

IMPAR 11 Points Advisory to Deal with the Current Crisis

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As we know the situation is becoming alarming due to the recent spate of violence in different parts of the country and subsequent police crackdown, reportedly with excessive use of force. IMPAR is issuing the following guidelines to help the community deal with the situation;

1. Please do not be provoked by the speeches or instigations by misguided or vested elements and join agitation or stone pelting. In civilised world there is no place for violent reactions.
2. In the case of blasphemy, with the action taken against the culprits the message is gone to the rest. Let the matter end here. Islam is not about the violent reactions but informed responses. Please learn from the life of our beloved Prophet (PBUH), who would respond such offensives by gestures of peace and goodwill rather than violence.
3. Taking law into hands must be avoided any cost. If there are hate speeches or hurting of religious sentiments the best course is to lodge multiple FIRs against the offenders. By doing violence you are doing more damage to Islam and the Muslim community than any good.
4. The community members need to be extra vigilant as anti social elements may take advantage of the situation and creep in to create violence and the blame will come to the community, as reported by few digital channels today.
5. Please form 10-15 members Mohalla wise committees in case of bigger municipal corporation cities and 25-30 member city committees in case of smaller municipality level cities. This will serve as important social safety network.
6. Please create WhatsApp groups to message them all in case of emergency. The committee may comprise of prominent advocates, journalists, social workers, retired government officers, members of clergy etc.
7. If protests are to be done, these must be fully peaceful and with the permission of the police. The committee should meet the local police and give its letter for permission and seek police deployment to prevent any anti social elements from entering.
8. Facebook live must be done from the protest sites and also at homes when police enters the house, either to question or arrest. This will be irrefutable record and evidence, in case of any excesses or any unfortunate incident happens.
9. In case of any unfortunate incident, community members must do thorough assessment of the damage and fact finding of the incident, and based on that an objective report to be prepared. The same may be released to media and circulated on social media for subsequent legal and other actions.
10. Please keep contact numbers of senior police and administration, public representatives and media persons to send them SOS in case of police crackdown without proper papers or procedures or high handedness.
11. There are lots of videos being shared where the victim is seeking help without putting any details. This simply wastes time of everyone. Please put your name, contact details, date and time, address, city or district and local police station name. This will help in rushing the needed help.

In this critical time, the community is advised to be focussed on maintaining peace through meetings and dialogues with police and peace committees, prominent citizens and social and cultural organisations. In cases of any incidents or arrests, taking help of lawyers is advisable. Many community organisations are providing free legal aid. IMPAR person, Saif Ali 9311770524 may also be contacted for such help.

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