

KARAMAH NEWS

FEBRUARY 8, 2016



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to serve as the new Chair of [KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights](#). I would like to thank KARAMAH's outgoing Chair, Raheemah Abdulaleem, for her leadership and steadfast commitment to KARAMAH.

I am pleased to be joined by dedicated Board Directors: our founder [Azizah al-Hibri](#), [Raheemah Abdul Aleem](#), [Aisha al-Adawiya](#), [Sarah al-Fadl](#), [Zainab Alwani](#), [Abed Awad](#), [David Osborn](#), [Talal Khan](#), [Shahilla Sharrif](#), and [Kim Lecoyer](#).

This election year will continue to present opportunities and challenges. Civil rights for Muslims and other marginalized communities are being defied, and Islamophobia has become a household word. Although we take no particular political stance, I am honored and humbled by this opportunity to build upon the success KARAMAH has achieved advocating for gender-equity and civil rights.

Now, more than ever, I call on you, KARAMAH's friends, to continue supporting us so we can all contribute to healing this *ummah* inshallah. Together, we will be working diligently to keep KARAMAH moving in a positive and future-oriented direction.

Looking ahead,

[Saleema Snow](#), KARAMAH Chair

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KARAMAH Welcomes President Obama's Visit to the Islamic Society of Baltimore

KARAMAH was invited to join President Obama in his first visit during his presidency to a U.S. Mosque on February 3, 2016. President Obama visited the Islamic Society of Baltimore to promote religious tolerance. We applaud the President's decision to visibly and publicly engage with the American Muslim community. This visit came at a time when Muslim Americans have become increasingly

stigmatized with a rising tide of anti-Muslim sentiment fueled by islamophobia and dangerous xenophobic rhetoric. President Obama's visit sends a strong message about the place of Muslims in America and the importance of guaranteeing religious freedom and civil liberties for all. [Read more](#)

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KARAMAH Founder Speaks on Opening Day of Marrakesh Conference

On January 25th, KARAMAH participated in the historic Marrakesh Conference entitled: "The Rights of Religious Minorities in Predominantly Muslim Majority Communities: Legal Framework and a Call to Action." This conference is the culmination of various preparatory conferences and discussions held over the last several

years under the leadership of the prominent world-renowned scholar Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah. The conference was attended by hundreds of Muslim scholars, academics, and leaders of Muslim communities hailing from 120 countries, along with representatives of Islamic and international organizations and religious ministries who convened to reassert the rights of non-Muslims living in Muslim majority countries and to condemn violence committed in the name of Islam. [Read more](#)

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What is the Status of Religion in American Public Schools?

On Friday January 22, 2016, KARAMAH's executive director Aisha Rahman moderated a teleconference with the American Bar Association entitled "Start the Morning with a Prayer: Religion in Schools." The teleconference brought together speakers of diverse backgrounds and experiences to examine the religious

and legal aspect of the issue of Religion in Schools and to highlight various stakeholder perspectives including students, teachers, experts and administrators. [Read more](#)

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KARAMAH Celebrates MLK Day through Community Service Supporting Women's Empowerment

On January 18th, 2016, KARAMAH celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Jr.). In celebrating this day, KARAMAH participated in an event organized by Women Empowering Women at Park Road Community Church, Washington, D.C. This event's objectives were

to help job-seeking women with resume building and interviewing skills. It also aimed at providing gently used business attire for women who are newly employed or are seeking employment. [Read more](#)

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Turn to KARAMAH for Advice on How to Become Allies to Muslims

On January 30, 2016, KARAMAH was invited to speak to members of the Quaker community during the Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Women's Retreat. The invitation came from Quakers who felt outraged by the rising anti-Muslim sentiments and who wanted to open a discussion on how members of the Quaker community

can help their fellow Muslim Americans against hate and bigotry and to identify ways they can be allies in the face of bias and discrimination. KARAMAH's communications associate, Hind Essayegh, and KARAMAH's family law attorney, Julia Bizer, talked to a group of women including educators, activists and high school students in what they described to be "an encouraging and hope filled session." [Read more](#)



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KARAMAH Talks to Youth and Parents on How to Respond to Bullying

