attack or pressure and or criticised by others.
- d. Strictly refrain from demonstrating any form of hostility or animosity towards fellow Imam(s) regardless of any disagreement or dispute between each other(s).
- e. Abstain from unhealthy public debates with fellow Imams and Religious Scholars on contentious matters of jurisprudence including but not limited to public forums, students or via any social media platform that may cause disunity in the community.

7. Dispute Resolution:

- a. Any dispute among the Imams must be brought to the Imams Council for reconciliation and arbitration and all final resolutions must be adhered to.

Note: This document will be updated as the need arises.