

**In This Issue:**

[A Message from Our  
New Chair](#)

--

[Announcing  
KARAMAH's Conflict  
Resolution Division](#)

-

**Updates**

[A Call for Justice for  
the Families of the  
Chapel Hill victims](#)

--

**Upcoming Events**

[Malcolm X on the  
World Scene](#)

[Apply for LLSP  
Today!](#)

[A Message from the  
Founder on the  
Michigan Events](#)

[Featuring One of Our  
Amazing LLSP  
Alumnae](#)

--

**Past Events**

[Lebanese  
Delegation discusses  
Trafficking, Gender  
Issues](#)

[Donate Now](#)

## *A Message from Our New Chair*



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to serve as the new Chair of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. I would like to thank Dr. al-Hibri for her stalwart leadership and dedication to KARAMAH. Over twenty years ago, Dr. al-Hibri founded KARAMAH to provide the global community with Islamic jurisprudence that emphasizes gender equity and to encourage intellectual growth. Since its founding, KARAMAH has served as a leader in providing Islamic legal scholarship while also developing educational and leadership development programs from a unique and nuanced perspective that is often overlooked.

KARAMAH has continued to expand its focus addressing the pressing civil rights and family law needs of the communities that it serves through its advocacy and legal representation. I am honored to serve as Chair of KARAMAH and look forward to working with KARAMAH as it continues its important work providing gender-equitable Islamic jurisprudence, family law representation and civil rights education and advocacy.

Looking ahead,

Raheemah Abdulaleem, Esq.  
Chair, KARAMAH

## *Announcing KARAMAH's Conflict Resolution Division*



Our community is no different than any other. We have conflict among individuals, among families, among organizations, and among boards. How should we resolve these conflicts? Too often, conflict resolution in our community escalate into mud-slinging, making accusations, and diminishing one another. These are not effective means of dealing with our problems and they are contrary to our Islamic tradition. We are reminded often at KARAMAH of the story of the Prophet Muhammad and the "conflict" over moving the black stone.

All of the tribes wanted the distinct honor of moving the stone and taking it to the Kaa'ba. The Prophet Muhammad, in his infinite wisdom, resolved the conflict amicably by suggesting that the black stone be placed on a sheet and a member of each tribe would hold the sheet and collectively, the tribes would move the stone. This method of peacefully resolving conflict, among many other examples from our Islamic heritage, is what inspires KARAMAH to do our work.

[Read More](#)

## **-Recent Updates-**

***A Call for Justice for the Families of the Chapel Hill victims***



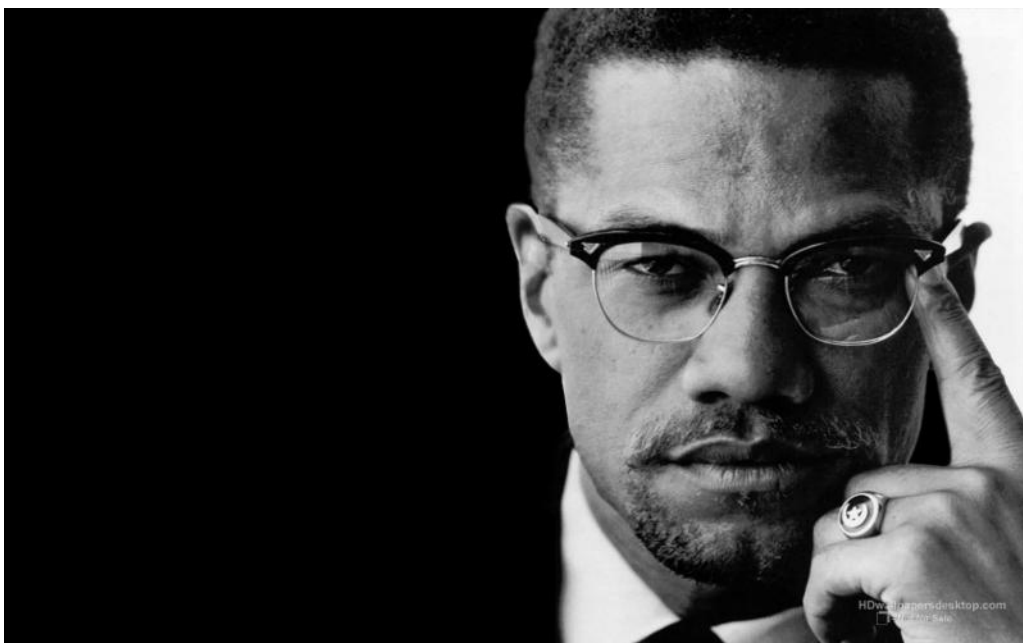
KARAMAH last week joined a broad coalition of civil rights organizations [in a letter](#) requesting that Attorney General Holder open a federal hate crime investigation on the three murders of Razan, Yusor, and Deah. The letter also requests a federal investigation or indictment of potential hate crimes against members of the American Muslim, Arab, Sikh or South Asian communities. KARAMAH welcomes the initial FBI investigation into the murders but demands the opening of a full investigation. [As President Obama stated](#), "No one in the United States of America should ever be targeted because of who they are, what they look like, or how they worship."

