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PROGRAM - Aim

Development of a non-formal, interactive participation of LGBT youth, especially lesbians and transgenders from a Muslim background, developing new representations between citizenship, Islam, double discrimination.

The aim¹ of this CALEM colloquium is to provide a platform for participants to engage in three days of debates, discussions and mutual learning to think about questions relating to Islam, secularism, sexualities and transgender rights.

Conference sessions are being organized in a dynamic, interactive and participative way in order to collect as many individual points of view as possible. All sessions will be summarized and transcribed to form the basis of CALEM's 2013 Green Book², which shall be once again this year a contributing appraisal of LGBT³ hopes and issues in the world during 2012-13⁴.

CALEM is an informal Confederation of Associations, LGBT, European or Muslim.

Everything shall be done to facilitate rich inter-individual exchanges and free dynamic brainstorming. According to what is now our paradigm for several years, CALEM's Paris 2012 inclusive colloquium shall propose to our honorable guests an opening plenary conference, then a three days interactive and dynamic workshops, plus some interludes that could be dedicated to opened to all, fundamentally inclusive meditation interludes.

This year again, we shall be blessed and honored to welcome (non exhaustive list):

- Young citizens from Paris suburban neighborhoods (thanks to the efforts of our partner GP)
- Lesbian and transgender citizens from France and European countries
- But also gay and bisexual citizens from a Muslim background
- Progressive Muslims from Spain, North and South America
- Human right activists from North Africa, Middle East and sub-Saharan African countries

¹ General aim and operational goals of CALEM are described online: <http://www.calem.eu/home.html>

² http://www.calem.eu/GREEN-BOOKS_against-homophobia-lesbophobia-biphobia-transphobia.html

³ Muslims or from a Muslim background/culture in particular

⁴ CALEM's detailed reports of the seminars, conferences and colloquiums organized by the CALEM informal confederation are available online: <http://www.calem.eu/publications-2012.html>



TIMETABLE - 11th international event

16 November

- Guests arrivals: Transfer from Paris airports the Hotel (confidential, safe place; breakfast incl.)

17 November

- 6:00 – 8:00
 - Meditation/relaxation or prayer session (Jamal dhikr, Ani Zonneveld spiritual songs) / Breakfast
- 09:30 – 11:00
 - Few words from the facilitators to present CALEM (5m)
 - *"Lesbian & transgender from a Muslims background: secularism as a double chance against double discrimination"* - guests shall share their personal memories about how, why, when did they get involved into LGBT activism (Starting with Nevin Öztop & Azzah Wonmaly - 15m each)
 - Then encourage others guests to interact and engage with all participants (30 minutes)
- 11:15 – 12:00
 - Summary of key ideas posted on a notice board (20m)
 - Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the discussion about that summary (20m)
- 12:00 – 12:15 / Prayer and, or relaxation session
- 12:30 - Lunch (buffet at the hotel)
- 15:00 – 16:00 / Lesbians and Transgenders European initiatives
 - . "Sufism, mystic of an Islam as a philosophy of peace" (Fazel Khan, 30m)
- 16:00 – 17:00 / Lesbians and Transgenders European initiatives⁵
 - . "Lesbians from a Muslim background in UK" (Neelam Rose & Samaira Anjum, 10m)
 - . "Novi Sad lesbian organization from Belgrade" (Biljana Stankovic, 7m)
 - . "Lesbians, Transgenders of gay Muslims from Denmark" (Kassem Ibrahim, 7m)
 - . "Lesbians, Transgenders & gays of Albania" (Kristi Pinderi, 7m)
- 18:30 – 21:30 / Plenary conference at the Paris LGBT Center / Dinner (buffet at 21h)
 - Opening with Bariza Khiari (French Muslim Senat woman), Denis Levefre (LGBT Federation president), G. Mathias et J.-C. Colin (co-predidents of the LGBT Center)⁶.
 - FIRST PANEL – Secular Progressive Muslim allies:**
 - . "Creating Inclusive religious spaces for all" (Ani Zonneveld, 15m)
 - . "Lesbophobia, transphobia and South American Islamic feminism" (Nasreen Amina, 7m)
 - . "Spanish Transgenders, Lesbian women and UME" (Laure Rodriguez Quiroga, 7m)
 - SECOND PANEL – Eastern European fight against homophobia, transphobia:**
 - . "Regional Network Against Homophobia's lesbians and transgenders" (Nevin Öztop, 15m)
 - . "Sarajevo lesbians and transgenders of the Open Center" (Mariña Barreiro, 7m)
 - . "Welcoming Arab refugees" (Abdallah Rawashda from Palestine & Emir Belatoui, 7m)
 - THIRD PANEL – Inclusive Islam and secular equality for all European citizens:**
 - . "Sacrament or social contracts opened to all European citizens?" (Abdennur Prado, 15m)
 - . "Spanish queer Muslims" (ZamZam, 7m)
 - . "French National Transgender Association" (Emilie Garçon & Delphine Ravise-Giard, 5m)
 - SPIRITUAL DANCE & MUSIC** (Indian Barat dance by Qiyyam Jantjies-Zahed & Faty Box; Islamic pop music and song against homophobia, by Ani Zonneveld, Pierre Monis and Halim Corto)

