

**Schedule**

**Saturday, 14 December (Online Only)**

All times are listed in GMT.

11:30	Introductions – Saeed Khan
11:45	<p><b>PANEL ONE: <i>Global Policies of Silencing and Suppression</i></b> – chaired by Saeed Khan</p> <p>Keynote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anne Norton</li> </ul> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Imam Dawud Walid</li> <li>- Sandew Hira</li> </ul>
13:00	Q&A
13:30	Break
13:45	<p><b>PANEL TWO: <i>Institutional Silencing in Sociopolitical Contexts</i></b> – chaired Seyfeddin Kara</p> <p>Keynotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- David Miller</li> <li>- Tasneem Chopra</li> </ul>
14:25	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revd. Stephen Sizer</li> <li>- Richard Haley</li> </ul>
15:00	Q&A

15:30	Summary – Saeed Khan

**Sunday, 15 December (In-person and online)**

All times are listed in GMT.

10:30	Registration and refreshments
11:30	Qur'an & Translation Introductions – Saeed Khan
11:45	<b>PANEL THREE: <i>The Culture Paradox of Muslim Representation on Social Media</i></b> – chaired by Kaneez Hisbani  Keynote:  - Ilan Pappé  Panel Discussion:  12:25 - Myriam Francois - Malia Bouattia
12:55	Q&A
13:30	Lunch
14:30	<b>PANEL FOUR: <i>Pathways Forward: Strategies to Reclaim Civil Rights in Liberal Democracies</i></b> – chaired by Saeed Khan  Keynotes:  - Laurens De Rooij - Sadek Hamid  Panel Discussion:  15:05 - Asa Winstanley - Ramón Grosfoguel

15:35	Q&A
16:10	Summary – Saeed Khan / Abed Choudhury  Vote of Thanks – Massoud Shadjareh

## **Speakers' Bios**

**Malia Bouattia** is the former president of National Union of Students, co-founder of Students Not Suspects / Educators Not Informants, presenter on Women Like Us on British Muslim TV and currently writes for The New Arab, Middle East Eye, Al Jazeera and others as a journalist.

**Tasneem Chopra** is an experienced Cross Cultural Consultant and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) trainer helping business, not-for-profits and government understand and navigate diversity and inclusion using an intersectional lens. She helps workspaces and leadership become progressive in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusivity, so they can communicate, work and lead across different cultures for better innovation and profitability.

As a media presenter, Tasneem provides an expert perspective on topics related to diversity, gender-based violence female and women of colour representation, social cohesion, social justice issues and equity. She has spoken at national and international events including International Women's Day, Harmony Day, conferences, festivals, panels and at schools. Tasneem has a background in Psychology and Sociology from Swinburne University, and a Masters in International Development from La Trobe University.

**Dr Laurens de Rooij** is an associate lecturer in the sociology of Islam at Al-Mahdi Institute. Dr Laurens gained his doctorate at Durham University in England. His research examines how non-Muslim people (mainly in Europe) interact with Islam and Muslims and how that affects their interpretation and conceptualization of Islam and Muslims, as well as any subsequent interactions. This is approached from an interdisciplinary perspective that discusses the issue of media reports about Muslims and Islam whilst drawing upon areas such as hermeneutics, media studies, philosophy of identity, post-colonial theory, sociology, and religious studies. His research hopes to garner a greater understanding into the way that non-Muslim individuals understand and interpret Islam, as well as the effect say a media report can have on that understanding, and the way people interact with Muslims on a daily basis.

Laurens has spent time at a number of institutions across the globe, these include: The Graduate School of the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University in Jakarta, Indonesia (spring 2013), the Religion Department at Duke University in Durham North Carolina, USA (Autumn 2013), The Centre for Religion, Media and Culture in the Journalism & Mass Communication Department at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado, USA (spring 2014), and at Brazil's Fundação Joaquim Nabuco (summer 2016). In 2017, he was a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Cape Town for a year, where his research analyses how the media discourse on minorities (particularly Muslims and Islam) affects how they are conceptualized, understood, and treated in South Africa. This work was supported in part by the National Research Foundation of South Africa. He was also a lecturer at the University of Chester (2018), and a researcher at London Metropolitan University (2018-2020), Toulouse School of Management (2021-2022) in France, and Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand (2022-2023).

