



## UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

An independent institution established by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity  
to promote peaceful resolution to international conflicts

### International Conference on Muslim Youth in Europe and North America Agenda

Speakers invited and themes proposed (\*unconfirmed)

#### MONDAY 30 OCTOBER

14:30 Welcome & Introduction to Wilton Park

- **Julia PURCELL**  
Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

14:45-15:15 What are the Facts? Demographic Overview and Statistical Data

- **Tahir ABBAS**  
Director, University Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Culture, Birmingham

15:15-16:45 Muslim Youth: What are the Challenges to Effective Engagement?

*What are the key issues in relation to successful integration? Do young people have a voice in the debate and are they able to use it? What are the particular issues facing second and third generation Muslims? Are young people growing up 'between cultures'? How do we avoid stereotypes across communities? What about the role and perceptions of young women? What are the drivers that define identity? What is the key to citizenship? Why are some young people disaffected to the point of extremism?*

- **\*Tariq RAMADAN**, *Session Chair*  
Visiting Professor, St Antony's College, Oxford University
- **Khallad SWAID**  
President, Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisation, Brussels
- **Shareefa FULAT**  
Muslim Youth Helpline, London

17:30-19:00 What Should Governments Do Differently?

*What is happening at a local and national level? What are the different approaches taken by governments? What is the scope for improvement? Is there a distinction between a North American approach and European models? Can more be done to engage young*

*Muslims? What do governments expect from young people? Is there enough two-way communication? How best to ensure an effective inter-face with public institutions? How can we break down barriers to full participation?*

- **UK Government speaker**  
To be advised
- **David GERSTEN**  
Director of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Programmes, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.

Re-Inventing the Wheel: What Can We Learn From Previous Experience?

- **\*Paul GILROY**  
Holder, Anthony Giddens Professorship in Social Theory, London School of Economics

What can we learn from the experience of previous 'new' communities'? What were the barriers to integration and how were they overcome? How much was due to government action and how much to communities?

## **TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER**

09:15- 10:45 Can Young Muslims Influence Policy?

*Do young Muslims feel part of the political community? Can they influence policy-making? Are policy-makers sensitive to the needs of young Muslims? Can they do more to engage the interest of young people? How can Muslims in eg the US contribute to the European dynamic? Are young people prepared to speak out? Can more be done to improve communication? Can young Muslims criticise their own communities?*

- **Sadiq KHAN**  
Member of Parliament, UK
- **Irfana ANWER**  
Executive Director, Karamah, Washington DC
- **\*Ibrahim EL-ZAYAT**  
President, Islamic Community of Germany, Cologne

11:15- 12:45 What Role Do Women Play?

*What are the specific issues facing young women? How can these barriers be overcome? Do stereotypes get in the way of effective engagement? Can women do more within their communities to promote effective engagement?*

- **Sarah JOSEPH**  
Editor Emel Magazine, London
- **Marieme HELIE-LUCAS**

Activist; Founder & Former International Co-ordinator, Women Living Under Muslim Laws,  
Grabels

15:30-17:00 A Sense of Belonging?

### **Introduction in plenary to discussion groups.**

*Where and how do young Muslims interface with the state? Do public services reflect needs? Do social infra-structures foster a sense of exclusion? Do young Muslims see themselves in the public sphere? Are youth services culturally and faith sensitive? What are the barriers to 'belonging'? How can inter-action be enhanced? Is communication the key?*

- **Is Communication the Key?**  
**Ross JAMES**  
Head of Diversity, Central Office of Information (COI), London
- **Criminal Justice System**  
**Taleeb NOORMOHAMED**  
Director, Citizen Engagement, Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness, Ottawa
- **Education: State or Society?**  
**Riem SPIELHAUS**  
Humboldt University, Berlin
- **Participation in the Democratic Process: New Policy Thinking?**  
**Saskia TEMPELMAN**  
Senior Policy Adviser, Ministry of Justice, Department of Integration, The Hague

17:30-19:00 Break into 4 Parallel Discussion Groups

- Communication
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Society

19:30 Reception followed by Conference Dinner

- *After Dinner Speaker:*  
**Asad AHMAD**  
Presenter BBC London

### **WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER**

09:15-10:45 The Role of Community Organizations

*How can community organisations best support their constituents? What are the obstacles to effective dialogue between government and communities? How can the relationship between government and non-government actors be made more effective? Does the notion of 'community' undermine connectivity with a national identity? How can governments better support community organisations? How can community organisations ensure they are taken seriously?*

- **Haleh AFSHAR**  
Professor of Politics & Women's Studies, University of York
- **Fathi EL-ABED**  
Spokesman, Democratic Muslims of Denmark, Copenhagen
- **Nazim BAKSH**  
Journalism Fellow, Massey College, University of Toronto

11:15-12:45 Concluding Session: What are the Ways Forward?

- **Wakkas KHAN**  
Former President, Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS), London
- **Salam AL-MARAYATI**  
Executive Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Washington DC