⁵ Followed by questions and a practical empowering interactive workshop: *"An HIV+ Transgender women get in the NGO I am a part of; she seems lost, she asks help. What are the mandatory questions I have to ask her? What are the subjects I should be very precautionous when talking about them?"* (Participants divided in small groups, interact, then get back to the main room to exchanges their ideas with all; answers quoted on paper board).

⁶ "Islam, LGBT & Secularism: the avant-garde of liberation from superstitious patriarchal dogma and double discrimination"



18 November

- 6:00 – 8:00
 - Meditation/relaxation or prayer session (Jamal dhikr, Ani Zonneveld spiritual songs)
 - Breakfast
- 09:00 – 10:30
 - Interactive workshop: *"AIDS, Homosexuality & transidentity: Islam as an emancipating factor against double discriminations"*
- 10:30 – 11:45
 - guests shall share their personal memories about how, why, when did they get involved into LGBT activism (Starting with Azzah Wonmaly, Qiyaam Jantjies-Zahed - 15m each)
 - Then encourage other guests to interact and engage with all participants (30 minutes)
- 12:00 – 12:15 / Prayer and, or relaxation session
- 12:30 - Lunch (buffet at the hotel)
- 14:00 – 14:30 / Prayer and, or relaxation session
(Appropriation of space and inter-individual connectedness)
- 15:30 – 17:00
 - *"Queer refugees, Arab-Islamic identities and the Arab spring"*⁷ - guests shall share their personal memories about how, why, when did they get involved into LGBT activism; Starting with Dan Littauer, & Alain (*GayStarNews.com* & *GayMiddleEast*, Scotland - presenting an international project for LGBT refugees in the Arab countries - 15m) Abdallah Rawashda & Emir Belatoui (presenting Secret Garden, Netherlands - 15m); then refugees or activists from Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Turkey, Uganda, Singapore, Morocco, Lebanon, Sudan... (7m each)
 - Then encourage other guests to interact and engage in small groups (20 minutes)
- 17:00 – 17:15 / Prayer and, or relaxation session
- 17:15 – 18:00 / Summary on a notice board and discussion (30m)
- 18:15 - Documentary: *"Tawhid Umrah: an inclusive pilgrimage with Amina Wadud, at the source of Islamic liberation"* - then Prayers
- 19:30 - **THEATER PLAY** by Qiyyam Jantjies-Zahed & Faty Box

19 November

- 6:00 – 8:00
 - Meditation/relaxation or prayer session (Jamal dhikr, Ani Zonneveld spiritual songs)
 - Breakfast
- 09:00 – 10:00
 - Free expression space
- 10:15 – 11:00
 - Brainstorming: *"What is Islam for me; how to achieve all together emancipation and liberation, through the unity of Tawhid"*
- 12:00 - Lunch / Last prayers together then Guests departures

22 November

- 19:00 – 21:00
University seminar at the EHESS (High Social Studies School, Paris) with Stephanie Latte-Abdallah and several of our main guests. More information by email: CALEM.conference.2010@gmail.com

