

**The Muslim Progressive Traditionalist Alliance** seeks to educate and inspire local communities through interfaith and intrafaith dialogue, bridging sectarian and cultural gaps and, most specifically, engaging diverse Muslim and immigrant communities in civic engagement projects, social justice programs and acts of conscience. Not a traditional coalition, MPTA is actually a loosely structured series of community conversations working behind the scenes to enhance existing coalitions and group discussions.

MPTA is an active member of steering groups such as the Flushing Interfaith Council, Metro New York Religious Campaign Against Torture, Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition, and the Queens Borough President's Ramadan Iftar Committee. On an ad hoc basis MPTA has also helped organize press conferences and special outreach on behalf of the Majlis ash Shura, the largest council of Imams in the New York City area.

One project of the Muslim Progressive-Traditionalist Alliance, TABLE 32 offers a place for honest & sincere discussion of human life, consciousness and being. The purpose is to clarify & promote life affirming understandings in context of our faith tradition, without denying any complexities that may arise. The subject is a sensitive one, at a time when in the Muslim world, terror plots claim civilian lives on a regular basis and exploitation, corruption and injustice seem to be entrenched in government and society.

Table 32 is named for the 32<sup>nd</sup> verse of "The Table" chapter in the Quran, which states, "For this reason We ordained for the Children of Israel that whoever slays a soul, unless it be for murder or for serious crimes, it is as though he killed all humanity; and whoever keeps it alive, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind. And though certainly Our messengers came to them with clear arguments, even after, many act excessively, beyond bounds."

To encourage reflection on these issues MPTA founder and Director Adem Carroll established "Muslims in the Mirror" series in collaboration with CERRU, Union Seminary and other partners in 2010. Though this project is now continuing with Muslim Consultative Network, Adem has remained active in promoting such proactive approaches both before and after the recent Boston bombings. For a link to this project see:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/368053727508/> MPTA plans to promote conversations among parents and students regarding the recent tragedy.