

Imam Omar Suleiman is a world renowned scholar and civil rights activist. He is the Founder and President of the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research and a professor of Islamic Studies at Southern Methodist University. He's also the resident scholar of the Valley Ranch Islamic Center and Co-Chair of Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square, faith leaders united for peace and justice.

His career started in his hometown of New Orleans where he served as the Imam of the Jefferson Muslim Association in New Orleans for 6 years and directed the "Muslims for Humanity" Hurricane Katrina Relief effort. It was in this time that he was noted on a national level as being a strong advocate of community service, interfaith dialogue, and social justice. He co-founded the East Jefferson Interfaith Clergy Association and was awarded for his outstanding civic achievement by the Mayor and City Council of New Orleans in 2010. He's also the founder of MUHSEN, a non-profit umbrella organization serving the community to establish a more inclusive "Special Friendly" environment for our Brothers & Sisters of all Disabilities.

In July 2016, he marched with demonstrators in Dallas against the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. In the wake of the tragic shooting of officers after that protest, he was chosen to lead the invocation at the Presidential memorial alongside former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. The D-Magazine published a feature on him titled "The Religious Leader Dallas Needs." His work in bringing people together was the subject of a BBC documentary in 2016, and work with refugees featured in PBS in January, 2017, and in 2016, he was a recipient of the United Nations Global Goals Award with Faith Forward Dallas. Most recently, he was recognized by CNN as one of the 25 most influential Muslims in America.

To read a full feature on Imam Omar Suleiman, please see: <https://www.dmagazine.com/publications/d-magazine/2017/july/the-preacher-imam-omar-suleiman/>