⁷ HM2F has claimed that the French government help more concretely refugees coming to France from Arab-Muslim countries - <http://www.homosexuels-musulmans.org/publications/HM2F-Contribution-debat-projet-loi-egalite-droits-LGBT.zip>



MAIN GUESTS

INIMuslim networking program⁸



Ani Zonneveld (*Muslims for Progressive Values, USA*) is an imam performing same sex marriages, co-founder and President of Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV), a 501 (c) (3) founded in 2007. In the short years since its inception, Ani presided over MPV's expansion to include chapters and affiliates in Los Angeles, New York, Washington DC, Atlanta, Philadelphia, as well as Ottawa and Toronto, Canada. She organized numerous interfaith arts and music festivals, participated in many interfaith dialogues and is a strong supporter of LGBTQ rights. One of her brainchilds is Literary Dhikr – a project that counters radical Islam online and most recently MPV's first book, an anthology titled 'Progressive Muslim Identities – Personal Stories from the US and Canada'. Ani is a singer/songwriter/producer and the first woman to release an English Islamic pop album in the US entitled 'Ummah Wake Up' followed by 'One'. Ani performs wedding services for mixed faith and gay couples. In 2006 she was named a Muslim Leader of Tomorrow by the American Society for Muslim Advancement.



Bariza Khiari (First French Muslim women to be elected at the Senat, **France**), is a member of the Senate of France, representing the city of Paris. She is a member of the Socialist Party. She is married and has three children. She has also been a knight of the French National Order of Merit since 2001. She received her diploma in advanced studies and a Master of Business Administration from the Institut d'administration des entreprises of the University of Paris in 1981. At the professional level Bariza Khiari was, until March 2004, regional delegate for tourism in the Ile-de-France and a departmental delegate of national education from Paris. She is engaged for an Islam of France, secular, egalitarian, appeased.



Abdennur Prado (*Islamic feminism & masculinities, Spain*): Former president of Junta islamica catalan (Spanish Islamic Council) and President of the International Congress on Islamic Feminism (<http://feminismeislamic.org/cast/>), defender of civil rights of Muslims in Spain and engaged in interreligious dialogue. Based on a return to the principles of Qur'anic revelation, his intellectual work is set in the line of Islamic theology of liberation. He is the author of several books: 'El islam como anarquismo místico', 'El lenguaje político del Corán', 'El retorn de l'islam a Catalunya', 'El islam anterior al islam', 'El islam en democracia', and several articles published on Webislam.com, a website of which he use to be the director.



Amina Wadud (*Islamic and anthropological studies, USA*) inspired and participated in the 2012 edition of the [Green Book](#). Wadud's research specialisms include gender and Qur'anic studies. After publishing her first book, she spoke at universities, at grassroot, government and non-government level forums throughout the US, the [Middle East](#), [South East Asia](#), [Africa](#) and [Europe](#). In 1992 Wadud accepted a position as Professor of Religion and Philosophy at [Virginia Commonwealth University](#), from where she retired in 2008. In 2007 she received the Danish Democracy Prize, and in 2008 gave the keynote address 'Islam, Justice, and Gender' at the [American University in Cairo](#), continued with Qur'anic studies and [tafsir](#) at [Cairo University](#), Egypt, and took a course in Philosophy at [Al-Azhar University](#)... ([Learn more, click here](#)).

⁸ <http://www.calem.eu/INIMuslim-international-network-of-inclusive-Muslims.html>; even though once again these main guests are only here to sustain, thanks to their particular expertise, the interactive dynamic of brainstorming between all participants.





Nevin Öztop (*Regional Network Against Homophobia & KAOS GL, Turkey*): she is representative of KAOS GL - Turkish LGBT organization, Ankara; leader of RNAH ([Regional Network Against Homophobia](#)); editor-in-chief of [Kaos GL](#)

magazine. She prefaced the [Green Book](#) 2012 and offers a unique perspective on their engagement against homophobia: 'Why Regional? Creating the Regional Network Against Homophobia' aims to provide a solidarity shelter for all the individuals suffering from hate based on homophobia, transphobia and sexism in and around Turkey. We live in a region popular for its border problems and religious clashes; however when it comes to different kinds of hate forms, there seems to be no borders or clashes. We, as LGBTs in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Israel, Serbia, Lebanon, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania ... ([read more here](#)).



