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Opinion

Some Muslims are attacking LGBTQ rights. They don't speak for all of us.

The Prophet Muhammad called on Muslims to stand up against the oppression of the most vulnerable.



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(RNS) — Days before Pride month 2023 began, more than 150 prominent, mostly American Muslim religious leaders **declared** in a signed statement that LGBTQ+ rights and beliefs are incompatible with the Muslim faith. They suggest that their conclusion has ijma — a matter of infallible agreement — within the Muslim community and that any dissent is “theologically indefensible.”

It's hard to overstate how harmful this is. The Muslim community rarely reaches ijma on interpretations of Scripture. For example, scholars still disagree about whether women are required to be fully covered, wear a hijab or none of the above. To suggest complete agreement on LGBTQ+ issues is both deeply inaccurate and wildly dangerous.

It's galling when far-right religious “scholars” take it upon themselves to define Islam for the rest of us. For one, these signatories blatantly disregard teachings of the Quran, the Hadith and the Sunnah, as well as long traditions of sexual and gender diversity across Islamic civilizations. The Prophet Muhammad consistently called on Muslims to stand up against the oppression of the most vulnerable. He never punished anyone for being gay despite there being plenty of evidence that queer people existed in his time. There is also no punishment for being homosexual in the Quran.



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