

## Al Jama-ah

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<b>Founded:</b>	2007
<b>Leader:</b>	Ganief Hendricks
<b>Political position:</b>	Centre right to right-wing
<b>Ideology:</b>	Islamic conservatism

### *History*

Al Jama-ah is South Africa's first Muslim political party founded on Islamic values and to uphold Sharia law. The party states it does not want to make South Africa an Islamic State, but build a dignified society with cooperative-spirited communities and morally-minded citizens (32) pursuing Islamic values, true Christian values, and Ubuntu (33).

Although contesting elections since 2009, the party only earned its first seat in parliament in 2019 and currently has elected representatives in the Western Cape legislature and the municipalities of Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and in the City of Cape Town.

Al Jama-ah has also formed a key part of coalition governments at a municipal level, with two of their members having served as the Mayor of Johannesburg since 2023.

### *Electoral record (34)*

- 2009: 0.15%
- 2014: 0.14%
- 2019: 0.18%

### *Positions*

(Source: Collated from the following documents [https://www.aljama.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/AL-JAMAH-MANIFESTO-2024\\_REV-1.pdf](https://www.aljama.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/AL-JAMAH-MANIFESTO-2024_REV-1.pdf) and interview with party leader Ganief Hendricks)

## Economic growth and job creation

The Al Jama-ah economic policy advocates for socio-economic transformation to combat adverse impacts of corruption on economic growth, social equity, and unemployment. The party would enforce fair allocation of national, provincial, and municipal budgets to address inequality gaps and would also enforce a localised spending approach. Moreover, the party would identify 1 000 local products that would be manufactured strictly in townships and rural villages. All street hawkers and small informal businesses would also have the right to affordable and safe space to conduct their trade. An Al Jama-ah government would create business incubators to develop SME job-creating potential while strengthening local businesses with government procurement support. They would establish employment desks in all municipalities to promote available job opportunities and learnerships.

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## Safety and security

Al Jama-ah proposes a strategic redeployment of police away from historically white suburbs, focusing on addressing crime's root causes. Their plan includes identifying and addressing springboards for criminal activity, shutting down shebeens and drug dens, eliminating organised drug syndicates, and investigating corruption allegations in local police stations. The party advocates for increased visible policing, deploying uniformed ground patrols with undercover officers, and enhancing police accessibility through more patrol vehicles, additional police stations, and the formation of mobile police units where needed. This approach aims to improve community safety and address the underlying issues contributing to crime.

## Foreign affairs

Al Jama-ah places African integration at the centre of its foreign policy. The party believes in the United States of Africa and as a government, would want to push for the African Union to offer the same freedom of movement for people and trade that the European Union offers its member states. Al Jama-ah also strongly opposes international Zionism, condemning Israel's occupation of Palestine. As a government, Al Jama-ah would supply defensive weapons to Palestinian Resistance Movements. Al Jama-ah also advocates for international condemnation of oppressive actions and seeks to raise awareness of Zionist tactics, emphasising the importance of protecting free speech and assembly against Zionist lobbying locally and globally. The party would align South Africa's foreign affairs with its anti-Zionist stance and seek to promote human rights globally.

## Energy security

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Al Jama-ah would decisively act against corruption in power stations and focus on dismantling criminal syndicates in the energy supply chain, dismissing technical issues as the sole cause of South Africa's energy crisis. An Al Jama-ah government would also implement emergency measures to secure added power into the grid from any source readily available. The party also advocates for equitable access to electricity, fair pricing based on means, and would only disconnect the elderly, struggling parents, and the unemployed as a last resort.

## Education

Al Jama-ah would offer free education and ensure all South African schools and universities are safe and pleasant learning environments. This would be complimented with a developmental all society approach to education by providing more access to public libraries, art galleries,

parks, sports, recreation, and community events. Al Jama-ah would ban explicit Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in primary and secondary schools, proposing a curriculum covering morality, marriage, and sexual dysfunctions. An Al-Jama-ah government would also support struggling private schools with grants.

## Mineral resources

Al Jama-ah would nationalise all mining assets and appoint a state-owned mining company to extract and beneficiate all South African minerals for the benefit of the country. They would also provide informal miners access to dormant mines and ban any environmentally harmful mining practices.

## Youth development

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Al Jama-ah advocates for targeted measures to address South Africa's youth unemployment crisis, proposing specialised youth development programmes and business incubators. An Al Jama-ah government would provide free education to needy young people and guarantee employment for those wanting to work. To achieve this, the party would create special job categories where businesses earn tax breaks to absorb youth into the workforce. An Al Jama-ah government would also enforce skill training and development programmes within state-owned enterprises. The party would also close all shebeens and drug dens in underdeveloped areas and replace them with recreational facilities for the youth.

## Housing

Al Jama-ah would enact transformative legislation to address the persisting Apartheid legacy of spatial planning and provide dignified housing for all. A practical policy in this regard would be to aggressively

densify formerly white only suburbs. The party would also enforce a nationwide confiscation of state land to provide 100 square meters of land with title deeds to the homeless and all young people.

## The environment and climate change

Recognising climate change as a pressing reality, an Al Jama-ah government would take proactive measures to protect South Africans from its effects. They would pass robust climate change legislation to legally protect various aspects of the economy and environment. Practically, the party would reinforce infrastructure and protect industries, like agriculture and fisheries, that bear the brunt of adverse weather conditions due to climate change.

## Tourism

Al Jama-ah envisions a robust tourism policy centred on connecting small businesses with major tourism corporates and fostering job creation and growth in the sector. Their initiatives would include collaborative marketing campaigns, integrating smaller businesses into all tourist itineraries and developing guided tours in township areas.

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## Immigration and xenophobia

Al Jama-ah believes intolerance and violence against foreign nationals requires immediate action, although the party rejects the notion that South Africa is inherently xenophobic. An Al Jama-ah government would leave the United Nations convention on refugees and lobby the African Union to enforce quotas on the number of refugees each member state should accept. The party would also enact community integration programmes to foster tolerance and inclusivity, ensuring a safer environment for all residents, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.

## LGBTIQA+ rights

Al Jama-ah rejects what it regards as the proliferation of LGBTIQA+ issues in South African society and advocates for traditional family values. The party also criticises businesses and educational initiatives promoting LGBTIQA+ ideas, expressing concerns about the erosion of cultural and religious identities. An Al Jama-ah government would instead place fatherhood and motherhood as the central focus in the South African society.

## South Africa's twelve official languages

An Al Jama-ah-led government would make Khoisan and Coding South Africa's 13th and 14th official languages, respectively. The party would also enact a language policy to guarantee the right of learners to learn their mother tongue as a subject at primary and secondary school with the long-term goal of offering all forms of education in all official languages.

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## Artificial intelligence

Al Jama-ah proposes that South Africa seize the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for economic growth and job creation. An Al Jama-ah government would accordingly invest heavily in AI infrastructure and training to empower the youth in digital skills, while passing legislation to prevent AI's nefarious use. The party would also introduce government initiatives to provide free data to all citizens.