

## Presenters' Biographies:



**Sanaa Ali-Mohammed** is a community engaged researcher and consultant with experience designing and delivering human rights and equity focused programming and campaigns in political, nonprofit and philanthropic environments. She sits on the Board of Directors for the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, where she has contributed to conversations about racism and discrimination for outlets like Ricochet Media, the CBC and the Philanthropist. Sanaa holds a Master of Arts in International Development Studies from York University, and an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto.



**Mohammed Abu Asaker** is a Senior Philanthropy and Partnerships officer at UNHCR where he is responsible for developing a comprehensive Islamic Philanthropy strategy and implementation plan for North America. Mohammed has two master's degrees: one in public administration from Harvard University (2019), and another one in International Development from American University, Washington DC (2007). Mohammed has over 17 years of professional experience working in the humanitarian field. He used to be a Senior Policy Officer at the MENA regional Bureau in Amman. He also served as a UNHCR's Senior Regional Spokesperson where he covered the humanitarian situation of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya Rohingya refugee crises, among others. He led the initiative to work with social media influencers to raise funds and awareness about refugees and created a large digital fundraising campaign, raising over \$15 million for relief efforts. Mohammed is a recipient of the Michigan Arab-American Association's International Justice Award (2015), and the White House American Presidential Scholarship (2005).



**Sarah Attia** is a mother, educator and community activist. Sarah is a graduate of The University of Toronto, Faculty of Engineering, holding a bachelor and a master's degree in chemical engineering. Sarah spent over 10 years working on providing quality international education to children in Egypt as a principal, teacher, and founder of an international school in Cairo, Egypt. She has a particular interest in curriculum development, character education, and community contribution. She is currently the lead of MAC iRISE, where she oversees character education curricula and programs for MAC Islamic Schools. Sarah has always had a passion for working with young people and also currently serves as the Director of Youth for the Muslim Association of Canada.



**Randi Deguilhem** is a professor with the CNRS, Centre tior de la Recherche Scientifique, in France, Aix Marseille University, research unit TELEMMe UMR 7303 in Aix en Provence. Her specialty is Islamic law of the waqf endowments in the Islamic world with a focus on the Syrian regions with a timeframe from the latter part of the Ottoman period through the French Mandate in Syria and Lebanon and up to the contemporary period. In this respect, she studied the evolution of Islamic and state law with respect to the islamic waqf, with some reference to the Christian and Jewish waqf, and she also researches specific case studies of Ottoman waqf, i.e., norms and practices of waqf. With respect to waqf research, she organised an Intertior Research Network, a GDRI, funded by the CNRS and nine intertior and tior partners in Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, Lebanon/Syria/Jordan, the UAE, Malaysia and Japan. We are currently working on an interactive data base which will ultimately be available to all researchers on Open Access. She has also organised and led a reseach semir on the waqf endowments at EHESS, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, from 2010 to 2016. In 2014, she organised and continue to direct a university wide network at Aix Marseille Univ. called GenderMed: Thinking Gender in the Mediterranean. Along with the Steering Committee of GenderMed, we have created semirs, workshops, summer schools, etc., and have supervised PhD dissertations on many aspects of gender.



**Anver M. Emon** is a Professor and Canada Research Chair in Islamic law and History at the University of Toronto in its Faculty of Law. He is also appointed to the Department of History in the faculty of Arts and Sciences and directs the university's Institute of Islamic Studies. Emon holds doctorates in history from the University of California Los Angeles and law from Yale. He researches Islamic legal history to reflect on the deployment of Islamic law in the past and the present across different regions. Emon was the founding editor of Middle East Law and Governance: An Interdisciplinary Journal, and currently serves as the series editor of the Oxford Islamic Legal Studies Series. The recipient of numerous research grants, Emon was named as a 2014 Guggenheim Fellow in the field of law and awarded the 2017 Kitty Newman Memorial Award in Philosophy from the Royal Society of Canada.



