

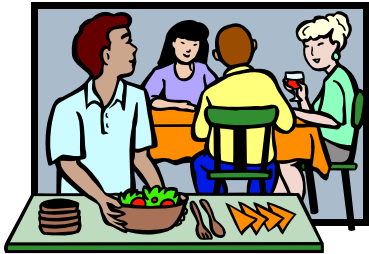


HOSTING ARAB & MUSLIM VISITORS

<p>Remember that an essential theme throughout Islam is modesty – many cultural norms and customs arise from this influence</p>	
<p>Greetings and first impressions are key!</p> 	<p>Be formal until everyone is introduced</p>
	<p>Smile and stand to greet a guest; keep standing until the highest ranking person sits down</p>
	<p>If there is more than one visitor, greet the one who approaches you first (he/she usually has higher standing)</p>
	<p>Introduce yourself and shake hands with members of the same sex (only shake hands with the opposite sex if initiated by the visitor)</p>
	<p>Try not to use your left hand to greet guests</p>
<p>What to cook:</p> 	<p>Halal Meats (Purchased from a Halal Grocery Store)</p>
	<p>Fish, Vegetables, Fruits, Grains, Legumes</p>
	<p>All pork products are off-limits (this includes shortening in baked goods, lard, and gelatin), as are shellfish</p>
	<p>Do not serve alcohol with dinner or use any alcohol in cooking</p>
<p>During the meal and dinner conversation:</p> 	<p>Do not point at people; maintain an open palm to gesture</p>
	<p>When sitting down, make sure the bottom of your shoe is not shown</p>
	<p>Avoid direct, sustained eye contact for long periods of time (this is considered impolite); also avoid invading personal space</p>
	<p>Keep pets (especially dogs and cats) outside or in a closed room away from your guests. Do not ask if you can bring pets out – the visitors will not want to offend you by saying no, but will be uncomfortable</p>
	<p>If the visitor gives the Qur'an as a gift, make sure you do not place it on the ground, write on it, or put anything on top of it</p>
	<p>Avoid asking "Why do you hate us?" questions</p>
	<p>Muslims of all nationalities are known for their love of children. Allow any children to participate in conversation – visitors will appreciate the interaction</p>

Please remember that these are only suggested guidelines. Every individual is different. While we recommend you read over this list, it is also important to be yourself!