



KARAMAH

MUSLIM WOMEN LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Monthly Newsletter

July 2015

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Donate Now

Dear Friends,

The last ten days and blessed nights of Ramadan are here. We at KARAMAH have had a busy Ramadan sharing *Iftars*, meeting many local Muslims and sharing ideas. I hope that you and your families have had a blessed month. Let us make the most of these last days -I pray that they renew us spiritually for all the important work we have ahead of us.

For us here at KARAMAH, this is an incredibly significant time. Shortly after *Eid*, we will begin our annual Law and Leadership Summer Program. This year we will celebrate the 13th anniversary of the program where we will welcome our world renowned scholars and faculty to teach some incredible Muslim women. This program helps in creating a critical mass of informed Muslim women leaders all around the world who affect change in their communities and impact others around them. Our alumnae are hosting free health clinics in rural areas, starting their own organizations, teaching at leading universities and law schools, and leading their local Muslim communities.

This year, we will be joined by over 20 participants hailing from around the U.S, Morocco, Kosovo, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kenya, South Africa and Turkey. Our class is comprised of community leaders and activists, lawyers, academics, researchers, editors, health professionals and students. We are looking forward to welcoming them to the KARAMAH sisterhood and we invite you to hear their stories at our public event Strong Voices Strong Communities on Wednesday August 12 at Busboys and Poets. We will be sending more information regarding this event soon. You will not want to miss it!

Sincerely,

Aisha Rahman, KARAMAH Executive Director

KARAMAH Participates in Iftars Extending Intra-Faith Bridges



This Ramadan, KARAMAH has continued its efforts to bring together different communities. On July 1, executive director Aisha Rahman attended the Turkish-South Asian friendship Ramadan Iftar organized by the Rumi Forum and the American Turkish Friendship Alliance ("ATFA"). This Iftar is one in a series that the two organizations have organized between Turkish and other ethnic communities. KARAMAH commends the Rumi Forum and ATFA for their efforts to build bridges within the Muslim community.

[Read more](#)

KARAMAH's Community Iftar Records Fantastic Turn-out of 200 guests



On Monday June 22nd, and as has been the tradition, KARAMAH hosted its annual community Iftar at Masjid Muhammad. Like each year, the masjid was filled to capacity. 200 attendees of different backgrounds and faiths united to celebrate Ramadan with us, share delicious halal food, get to know one another, and celebrate our

common denominator- humanity.

"It was wonderful to see the diversity in the room - a true community affair... The Iftar reinforced that we were created in tribes, so that we may know one another." - KARAMAH Board member Saleema Snow

[Read more](#)

[Iftar pictures](#)

The Islamic Worldview by Dr. Azizah al-Hibri: A Must-Read!



"Is practicing Islam in the American Diaspora identical to its practice in other countries, or must a new Islamic jurisprudence be developed that takes into account the culture, customs and laws of this country?"

This is the central question around which Dr. Azizah al-Hibri bases her discussion and analysis of Islamic Jurisprudence within a 21st century American context. *The Islamic Worldview* is the first volume of *Islamic Jurisprudence: An American Muslim Perspective*, a groundbreaking series that revisits traditional Islamic Jurisprudence in order to develop a modern enlightened understanding of Islam with respect to gender, marriage, family, and democratic governance.

[Read more](#)

ASK ZAHRA:

What are Women's Financial Rights Upon Divorce?

When it comes to women's financial rights upon divorce, Muslim scholars agreed on a few points and disagreed on others. The first subject of unanimous agreement among them is that once the marriage is consummated, women are entitled to their deferred mahr, mu'akhar, which is the part of mahr that the husband chooses, with his prospective wife's consent, not pay immediately upon the contraction of marriage. Hence, deferred mahr is automatically granted to divorced women in all Muslim countries' family courts. Second, women's property is not divided upon divorce and is not part of the assets that could be part of litigation. Whatever a woman owns, earns or is given as a gift before and during the course of marriage remains her sole property when the marriage ends: "But if you want to replace one wife with another and you have given one of them a great amount [in gifts], do not take [back] from it anything. Would you take it in injustice and manifest sin? And how could you take it while you have gone in unto each other and they have taken from you a solemn covenant?" (Qur'an, 4: 20-21) Post-divorce financial support is another story.

[Read the Complete Answer](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Aisha Rahman to Speak at Berkley Center's Conference on Religious Freedom July 16th



On July 16, 2015, Berkley Center's religious freedom project will host a day-long conference titled "Religious Freedom: Rising Threats to a Fundamental Human Right." The conference will include two panel discussions with religious freedom

practitioners and scholars. KARAMAH executive director Ms. Aisha Rahman will speak at the panel titled "**Religious Freedom and Women's Rights**" scheduled at 1:45 pm.

[RSVP](#)

***Dr. Amr Abdalla to Present
Personal & Intervention Skill-Building
Workshop
August 15th -16th***



KARAMAH and IKRAM Foundation for Empowerment of Muslim Women are organizing a two-day Workshop on "Personal and Intervention Skill-Building" based on the 'Say Peace' Training Manual for Muslim Communities. The workshop will be presented by

Dr. [Amr Abdalla](#): Senior Advisor on Conflict resolution at KARAMAH and Senior Advisor on Policy Analysis and Research at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University.

When: August 15th from 9:15 to 6:00
August 16th from 9:30 to 5:15

Where: The Fairfax Institute
500 Grove St. Herndon VA, 20170

[Workshop Agenda](#)

[RSVP](#)

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KARAMAH ON THE WEB



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