

A Compassionate Call for Culturally Sensitive Aid to Shelters

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Good morning, everyone. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present A Compassionate Call for Culturally Sensitive Aid to Shelters

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for taking a moment to listen.

Across our communities, shelters provide critical refuge—safe space, warmth, dignity—for those experiencing unimaginable hardship. But here's what we often overlook: culture matters. When someone walks into a shelter, they don't leave behind their language, their traditions, their dietary practices, their faith. These are not luxuries—they are lifelines.

Imagine seeking help and being met with unfamiliar food, unable to speak your truth in your own language, or facing customs that unintentionally invalidate your identity. For many newcomers, refugees, and marginalized groups, this happens far too often. The result? Isolation, distrust, and sometimes a decision to return to unsafe environments rather than feel embraced.

Culturally sensitive aid is not just kind—it's strategic. It means shelters staffed by people who speak many languages, stocked with foods and supplies that respect diverse customs, and guided by training that equips workers to recognize and honor cultural trauma and resilience.

This kind of care builds bridges. It empowers people not just to survive, but to begin healing. When we center culture in our aid, we affirm that everybody belongs.

Let's not just shelter bodies. But shelter souls .

Ansaar Foundation has been in existence for over 20 years, serving the homeless and people in shelters with Halal food .

Ansaar also serves many of the seniors youth and refugees in partnership with other organisations to provide culturally sensitive programs.

We have access to several different ethnic communities and are able to serve them based on having the language skills that also allow the ability to understand unwritten codes and norms for different cultural communities .

A great partnership for your organization opportunity for you to work with an established and dedicated group that desires to continue to serve all Canadians regardless of faith colour or creed

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Ansaar Foundation has been in existence for over 20 years, serving the homeless and people in shelters with Halal food .

For two years we have served over 10,000 Halal meals to city shelters for Ramadan.

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We are non denominational and I am here to offer a great partnership for the City to consider to work with an established and dedicated group that desires to continue to serve all Canadians regardless of faith colour or creed.