**Nadia Hasan** has a PhD in Political Science from York University. As Chief Operating Officer, Nadia is part of the senior management team and she leads the NCCM's organizational development, program management, and national operations. Nadia has a diverse background in teaching, project management and the non-profit sector. Nadia has several years of experience working on policy and programs at Canadian think tanks and NGOs and she has taught university courses in South Asian studies, religion and gender. Her doctoral research focused on Muslim women's organizations and the practice of Islam in Canada and Pakistan. Nadia is a published author on a

range of topics pertaining to Canadian Muslims and Muslim popular culture. She previously served as the NCCM's Program Coordinator.



**Memona Hossain** is currently pursuing her PhD in Ecopsychology along with a certification in EcoArt Therapy through Project Nature Connect, which is affiliated with Akamai University. Ecopsychology is the area of study that explores the connective, holistic relationship of humans and the Earth. Memona has a particular interest in Islam and Ecopsychology. Memona occasionally teaches Ecopsychology through the University of Guelph Arboretum (Ontario, Canada) and has also taught at the Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga (Ontario). Memona has been working in various capacities in the field of Mental Health, Addictions, and Developmental Disabilities for over 15 years. Memona currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Muslim Association of Canada. She holds a Master's in Education (Curriculum, Teaching & Learning) from The University of Toronto (Canada).



**Nuzhat Jafri** is the Executive Director (ED) of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) and has served as President and long-time national board member and volunteer with the Council. She also serves on the board of directors of The Pluralist Foundation and has served as chair and member of several other non-profit boards, including the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, ACCES Employment, and South Asian Family Support Services. Nuzhat has wide-ranging leadership experience in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. She served as the Executive Director of the Office of the Fairness Commissioner from 2007 to 2017. She is an untiring advocate for human rights, equity, inclusion and accessibility. She has a B.A in French language and literature from the University of Toronto and a Master's from the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario. She lives in Toronto and enjoys being a grandmother among many of her occupations.



**Ruby Latif** BA, BAH, M.A., Doctoral of Social Science Candidate (ABD), has over 15 years of experience leveraging research and strategic partnerships in service of community initiatives. As Principal Consultant with Milieu Strategy and Consulting and a previous political staffer with the Offices of Premier Dalton McGuinty and Mayor John Tory, Ruby has collaborated with over 1,000 community groups to ensure better and more responsive policy making. She has also engaged with hundreds of ethnic media outlets and has organized over 300 community and political events. Ruby believes that today's policy challenges require creativity, building bridges, bringing diverse stakeholders together, and applying an intersectional lens so that policy decisions are informed by those most impacted. Her research on workplace diversity and organizational change

management has been published in academic journals including the Journal of Management and Organization. In her spare time, Ruby is a contributing columnist for the Toronto Star, a mentor to numerous young racialized leaders, and an avid wearer of sparkly sneakers.



**Nighat Nabi (Non-Practising Lawyer & Community Volunteer):** I am a lawyer in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario, having been Called to the Bar in 2009. I worked as a sole practitioner in Family Law and Immigration Law. Currently I have taken personal leave to focus on my family. I obtained my LL.B. (Hons) from the University of London in 1996 and was Called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1997. Prior to immigrating to Canada, I practised as a lawyer in Bangladesh. For several years, I have been an active community volunteer working with schools, community organizations and charities in Canada. Currently, I am a member of the Steering Committee of the Canadian Association of Muslim Women in Law; a member of the Canadian Muslim COVID-19 Task Force and also Co-chair of School Council. I strongly believe that the success of immigrants and refugees depends upon an increased awareness of how to access resources, along with strong support to overcome barriers and challenges.



**Muneeb Nasir** is the founder and Chair of the Olive Tree Foundation, an endowment foundation and granting agency; and Co-Chair of the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee. He is also the Managing Editor of the online Canadian Muslim magazine, IQRA.ca. Over the years, Muneeb has founded a number of charities and served on boards and advisory committees including on the Steering Committee of the Parliament of the World's Religions, the Muslim Advisory Committee at Emmanuel College-University of Toronto and the Scarborough Hospital Advisory Council. Educated at the University of Toronto and University of Guelph, Muneeb retired from a distinguished career as a Senior Analyst at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. He also has Professional Certification in Not-for-Profit Management and in Interfaith Understanding.