Laure Rodriguez Quiroga (*Media expert & Islamic studies, Spain*):

Activist and thinker of contemporary Islamic feminism, was chosen by her country as one of the 100 most influential people in Latin America (2010). For nearly 20 years, she was a social worker, spending most of her time struggling for women's rights. She is a Research and Executive Committee Member of the Institute of Euro-Mediterranean Studies at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where she is Head of the Department of Maghreb and the Middle East. She currently chairs the Union of Muslim Women in Spain and is co-director of the International Congress on Islamic Feminism. She is Director of Social and Intercultural Consulting Tower of Babel, and a gender advisor to the government and various organizations.



Nasreen Amina (*Media experts & Inclusive Islam in South America, Argentina*) (born Vanessa Rivera de la Fuente) is

a citizen journalist and writer, culture columnist and social critic, a pioneer of Islamic feminism in Latin America. She is an enthusiastic speaker and advocate on issues of gender and women rights and has led volunteer programs for rural communities in the Peruvian highlands. Through her human rights work she believes strongly in the power of words to change the world. With progressive brothers and sisters she is forming a group of progressive Muslims in Latin America, which includes LGBT. The cultural roots of Latin America, deeply rooted in discrimination, non-acceptance of difference, misogyny and patriarchy, are the ideal ground for dogmatism and specifically Wahhabism. Therefore, together with a group still small, they decided to develop a collective for the promotion of progressive ideas in Islam and to generate a network of support and mutual assistance - nasreenamina.blogspot.com



Stéphanie Nicot (*ANT, France*) is the founder and president of ANT (Association National Transgender); with a degree in Modern Literature and

Information-Communication, Stephanie Nicot has previously held various odd jobs (working interim, an official at the Ministry of Finance, Parliamentary attached) before teaching Letters and History at school and devote herself to literature. Stephanie, formerly Stephane, had sex reassignment surgery to become a woman but has refused to lodge documents, as required by French law, to also have her gender changed on the population register. Last year Stephanie Nicot wed her partner Elise in a town hall ceremony in Nancy in eastern France in what is said to be the first marriage of its kind in the country. There are between 40,000 and 50,000 transsexual and transgender people living in France, according to support groups. The French constitutional court in January upheld the country's gay marriage ban, saying it was in keeping with the constitution. The court made the ruling in response to a bid by a lesbian couple, who have four children, to marry after spending 10 years in a PACS, or civil union. Learn more about the ANT association here - <http://www.ant-france.eu/ta2-assos-nous.htm>





Phyll Opoku-Gyimah (National Union of Students & Black student's campaign, United Kingdom), co-

founder and Executive Director of UK Black Pride, it is safe to say that Phyll Opoku-Gyimah is one of the leading lights behind the amazing celebration of Black LGBT communities that we enjoy today. Phyll has also been named in the Independent on the top 100 Pink list where she came in at number 64... A former volunteer for BLUK (Black Lesbians in the UK), Phyll uses her immense talents to support people within the Black LGBT community who either feel vulnerable or desperate to burst out of themselves and demonstrate pride in their ethnicity and sexuality. Phyll has worked tirelessly to bring together LGBT activists, artists, volunteers and supporters from within the LGBT community and beyond to support UK Black Pride and other such events. Phyll's voluntary endeavours led her to be nominated as Woman of the Year at the Black LGBT Community Awards 2007. Phyll is now the Head of Equality Health & Safety for PCS. Phyll's commitment to workplace equality and social justice has secured her a seat on the TUC LGBT Committee. Phyll is a strong, very family-orientated Ghanaian African woman.