With rising anti-Muslim sentiment across the nation, our children remain the most vulnerable targets of bullying and profiling. Answering rising concerns from parents over school bullying and how to respond to it, KARAMAH presented a seminar titled "Teach your Child Advocacy Skills." On January 17, 2016, Aisha Rahman spoke at the Muslim Community Center in Silver Spring

as a part of the Center's Community Education Series on Bullying and Advocacy. Rahman addressed an audience of young Muslim girls and boys, and concerned parents and explained KARAMAH's advocacy model on the national level and on a case-by-case basis. [Read more](#)



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ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT



LLSP Kosovan Alumna Besa Ismaili Named "Ambassador for Peace"

Please join us in congratulating KARAMAH's alumna Besa Ismaili on her accomplishments. On November 21st, 2015, the Universal Peace Federation bestowed upon Besa the title of Ambassador for Peace for her contributions in interfaith dialogue. For nearly two decades, Besa has been a leading activist, researcher, advocate and trainer on society, religion and gender, especially as it relates to Muslim women issues in Kosovo. Besa Ismaili is deputy dean to the Faculty of

Islamic Studies in Pristina, Kosovo. She played a big role in establishing the Department for Women in the Islamic Community of Kosovo and also provided valuable guidance to its functioning. [Read more](#)



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MUSLIM AMERICAN STORIES

Iman Remembers Spit-Balls Thrown at her



Face and Being Called Names

My name is Iman Boukadoum. I am a peace activist and a human rights lawyer. I was bullied - a lot! It often had to do with my name "Iman" and because I never fit in. One painful experience, I remember vividly: I was on the school bus coming home from school. It started with a jeer coming from the back seat. "Chris" was considered the cutest guy in school. He wasn't actually cute. But

he did have an arrogance and mystery. [Read more](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the Date!

KARAMAH is commemorating Black History Month on **February 25, 2016** at 6:30 PM at **El-Hibri Foundation**.

More details forthcoming.



The Law and Leadership Summer Program (Jul.18 - Aug.6, 2016): More Spots Available.

[Apply now!](#)

KARAMAH is accepting applications to its Law and Leadership Summer Program 2016. KARAMAH's LLSP is specifically designed to provide training that addresses the unique challenges facing Muslim women today. For the past 13 years, the program has brought together a select group of Muslim women from around the world to study Islamic Law, Leadership and Conflict Resolution. KARAMAH's instructors are active jurists who currently study, teach, or practice law and are able to provide participants with insight on the latest research and activities in the field. Similarly, instructors for leadership and conflict resolution courses are active practitioners or scholars in those fields, providing education of the highest quality.



New Job Opening: Director of Civil Rights Law

KARAMAH kindly welcomes highly motivated applicants to apply for the position of **Director of Civil Rights Law**. The position will primarily involve coordinating our annual programs and leading the organization's Civil Rights Law Department. KARAMAH is a team-oriented office environment, and this position involves working closely with and supporting all of our departments and the Executive Director. KARAMAH addresses

human rights particularly those concerning Muslim women, both domestically and internationally, and the Civil Rights Law department coordinates programs targeting issues within both spheres. [Read more](#)

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KARAMAH Accepting Applications for Summer 2016 Internship Program

If you are a motivated undergraduate or graduate student interested in human rights, notably, women's rights, Islamic studies, law, political science or communications, apply to the summer internship with KARAMAH. We are always looking for smart and motivated people to join our team.

We will be accepting summer internship applications until March 15, 2016

[Apply now!](#)

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



A special shout out to KARAMAH's President Ms. Raheemah Abdulaleem Karim as well as KARAMAH's friends featured in this piece highlighting the stories of dedicated Muslim public servants at the White House. [\[Read more\]](#)



KARAMAH Founder Discusses The Marrakesh Declaration and Countering Violent Extremism in the Muslim world on the Radio show: "Background Briefing with Ian Masters" [\[Listen here\]](#)



President Obama was introduced at ISB by a brilliant Black Muslim young woman, Sabah Mukhtar, thus busting prejudice about Muslim women and demonstrating that American Muslims in their diversity "have an obligation to fulfill [their] loyalty to [their] country as any other." [\[Watch Sabah's speech here\]](#)



Congratulations to Ibtihaj Muhammad who will be making history this summer in Rio de Janeiro by being the first U.S. athlete to compete at the Olympics with a headscarf. [\[Read more\]](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

www.karamah.org





KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting human rights globally, especially gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States. It pursues its mission through education, legal outreach and advocacy. Have any questions or concerns? Email karamah@karamah.org