[Read the Letter](#)

[Read our Condolences](#)

## -Upcoming Events-

### *Malcolm X On the World Scene*



On February 21st at 6:30 pm, a special event will take place at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This evening is co-presented by The Malcolm X Museum, the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial & Education Center, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The evening will focus on Malcolm X's legacy and impact from an international perspective with special remarks by selected guests and dignitaries, a conversation and a multimedia presentation.

The talk will be moderated by Les Payne with panelists, Dr. Saladin Ambar, Stephen Page, Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, Dr. Ahmed Osman, and Dr. Hisham Aidi.

[Interested? Get the details for the livestream.](#)

## *Apply for LLSP Today!*



Every year, the program continues to be the highlight for all who work at KARAMAH. Not only because we offer **groundbreaking training that addresses the unique challenges facing Muslim women today**, but because it is a chance for us to meet the next group of international change makers.

[Last year, we hosted women](#) from thirteen countries, diverse in nationalities and fields of work and study. Among the women were lawyers, entrepreneurs, translators and hopeful diplomats. There were women who were in the process of beginning their own nonprofits, others who serve positions on nonprofit boards, and still others who have founded successful nonprofits and social ventures.

**Now, we are looking for a new, dynamic group of women from around the world. Applications are due by March 31, 2015.**

Please send any questions to [info@karamah.org](mailto:info@karamah.org).

[To Apply, click here!](#)

## **A Message from the Founder on Michigan Events**



There is no sense in ignoring the momentous events taking place in the Muslim Shi'i community in Dearborn, Michigan. On January 23rd, Sayyed Hassan Qazwini, a highly admired national Muslim leader, threatened to resign from his post as Imam of the Islamic Center of America, unless there is major reform at the Center. The decision was sudden and the congregation was in tears. Unfortunately, the stated reason for the resignation was continued harassment by a handful of the members of the Center's board of trustees.

The community, its board and Imam quickly understood the seriousness of the situation. So, last Friday, a committee from the community was formed to communicate with all parties in an effort to resolve the problem. Imam Qazwini announced his willingness to remain in office if the resolution meets his approval. Thus, disaster was averted at least for a while, and cool heads prevailed.

[Read More](#)

## Featuring One of Our Amazing LLSP Alumnae



Nisa Muhammad, an alumna of our Law and Leadership Summer Program, was recently named Azizah Magazine's fashion editor. We are so proud of her!

## -Past Events-

### *Lebanese Delegation Discusses Trafficking, Gender Issues*



During the conversation, KARAMAH staff advised the delegation of leaders on labor practices and civil rights. The leaders discussed the fact that domestic and agricultural workers are routinely denied rights in Lebanon. Unfortunately, there remains a lack of laws and policies that protect the rights of such workers, many of whom are immigrants from other countries. These workers hailing mainly from Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Nepal are exempt from the protection of labor laws. There is also a public awareness issue, many times propagated by censorship of any media materials that deem such workers as human beings.

One of the delegates spoke about the mistreatment many domestic workers face including a lack of minimum wage, access to health care, and vacation time. In one case, during the war in Lebanon, families locked up the homes and fled, leaving the domestic workers unable to escape the house for the month. As a result, the delegation sought insight and consultation from KARAMAH in order to rectify the serious issue.

Interested? [Read More.](#)



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](mailto:karamah@karamah.org).