

KARAMAH NEWS

SUMMER 2016

Dear Friends,

It has been an amazing and incredibly active summer at KARAMAH! We hope that all of you had amazing summers full of relaxation, family and vacations. We enjoyed some of this as well, but for us, summer means Ramadan and the Law and Leadership Summer Program. I can honestly say that summers are my favorite time at KARAMAH. Between the revitalization, community, and spirituality that comes with Ramadan and the incredible fulfillment we feel by learning from amazing Muslim women leaders from all over the world during LLSP, summers are a very special time.

This past Ramadan, KARAMAH had one distinct honor. For the first time ever, an American Muslim female scholar was invited to give a *dars Hassani* (Hassani Lesson) before the King of Morocco. KARAMAH founder, board member, and scholar, Azizah al-Hibri, addressed the royal court, its local and international guest scholars, diplomats, and high government and military officials. Indeed the lesson, which was live-streamed, reached a worldwide audience.

Dr. al-Hibri addressed a very important topic: "Arrogance and its Modern Manifestations." Her lesson was impactful not only because of its juristic nature, but also because it came at a time when the global Muslim community really needed to understand the root of many ills. Arrogance, as she artfully explains, takes on many forms. It is not only a personal fault, but is as well a cultural one which should be eliminated through a dialogue of civilizations. As we struggle with increased misogyny, anti-Muslim sentiment, racism, and other issues, this lesson given by Dr. al-Hibri is also relevant and profound to our society. Please take some time to watch her lesson below.

After Ramadan, KARAMAH completed its 14th annual Law and Leadership Summer Program. This program is our flagship program - implementing KARAMAH's longterm vision of restoring God given dignity to all people, particularly Muslim women, through education. We hope you enjoy the highlights, videos and photos of the program below. Be sure to be checking our website for updates on next year's program. You will not want to miss it!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you this fall.

Best,
Aisha Rahman
KARAMAH Executive Director

Support us!

**Dr. Azizah al-Hibri Lectures
about "Arrogance and Its
Modern Manifestations" before**

the King of Morocco



"We can either choose the model of *kibr*, hatred and disdain, and reject the opportunity of *ta'aruf* or we can choose the model of *tawadu'* and *ta'aruf* and seek knowledge wherever we find it, so long as it is consistent with our values." Azizah al-Hibri

This past Ramadan, KARAMAH Founder and board of director's member, Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, was invited by King Mohammed VI of Morocco to deliver a

dars Hassani (Hassani lesson) at the religious and scholarly forum of "Al-Dourous Al-Hassaniyah" held at the Royal Palace of Casablanca, Morocco. Dr. al-Hibri's lecture was titled "Arrogance and Its Modern Manifestations."

Al-Dourous Al-Hassaniyah is a Ramadan tradition that started in 1963 by the late King Hassan II of Morocco, hence its name. For over 50 years, this forum has hosted prominent Muslim scholars and jurists from diverse sectarian and ideological backgrounds to discuss issues and concerns of the Muslim *ummah*. The Dourous are attended by the Moroccan King, the royal family, religious scholars, high-ranking state officials, and members of Muslim countries' diplomatic missions to Morocco.

Dr. al-Hibri is the first American Muslim woman ever to deliver such a lecture.

[To watch the video of the lecture \(in English\) click here](#)

[To read more, click here.](#)



14th Annual Law & Leadership Summer Program (LLSP) Highlights

KARAMAH celebrated its 14th annual Law and Leadership Summer Program this year! For three weeks in July and August, KARAMAH welcomed eighteen talented leaders from Kenya, Kosovo, Sudan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. This year's class included university students, lawyers, activists, researchers, and educators. Over the past 14 years, LLSP has evolved in many ways and has been honed to a level of excellence that attracts phenomenal leaders year after year. With lectures and interactive

workshops everyday, LLSP is an intense but rewarding program allowing the class to form a sisterhood while developing different leadership techniques and expand their knowledge about Islam.

In addition to KARAMAH's core curriculum which featured courses on Leadership, Conflict Resolution, and Islamic Law, this year Ms. Manal Omar, Associate Vice President for the Middle East and Africa Center at the United States Institute of Peace, delivered the keynote address to kick off LLSP. In addition, KARAMAH's faculty included board members and scholars of Islam Dr. Azizah al-Hibri and Dr. Zainab Alwani, community leaders such as Ms. Linda Sarsour and Mr. Farhan Latif, esteemed professors like Mr. Mike Useem from the Wharton School, and many many more. To read more about our amazing program, please visit our [website!](#)

"Strong Voices" Featured in the Washington Post



At KARAMAH's annual event "Strong Voices, Strong Communities," which takes place at Busboys and Poets, LLSP participants are given the opportunity to share their stories and make their voices heard. This year, six participants from LLSP 2016 shocked the audience with their performances. Washington Post reporter, Mary Hui, was so moved by Ekram Hussien's spoken word poem that she wrote an article about KARAMAH.

In her poem Ekram Hussien referenced an incident she had recently on a train in which a man said to her, "if it were left up to me, people like you wouldn't be in this country." She responded: "well, luckily, it's not up to you." The Washington Post

article begins with this powerful response that Hussein gave and concluded with Hussien's personal perspective as she told Reporter Hui that "It's made me, if anything, stronger in my faith and in who I am. It's made me stand stronger." To read the article, click [here](#).

[NOTE: KARAMAH is an apolitical organization]

Ekram Hussein's Spoken Word Piece Charms *Busboys'* Audience

In case you missed it, please view the video of Ekram Hussein's spoken word piece that was featured in the Washington Post article. You will not want to miss this!



[NOTE: The views expressed during this performance are those of the writer and performer alone and do not reflect KARAMAH's views]



A Successful Domestic Violence Webinar Series

KARAMAH joins the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, once again to hold a series of workshops, webinars and trainings on addressing domestic violence in the American Muslim community. This summer, KARAMAH conducted the first webinar series. KARAMAH's Family Law Staff Attorney, Julia Bizer and KARAMAH Executive Director Aisha Rahman gave weekly webinars entitled "Addressing Domestic Violence in the American Muslim Community."

These webinars focused on educating service providers, lawyers, and other professionals on how to effectively provide culturally and religiously sensitive services to Muslim survivors. The webinar series is designed to build upon itself, weaving in topics such as cultural humility and awareness of bias and prejudice to specific issues to understanding when dealing with marginalized, immigrant and Muslim communities. KARAMAH's webinar then turned to more nuanced topics such as understanding divorce from an Islamic perspective and how batterers use spiritual abuse as a tool against survivors. Finally, the webinar concluded with legal remedies and safety planning tips for service providers to employ as they continue to serve survivors. To learn more about KARAMAH's ongoing technical assistance, please visit our website and sign up for the next webinar or training!

SAVE THE DATE

September 17-18, 2016: Legal Workshop The Islamic Marriage Contract: What Every Lawyer in America Needs to Know

[Register here!](#)

Speakers:



Aisha Rahman, Esq.
KARAMAH Executive Director



Abed Awad, Esq.
KARAMAH Board Member
Lawyer and Specialist in Islamic
and Middle Eastern Law

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



This past Ramadan, it was KARAMAH's pleasure to host its two annual iftars. Please watch the [video](#) of the keynote speaker, Reverend Susan Henry-Crowe, who addressed KARAMAH's guests at the annual iftar held at the Ibrahim El-Hibri building. In case you missed KARAMAH's annual iftar at Masjid Muhammad, check out our flickr album [here!](#)

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