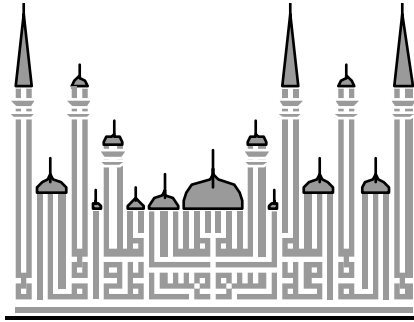


**WHAT DOES ISLAM REALLY SAY?
PROMINENT MUSLIM VOICES SPEAK OUT ON HARD ISSUES**



A Symposium on Contemporary Islam
Brigham Young University
March 17-19, 2005

Thursday, March 17

- 11:00 - 12:00 Panel Discussion: "Islam: A Force for Reform and Progress, or for Oppression and Stagnation?" 2015 JKHB
- 3:00 - 4:30 Panel Discussion: "Islamic Perspectives on How to Bring Peace to the Middle East" 2015 JKHB
- 7:30 - 8:30 Tahera Qutbuddin, Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature, University of Chicago: "Understanding the Qur'an" 2084 JKHB
- 8:30 - 9:30 Mumtaz Ahmad, Professor of Political Science, Hampton University: "Islam and Public Life: An Islamic State" 2084 JKHB

Friday, March 18

- 9:00 - 9:50 Panel Discussion: "The 14th Amendment and Issues of Gender, Family, and Race among Muslims in the U.S." 306 JRCB (law school)
- 11:00 - 12:15 Panel discussion: "Forms of Women's Religious and Political Expression in Islam" 2084 JKHB
- 2:00 - 3:00 Aminah McCloud, Director of Islamic World Studies, DePaul University: "Muslims in America," 1080 HBLL (Lee Library Auditorium)
- 3:00 - 4:00 Aminah Assilmi, Director of the International Union of Muslim Women: "Women and Islam," 1080 HBLL (Lee Library Auditorium)

Saturday, March 19

WORKSHOP ON CONTEMPORARY ISLAM
(All sessions in the Harold B. Lee Library auditorium—1080 HBLL)

- 9:00 - 10:15 Panel Discussion: "Toward Understanding the Concept of *Jihad*: Why Do Many Muslims Seem to Harbor Hostility for the West and the United States?"
- 10:30 - 11:30 Ibrahim Hooper, National Communications Director, Council on American-Islamic Relations: "Islam and Social Justice"
- 11:45 - 1:00 Panel Discussion: "The Image of Muslims in the West: What Can/Must Be Done to Dispel Stereotypes and Fears about Islam"

PARTICIPANTS

Mumtaz Ahmad is Professor of Political Science at Hampton University in Virginia. He holds an MA in Political Science, from the University of Karachi, Pakistan, an MA in Development Administration from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and a Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Chicago. He has been a Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution of Washington, D.C., an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Public Administration in Karachi, and a Senior Fulbright Research fellow. Dr. Ahmad is the current President of the South Asian Muslim Studies Association and Vice President of the Center for Islam and Public Policy in Washington, D.C.

Aminah Assilmi states that she is first and foremost a mother and grandmother, for it is these roles for which she will be accountable before her Creator. She is currently the Director of the International Union of Muslim Women. Ms. Assilmi converted to Islam after intensive study in 1977. She holds degrees and broadcasting, communications, education and recreation, and was an award winning journalist. She studied Islamic law in the traditional way under some of the foremost Islamic scholars. She has traveled widely, and her books and tapes have been translated into many languages. Ms. Assilmi has served on the boards of a variety of Islamic organizations, worked with the President's Commission on Race Relations under President Clinton and served on the Commission on Women. She has also participated in the Millennium World Peace Summit at the UN, presented at the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain, and been a special guest of the Pope during World Youth Day.

Ibrahim Hooper is National Communications Director of the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the largest Muslim civil liberties group in the world. It has 31 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

Aminah Beverly McCloud is Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Islamic World Studies Program at DePaul University, Chicago, IL. She holds a BS from Lincoln University in Physics and Mathematics, a BSc in Pharmacy and MA and Ph.D. degrees in Islamic Studies from Temple University. She has written two books with four others at the publishers. Titles include *Black American Muslims: Coming of Age*, *Muslim American Women*, *The Nation of Islam: A Closer Look*, and *Immigrant American Islam*. Articles and book chapters include "Living As a Muslim in a Pluralistic Society: Conceptual Discourse," "Fundamentalism: Islam as a Religion of Annti-modern Fanaticism," and "Islam as a Fundamental Source of Morality in American Politics." Dr. McCloud has also served as an expert consultant on a wide range of Islamic issues.

Tahera Qutbuddin is an Assistant Professor of Arabic Language at the University of Chicago. She holds a Tamh'd' Magister in Arabic Language and Literature from Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, and AM and Ph.D. degrees in Arabic Literature from Harvard University. She has taught at the University of Utah, Yale University, and Harvard University. She has written a book entitled *Al-Mueayyad al-Ah'raz' and Fatimid Daowa Poetry: A Case of Commitment in Classical Arabic Literature*, published by Brill Academic Publishers which is scheduled to appear in March 2005. Dr. Qutbuddin has taught courses in Arabic poetry, wisdom literature, advanced Arabic syntax, and classical Arabic poets.