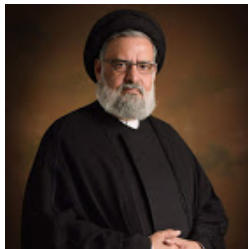


**Irshad Osman (Naleemi)** serves as a Khateeb at Danforth Islamic Centre, Toronto Islamic Centre and other mosques in the GTA. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Arabic and Islamic studies from Naleemiah International Islamic University in Sri Lanka. He also holds a Masters degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of Manchester, UK and Graduate Training in Theology from the University of Leiden, the Netherlands. Osman is a fundraising consultant by profession who has received the Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation in Canada. He has worked at United Way Toronto, Silent Voice Canada, Women's College Hospital Foundation, and IDRF (International Development & Relief Foundation) overseeing fundraising portfolios worth of Millions of dollars to support local and International causes. He was selected

in the first cohort of Association of Fundraising Professional's "Fellowship in Inclusion & Philanthropy" in 2015/2016. As a religious leader in the community, Osman volunteers his time with many Toronto-based organizations advocating for social justice, minority rights, true inclusion, anti-racism and anti-hate, and supports inter-faith collaboration to find solutions to common issues, e.g., poverty, homelessness, etc., faced by the community. In 2020, Osman received the Interfaith Innovation Fellowship granted by Interfaith Youth Core based in Chicago. As part of the fellowship project, he is developing a toolkit for fundraisers on how to engage and cultivate religiously-active donors by understanding their faith-driven motivations and religious sensitivities. Irshad also serves in the leadership team of "Anti-Semitism & Islamophobia: Moving from Hate to Hope" initiative and volunteers his time as a career and civic engagement mentor for newcomers at Culturelink. And Osman is the first Canadian Muslim among the 25 interfaith leaders and dialogue practitioners who have been selected for the 2021 KAICIID (King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue) International Fellowship.



**Mahdi Qasqas** holds a PhD in Social work, is a registered Psychologist, and head of Q&A Psychological Services. Along with his team, they strive to help people overcome the cultural, language, and financial barriers to timely and culturally responsive mental health services. He has worked both professionally and pro-bono with a range of local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. As a volunteer leader he has served over 15,000 hours of serious leisure which became the subject focus of his doctoral studies and led to patenting Psycho-Spiritual First Aid<sup>®</sup>, a mental health consultation model used to build culturally localized and adapted evidence-based interventions and programs.



**Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi** was born in India, raised in East Africa, studied in Iran and is currently residing in Canada. He studied Islam at Hawza-e 'Ilmiyyah (Seminary) of Qum, 1972 to 1982. He also has an MA (History) from Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada 1991. He has authored many books on Shi'a Islam, such as Marriage & Morals in Islam (1990); Shi'ism: Imamate & Wilayat (1999); Islam: Faith, Practice & History (2004); and Business Ethics in Islam (2007). Some of his publications have been translated in many languages. From 1983 – 1991, he served as Imam of the Shi'a Muslim Community of BC, Canada and from 1991 – 1996 as Director of Islamic Education & Information Centre, Toronto. Starting from 1996, he serves as Imam of Jaffari Islamic Community, Toronto and from 2018 as the Secretary General of Council of the Shi'a Scholars of North America. From 2020, he serves as the Director of Shi'a Research Institute, Toronto.



**Abu Noman Tarek** has been serving as an Imam, Teacher, Chaplain, Educator and Consultant in Canada for over 15 years. He currently holds three Bachelor's degrees and two Master's degrees that he earned starting in Bangladesh, and has been continuing in Canada. Currently, he is the Imam-Director of Religious Affairs of the Muslim Association of Brantford. He also serves as a trained psychotherapist at CEHH (Center for Emotional Health & Healing), teaches at Wilfrid Laurier University and serves as Chaplain at different correctional services and hospitals. Under his leadership at ICNA Relief Canada 87 refugee families have come to Canada and settled in 15 cities since 2016. He is a member of Canadian Council of Imams, board member of Grand Erie Council on Aging, and a member of the DEEN Advisory Council that provides guidance and support in addressing disability issues in the community.