

Candidate Information

As Salaam Alaikum,

In an effort to introduce yourself to the community, please provide your brief background and your plans.

JazakAllah Khair
Election 2018 Committee

Last Name *

Alam

First and Middle Name *

Badar

Position *

SECRETARY



Introduction *

Begin with some background information about yourself. Try to include some qualities that separate you from your opposition. Keep it positive and perhaps touch on some issues that are of concern to voters.

My name is Badar Alam and I was born right here in Houston, Texas. I hold a bachelor's degree in Accounting and have been working in the Energy field for more than 17 years. I am married and have two beautiful children that attend the Islamic School in the North. I have been involved with ISGH since I was in High School, serving in the central youth committee. We organized many inter-zonal sports competitions and weekend camps. I was also a founder in the Five Pillar Center that catered to the youth in North Houston. I have served as a council member at Masjid Bilal for many years. At the age of 39 I was elected as Associate Director of Masjid Bilal, making me one of the youngest to serve as Associate Director in the history of ISGH. I have been able to work with people older than me, along with bringing in young professionals to key positions at the Masjid. In my second year, we had empowered the young professionals and had the youngest average age of any Masjid council in ISGH.

Highest Level of Education *

High School

Bachelors

Masters

Doctorate

Area of Study *

Your major for degrees or certificates earned in an institution of higher learning. Mention the name and location of the Institution.

Accounting

Current Profession *

Job title, Job Description, if Retired Previous Profession

Gas Supply and Trade, Work with suppliers, end users, and pipelines to ensure the transportation of Natural Gas throughout the United States

Formal Islamic Education *

Please briefly share any religious training you have received, such as graduate of an Islamic University or Madrassah, Hafiz Quran, Dars Nizami, Certificate in Arabic, Islamic Finance, or if you have studied under a known sheikh.

Graduated from North zone weekend school and have also taught young adults at the weekend school. Conducted many halaqa's for the youth in my house and arranged for speakers in the Masjid. I continue studying the Quran and Hadith and attend talks nightly at Masjid Bilal.

Previous Leadership Experience *

What experiences in your personal, professional or political life have helped shape you and made you the person you are today? Discuss your titles, community and civic work, awards and other offices you've held. How do those experiences translate into being a better candidate for the position you are running? Don't just create a laundry list of accomplishments, but work your experience into a larger narrative. A little bit about you personally goes a long way. Voters want to know about you, but maybe not every detail of your life. Include both personal and professional content that helps provide a rounded idea of who you are.

In my professional career I have held the following titles: Associate, Lead, and Vice President. I have had the opportunity to build a team from the ground up to venture into a new market that our company had not any business in. I have also been a member of a team which I was not the lead, hence working with upper management and leads to get the project done.

In my Islamic involvement I have been an Associate Director with all the council members being older than I. We were still able to work together and get our projects done. I encouraged young professional to get involved and we had great cooperation with the young and the old. Insha-Allah I want to duplicate this effort in the central administration of ISGH.

I also am active outside of ISGH, I am one of the leads for the Islamic Reentry program that goes to the jails for Taleem and Friday Jumma Services. Alhamdulillah, we have volunteers that serve the Muslim jail community every Friday and Saturday. We have been recognized by the Harris County Sheriff's Office as a key group serving the jails.

In my free time I like to stay active in sports activities. I still play Basketball and Racquetball regularly to stay in shape. I am also an avid scuba diver and try to go at least once a year for a scuba trip.

Goals *

Please list three most urgent issues you will tackle first if you are elected for your position

Goals for General Secretary:

- 1) Data: We have to ensure that our data is accurate, secure, and backed-up so we can safeguard ISGH operations. This will require a team of qualified individuals who understand cyber security, data management, and enterprise systems.
- 2) Election Commission and Membership: We have to make sure we provide the Election Commission accurate data (my 1st goal) so that the public can have trust in the process. We also need to bring on new individuals to the Election Commission as to keep people engaged and ensure trustworthiness to the community. We also need to increase membership for ISGH. This will only happen if people feel empowered and feel they have representation that speaks for them. We need the "good people" that sit on the sidelines to become members so that we elect qualified people, and hold them accountable.
- 3) Communication and Transparency: The Muslim community of Houston needs to be well informed with what is being discussed on the local level (Masjid council) and on the central level (Shura). I will work to make both of the meeting minutes available online so the community has easy access to information being discussed and for decisions being made. I will also try to have agenda items posted online for the Shura meeting as so the public can be more involved in items that may concern them.

Goals for ISGH:

- 1) Young Professionals: We need to not only encourage, but empower young professionals (both men and women) to get involved in all aspects of ISGH. This process has already started, but I want to move it further along.
 - 2) Voice of reason and calmness in the Shura: I want the Shura meetings to be more civil and Insha-Allah my personality will help that. We always have to engage each other with respect, even if we disagree on an item. Professionalism is much needed in the Shura, and Insha-Allah I will work on bringing that.
 - 3) Knock down barriers for entry: Unfortunately, ISGH has adopted regulations for individuals to be involved in certain positions in ISGH. We need to re-evaluate these regulations and help ensure qualified individual can serve in ISGH in higher capacities. The pool of individuals that the community can elect needs to increase, and we have to work together to make that happen.
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What do you want to accomplish? *

What do you want to accomplish during your time in office? Perhaps your goals can relate to previous accomplishments in your life. Use some examples if you can. Take a situation and how you handled it and use it as a template for this section.

If elected, when I leave office I would like have known that I put young professional in places that they can utilize their skills to help ISGH grow. I would also like to leave knowing that these young professional will take my position and do a better job than myself. I hope to be a bridge between the older generation and young men and women in ISGH. We all hope ISGH will continue to become more professional and relevant to the Muslim community. I pray Allah uses me to be part of that process.

Final Thoughts *

End on a strong note. Finish your candidate biography with a strong statement about your purpose for running and what you hope to accomplish in the office you seek. Be inspirational and specific.

For General Secretary you need to elect someone that has the background knowledge of today's technology so they can use it for the growth of ISGH. Also this will continue to keep ISGH a professional and relevant organization for our upcoming generation. Without having knowledge in data management systems and cyber security, you will be doing a disservice to the position of General Secretary. I will ensure that our young professionals (men and women) are part of ISGH and have key roles in keeping the records of ISGH stored and safe. I will ensure we have the right systems to keep the Muslims of Houston informed and keep their private information safe in terms of cyber security. I have already been able to work with people much older than me and have a track record of bringing in younger people to join also. I once again reiterate, that I would like to be a bridge between the older and younger generation for the betterment of ISGH and the Muslim community.

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