

OFFICIAL STATEMENT RE: DATE CHANGE

October 18, 2023



First and foremost, the safety and physical, emotional and mental well-being of our guests and volunteers is our top priority, always.

On October 16, the Muslim International Film Festival team was notified that on our original festival dates, October 28 and 29, we would be sharing venue space with an organization that is Pro-Occupation of Palestine, and has dedicated their art and funds to go towards supporting the IDF.

We are very much firm on our stance of supporting the liberation of Palestine and are actively fundraising for our Gaza campaign with Penny Appeal Canada. This, coupled with the rise in hate speech and violence against Muslims within our local communities, has consequently prompted us to reschedule our event. This decision was taken after much deliberation and out of concern that we may be unable to sufficiently mitigate the risk of compromised security.

Our new festival dates are November 11 and 12, 2023. Although we are saddened that the Muslim International Film Festival will no longer take place during Islamic History Month this year, which has been a part of our commitment to our roots since launching in 2020, our goal remains to fundraise effectively while celebrating Muslim Excellence in a safe and unifying environment regardless of faith and race. We aspire to build a community that has the freedom to contribute to and engage with creative and artistic expression without hesitation.

We hope that you understand this as the best step we could take to protect our community. We are immensely grateful for your unwavering support and look forward to hosting you on November 11 and 12. Please join us in strengthening the cause of our Palestinian brothers and sisters, loud and proud!