He is also committed to the excellence in teaching and enjoys working with students at all levels of study and sharing in their interests. This work has been supported by completing Durham's



Learning and Teaching Award (DULTA) in 2014 and recognised by becoming a Fellow of the UK's Higher Education Academy in 2016.

**Dr Myriam Francois** is a journalist, filmmaker and writer. Myriam is a former Research Associate at the Centre of Islamic Studies (CIS) at SOAS University. She completed her PhD (DPhil) at Oxford University, focusing on Islamic movements in Morocco in 2017. She holds an MA from Georgetown University (USA) and a BA from Cambridge university (UK).

She was nominated as part of the “40 under 40” European Young Leaders (EYLs) class of 2017. Myriam was awarded ‘Woman in Media Award’ at the Muslim Women Awards 2021.

**Ramón Grosfoguel** is an Emeritus professor from the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC-Berkeley. He has published many books and articles on the Political-Economy of the World-System and the Decolonization of Knowledge and Power.

**Dr Sadek Hamid** is the Head of Research and UKIM and a Research Fellow at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. He has previously held teaching and research positions at the universities of Chester, Liverpool Hope and Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. He has written extensively on British Muslims, young people, Islamic activism and public policy. He is author of *Sufis, Salafis and Islamists: The Contested Ground of British Islamic Activism*, (I. B. Tauris, 2016), co-author of *British Muslims: New Directions in Islamic Thought, Creativity and Activism*, (Edinburgh University Press, 2018), editor of *Young British Muslims: Between Rhetoric and Realities* (Routledge, 2016), co-editor of *Youth Work and Islam: A Leap of Faith for Young People* (Sense, 2011) and *Political Muslims: Understanding Youth Resistance in a Global Context* (Syracuse University Press, 2018).

**Richard Haley** is a writer and activist based in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is a spokesperson for Scotland Against Criminalising Communities (SACC).

**Sandew Hira**, penname of Dew Baboeram, is secretary of the Decolonial International Network Foundation ([DIN](#)). Hira studied economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam in Holland. He has written 25 books on different topics among them colonial history. Download his CV is [here](#). Follow Sandew Hira via his website: [www.sandewhira.com](http://www.sandewhira.com).

**Kaneez Hisbani** is the Research Assistant at the Islamic Human Rights Commissions and is the Operations Lead for the Ahlulbayt Sisters Association. She is currently pursuing a Masters in International Politics and Human Rights with a focus on Decoloniality and Migrant Rights. Kaneez has acquired extensive experience in volunteering with youth and student-based organisations and sits on the planning committee of the annual Sister Convention. Previously serving as the Social Media Manager for Absoc Sisters, Kaneez utilises her experience to host workshops and events about social media for Muslims.



**Seyfeddin Kara** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Groningen. He previously held the position of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow at The University of Toronto and Lund University. He obtained his PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Durham, UK. He has contributed to various research articles in respected journals. Seyfeddin authored *In Search of Ali ibn Abi Talib's Codex: History and Traditions of the Earliest Copy of the Qur'an*.

**Saeed A. Khan** is Senior Lecturer Near East & Asian and Global Studies at Wayne State University, as well as Research Fellow at its Center for the Study of Citizenship and Honorary Fellow at Australian Catholic University. He is also Cofounder and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding. He is a regular panelist on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's *Turning Point*, as well as a regular contributor to news outlets like the BBC, *Veja*, *Quartz* and *Time Magazine*.

**David Miller** is a non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Islam and Global Affairs at Istanbul Zaim University and a former Professor of Political Sociology at the University of Bristol. He is a broadcaster, writer and investigative researcher; the producer of the weekly show *Palestine Declassified* on PressTV; and the co-director of *Public Interest Investigations*, of which *spinwatch.org* and *powerbase.info* are projects. His recent work has been published in *Mintpress*, *Mayadeen English*, *Electronic Intifada*, *Grayzone*, *PressTV*, *IRNA* and *TRT World*. He tweets @Tracking\_Power.

**Anne Norton** is the Stacey and Henry Jackson President's Distinguished Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of seven books, including *Leo Strauss and the Politics of American Empire*, *95 Theses on Politics, Culture, and Method*, *On the Muslim Question*, and *Wild Democracy*.

**Ilan Pappé** is a professor at the University of Exeter. He was formerly a senior lecturer in political science at the University of Haifa. He is the author of *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, *The Modern Middle East*, *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*, and *Ten Myths about Israel*. Pappé is described as one of Israel's 'New Historians' who, since the release of pertinent British and Israeli government documents in the early 1980s, have been rewriting the history of Israel's creation in 1948.

