

Participating couples: Content guidelines



Thank you for agreeing to participate in this project based on:

Managing conflict and diversity in interfaith and intercultural relationships through dialogue

Your input is critical and will enable us to shed light on the importance of dialogue in cross cultural and interreligious relations by:

- Highlighting and addressing any stigma you may have faced as a couple
- Providing an insight into you have been able to navigate conflict and manage difference based on your different religious/cultural affiliations in your relationship, family and wider community
- Share what the experience has taught you re. the importance of dialogue and diversity

This project will enable other couples, families, **faith/cultural communities and the wider public learn about how to respect** and navigate difference, to **share diverse traditions together** and to **create harmonious hybrid spaces**.

Having agreed to participate, this document provides a full overview of how to submit your content.

Where you'll feature

You will feature:

- In a couple specific short video – shared on Voice of Salam's (VoS) social media channels
- In a larger video featuring all participants – shared on VoS' social media channels
- In a blog on the Voice of Salam website
- In related social media and outreach materials (photos/posters)
- In any related national, international or local press

What we need from you

1. Video content

Each couple will submit a short video that will be used to document their experiences.

Video outline for individual couple videos:

1. **Introduction:** you will be introduced with your first names (only) on an opening slide
2. **Main feature:** The video will then move to your clip (you do not need to introduce yourselves but of course discuss background details – cultural/ethnic and/or religious background and any other important factors within the submission)
3. **End frame:** End of video including logos

For the longer project video, all couples will feature, alongside insights on the importance of dialogue and the prevalence of intercultural and interfaith relationships.

For your submission:

Please submit **a video of you and your partner** discussing your experiences of being in an intercultural/interfaith relationship – please talk to/engage with each other and the audience.

We'd like to know how you have managed conflict both within and outside of your relationship (e.g. inside your family, cultural/religious community, wider society)

Key questions/prompts:

- Did you face any stigma as a couple? How did you overcome this?
- What were/are some of the challenges/examples of conflict you face(d) as a couple internally within your relationship?
- How did/does dialogue help to address this? How did/are you (trying to) overcome these challenges?
- Were there/are there any challenges/conflict in your prospective cultural/religious communities?
- If so, how did you face/do you address this? What role did/does dialogue play and how did/do you approach this?
- What has your experience as a couple taught you about the importance of dialogue and diversity?
- What does dialogue mean to you as a couple?

Key words: dialogue, conflict, disagreement, unity, difference, interfaith, intercultural, difference, commonalities, discussion, talking

Video requirements:

Testing/quality: please run a sound/quality test beforehand

- **Format and length:**
 - Please submit a video of around **1 minute 30 seconds** talking
 - Please allow an extra 10 seconds of silence **before and after** speech (silently facing the screen) for editing purposes
 - Total time: **absolute max 2 minutes** (including silence before and after speech)

- Please film in **horizontal mode** – make sure the camera is steady. If possible, please rest the camera on a hard steady surface or use a tripod
- **Position, style and background:**
 - Please sit together – in the centre of the frame and face the camera – be relaxed, we're not here to examine you!
 - After facing the camera to start, please do look at/engage with your partner ad hoc during the submission. You are sharing your experiences with us as a couple and so it's critical that we see you as a couple and your natural dynamic together. Participation of both people is important!
 - **Personalisation:** please film in a space that means something to you and represents you as a couple (if possible) – we recommend your home
 - If you're filming against a wall, please ensure there is space (a few centimetres) between yourselves and the wall – do not lean/press against the wall
 - **Tone:** try not to be nervous. Smile, be honest and be your lovely selves!
 - **Standing out:** Please ensure you/your clothing doesn't blend into the background!
 - **Avoid:** clashing colours, merging colours, very busy backgrounds/clothes, beige or yellow walls/backgrounds
- **Lighting**
 - Please ensure that there is adequate lighting – not too bright, no shadows
- **Noise**
 - Please film in a **quiet setting** with as little background noise as possible
 - Please speak loudly and clearly – please check this beforehand

2. Photo

Please submit a **high-quality photo** of yourselves in **landscape format**.

Suggestions include photos showing:

- Your wedding / engagement (if applicable)
- Celebrating a religious/cultural tradition together
- A photo that is particularly meaningful to you both
- A photo which highlights the content discussed in your video submission
- You both undertaking an activity which you both enjoy/which is important to you as a couple

Please ensure photos are not blurry and do not include third parties/other people.

3. Short textual burb

To compile the blog, social media content and ensure we have all the required information, please include in an email the following information:

Background info on each person:

- Age (if happy to disclose)
- Location: country and if happy to disclose, your town/city/village (including if you live together or not)
- Faith: religious or non-religious affiliation(s)/beliefs – including no faith belief
- If you have any children
- Cultural/ethnic background and place of birth (if safe to disclose)
- How long you have been together as a couple
- How you first met and any other details relating to your relationship (if you are happy to disclose)

Quotes (1 – 2 sentences) from each partner on:

- What dialogue means to you as part of an intercultural/interfaith couple
- What being in an interfaith/intercultural couple has taught you about dialogue (re. the role of/the importance of dialogue)

Submissions and further information

We look forward to hearing your stories! We of course respect your privacy and appreciate the need to also consider participants' safety when submitting content.

Large files can be sent via [We Transfer](#).

Prior to publication your individual couple video, the project blog/press pitch outline and longer campaign video will be sent to yourselves for approval.

For submissions (or if you have any further questions), please email **Elizabeth Arif-Fear (Founder and Director, Voice of Salam)** on info@voiceofsalam.com.

Thank you!



Support for this video and article series has been supported as a part of the KAICIID Fellows Programme, which aims to provide opportunities for individuals to initiate new projects in interreligious dialogue and other related areas for their professional development and learning. The work undertaken has been conducted by external actors. The views, opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in the film are strictly those of the creator(s) and/or the persons appearing in the video and article series and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) or its Member States. The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this video and article series and neither the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) nor its Member States will accept any liability in connection with these data.