Qiyaam Jantjies-Zahed (activist and artist, South Africa) has been an activist in the Muslim LGBT sector since 2008. Since then he has been trained as a facilitator of HIV/AIDS workshops in the field of men having sex with men. He has been part of the team that did a research study around the needs of queer Muslims, and views of Muslims on the topic of homosexuality in the Cape Metro pole area, South Africa, and has also been part of the volunteering team that has helped with the editing of the book "[Hijab-Unveiling queer Muslim lives](#)" a book about the lives and struggles of Queer Muslims. He translated the book CALEM has facilitated in 2012, "[Le Coran et la chair](#)", from French to English and is currently busy writing his autobiography. Qiyaam has studied music and hopes to pursue his studies further in the near future as he is passionate about the arts. He is currently also a Bharatanatyam dancer (religious/classical south Indian dance).



Biljana Stankovic (Novi Sad lesbian organization - NLO, Serbia) was born in Novi Sad in 1974. She has a degree in Serbian language and literature from 1999. The same year she also graduated from the alternative studies "Mileva Maric Einstein" with the feminist theater FENS as her examination work. The collision of activism and art in her work has resulted in the creation of yet another feminist, and lesbian, theater group, ACT women. Her research in bodies, voices, moves and rhythm in the female and lesbian identity led way to her theater workshop "The rhythm within us". Since 1997 Biljana's activism was build trough feminist radical lesbian politics. Her activist choices are made in patriarchal, discriminative and nationalist country called Serbia. She is currently working as a coordinator in Novi Sad Lesbian Organization (NLO), giving education on coming-out and homophobia among other things. Biljana is a member of several feminist international and regional networks, started with a Balkan "Oral history" team. She lives in Novi Sad with her dog Lena and red bicycle.



Rainbow Sudan (one of their representative from Khartoum, Sudan); It is an Organization based in Khartoum we work underground conceding the fact that **Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)** persons in Sudan face legal challenges not experienced by non-LGTQI residents. The judicial system is based on the Shari'a and according to Article 148, *capital punishment applies should the offense be committed either by a man or a woman. For homosexual men, lashes are given for the first offence, with the death penalty following the third offence. 100 lashes are given to unmarried women who engage in homosexual acts, For lesbian women, stoning and thousands of lashes are the penalty for the first offence.* Rainbow Sudan is a social, human rights organization which advocates for the acceptance, understanding and a safe environment for LGBTQI's to meet and discussed.





Mariña Barreiro (*Sarajevo Open Center, Bosnia*) is the Program Manager of the Human Rights Program of Sarajevo Open Centre. SOC was established in 2007 and ever since has been constantly working and increasing its scope of action from interreligious education and cultural programs to a human rights program, especially Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transsexual rights, where currently we spend almost all our resources. She studied Political Sciences and International Relations in Spain and France. She has a postgraduate in Prevention and Management of International Conflicts and a Master Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy by the Diplomatic School of the Spanish Foreign Ministry. She worked for the Embassy of Spain to Bosnia-Herzegovina as Political Officer. She published articles about international conflicts and human rights reports in several scientific media. In Sarajevo Open Centre she is managing and defining the content of the Human Rights Program, as well as she has an active role in advocacy. Her mother tongue is Spanish, she is fluent in English and French and she is studying B&H languages.



LGBT-UEA (one of their representatives from Dubaï , United Arab Emirates) The group was founded in March 2011 to raise awareness, educate the public and allow open dialogue regarding the Universal Rights that belong to the GLBT community of the United Arab Emirates. GLBT Rights UAE is a non-governmental organization that strives to raise awareness about the issues, which face the GLBT community in the UAE. The ultimate mission of the group is to decriminalize Homosexuality, same sex relationships, or sexual activity between consenting individuals of the same sex and to abolish Article 354 of the Federal Penal Code and all other U.A.E. laws that discriminate against those persecuted for their natural, sexual orientation. The group further seeks to end all form of invasive treatment, Psychological and Medical procedures which has no scientific basis, and is at odd with the international community and all psychological associations around the world.