**Revd Dr Stephen Sizer** is the founder and director of *Peacemaker Trust*, a registered charity dedicated to peacemaking, especially where minorities are persecuted, justice is denied, human rights are suppressed, or reconciliation is needed.

Stephen served for 35 years as an Anglican priest, most recently vicar of Virginia Water until his retirement in 2017. He is now Bishop's Chaplain to the Right Revd Riah Abu El Assal, the retired Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. Stephen is chair of the *Convivencia Alliance*, a cross-faith, international initiative for a just peace in the Middle East, and in particular, a just coexistence in Palestine/Israel based on equal rights in *One Democratic State (ODS)*. Stephen is coordinator for



the 2024 Sabeel International Conference on Religious Extremism. Stephen is also a member of the Kairos for Global Justice Theology Group.

Stephen is on the steering committee of Campaign. Campaign exposes misrepresentation in public affairs and the news media. Campaign is not politically aligned, and opposes misrepresentation on principle, and regardless of who is being targeted. Stephen was awarded an MTh from Oxford University in 1994. His thesis examined the Ethical Management of Pilgrimages to the Holy Land. In 2004, he was awarded a PhD by Middlesex University. His thesis examined the historical roots, theological basis and political consequences of Christian Zionism in Britain and the USA from 1820. In 2024 he received the 'Courage Award' for his campaigning for Palestinian rights from Mardin Atuklu University in Turkey.

He is the author of three books, *In the Footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles*, (Eagle, 2004) *Christian Zionism: Roadmap to Armageddon* (IVP, 2004) and *Zion's Christian Soldiers: The Bible, Israel and the Church* (IVP, 2007) – now published by Wipf & Stock. His books have been translated into Arabic, Farsi, Korean and Spanish.

**Imam Dawud Walid** is currently the Executive Director of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MI), member of the Imams Council of Michigan, and a Senior Fellow at Auburn Seminary based in New York. Walid has studied under qualified scholars the disciplines of Arabic grammar and morphology, foundations of Islamic jurisprudence, comparative Islamic jurisprudence, and sciences of the exegesis of the Qur'an. He previously served as an imam at Masjid Wali Muhammad in Detroit and the Bosnian American Islamic Center in Hamtramck, Michigan, and board president of Al-Ikhlās Training Academy. He is the author of the books *Towards Sacred Activism, Blackness and Islam*, and *Futuwwah and Raising Males into Sacred Manhood*, and co-author of the books *Centering Black Narrative: Black Muslim Nobles Among the Early Pious Muslims* and *Centering Black Narrative: Ahl al-Bayt, Blackness & Africa* as well as author of essays in the 2012 book *All-American: 45 American Men on Being Muslim* and the 2014 book *Qur'an in Conversation* and author of the foreword to the book *The Spirits of Black Folk: Sages Through the Ages*.

**Asa Winstanley** is an investigative journalist, author and podcaster with Electronic Intifada. Originally from south Wales, Asa Winstanley first travelled to Palestine at the end of 2004, volunteering with the human rights defenders of the International Solidarity Movement. He ended up working and volunteering in the occupied West Bank until 2007 and has returned many times since. He was media coordinator for the ISM and later wrote for and was an editor at the late Palestine Times, the first Palestinian English-language daily newspaper published in the occupied West Bank. He has been writing for The Electronic Intifada since 2009 and has been an associate editor there since 2012.

His expertise means he is often in demand, and he regularly appears on other podcasts and YouTube channels, including BreakThrough News, The Jimmy Dore Show, By Any Means Necessary, Unauthorized Disclosure, The East is a Podcast, Multipolarista, Not the Andrew Marr Show, Red Line TV and Palestine Declassified.

He's written for many other publications over the years, including *Declassified UK*, *Middle East Monitor*, *Al-Akhbar English* (Lebanon), *Middle East Eye*, *The National*, *Jacobin*, *Ceasefire*





*Magazine, New Left Project, the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre, the Morning Star and Freedom.*

He wrote a chapter in the book *Israel and Gaza: Behind the Media Veil*, published by MEMO in 2014. Along with Frank Barat, he was the editor of *Corporate Complicity in Israel's Occupation* (Pluto Press, 2011) a collection of written and spoken evidence from the London session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.

He is a member of the National Union of Journalists.