Kristi Pinderi (*LGBT Pro Albania, Albania*) is a reporter and an LGBT Activist; In 2010 he was part of the working group that drafted the first ever anti-discrimination legislation. This law made Albania one of the few countries in the South East Europe region to protect homosexual, transgender and other sexual minorities from discrimination. He is co-founder of The Alliance against Discrimination of LGBT and has been heavily involved with Pink Embassy, a leading LGBT organization supported by the international community in Albania. During the last couple of years, he has represented the LGBT Movement in Albania by participating in many TV debates on national television. He is one of the key organizers of events which will mark the International Day against Homophobia in 2012. In 2012 he filmed the first short documentary for LGBT underground life entitled "Hidden among us," scheduled to be aired on influential Top Channel TV later this year. Most recently, he announced the establishment of the organization Pro LGBT (United for LGBT Cause in Albania) and is serving as its Executive Director while continuing to write for Shekulli online.



Marwan Bensaid (*Aswat, Morocco*) is founder of an LGBT Moroccan organization and editor in chief of the gay magazine ASWAT ("the Voices"). He is offering us a unique point of view on a civilization's under going mutations : "This is so that among the third world countries, especially in the Arab-Muslim world, the subject of homosexuality continues to be a taboo which we do not talk about, because some believe that talking about topics related to sexuality in general - and homosexuality in particular - is contrary to decency; that the issue of homosexuality is set and its legal status, under Islamic law, is obvious. They base this on the history of the people of Lot, which is recounted in the holy Qur'an. Besides other voices, in order to deny the existence of such practices within the society, stressed the fact that homosexuality is a Western lifestyle, which is not compatible with Arab societies.





Karine Aghajanyan (*Women's Resource Center, Armenia*); My motivation to participate in this conference stems from my desire to learn of different tools that are used by other LGBT organizations and people to solve issues pertaining to Muslim community in their respective countries. I have been active in various non-profit organizations dealing with women's issues and LGBT issues in Armenia for the past several years. I believe that it is important to connect with organizations and people doing similar work across different countries in order to learn from each other, share experiences and collaborate on how to resolve interconnected issues, especially in the LGBT Muslim context. This theme touches of course the LGBT community as well. I would like to present also the situation of feminists and the connection of it with lesbian rights in Armenia.



Emir Belatoui (*Secret Garden, Netherlands*) is Muslim and gay and fled from Algeria. He has been leaving now for more than ten years in the Netherlands: "I came to the Netherlands for the freedom you can have here to be gay, but discovered that many Moroccan and Turkish youths led a double life,". "That's why I founded the Secret Garden – to reach these young people, bring them into contact with each other and to defend their interests. Secret Garden Foundation wants to remove the taboo of discussing gay, bisexuality and gender reassignment issues in society in general and within the Muslim community in particular. The target group of the Secret Garden is gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender Muslims..."

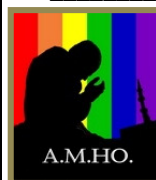


Samaira Anjum & Neelam Rose (*Safraproject, UK*). Neelam, 19, was nominated for the Youth Achievement Award by the UPF as a young person who is working towards creating a better social change on an international level.

Neelam, who is currently starting her second year of her degree in [Youth and Community Services](#), was nominated after she spent four days at the UN conferences in Vienna where she spoke to world leaders about her beliefs that communities should work together to create a better place. The second-year student, who is also Diversity Officer at the University, was able to speak in Vienna due to being awarded a scholarship. Neelam is often asked to speak at conferences and events internationally where she talks about subjects she is passionate about such as human rights, domestic abuse and terrorism.



Dan Littauer (*Activist and journalist, UK*) Dan Littauer has had an extensive career, from teaching psychoanalysis and social science in several UK universities to writing for the Lonely Planet. Dan is the editor of Gay Middle East news website; GME is a LGBT Grassroots news from the Middle East. Dan also regularly writes for other LGBT publications. He also has contributed to programs on the BBC, Al-Jazeera and the occasional contribution to CNN and The Guardian.



ZamZam (*A.M.H.O., Spain*): "All of us have been created by Allah, if you renounce who you are you are assuming that He might be mistaken and since Allah is Perfect in His Creation, you can not stop being who you are". First group of Spanish-speaker GLTB Muslims; Due to social pressures in our environment, we are forced to remain anonymous. Nevertheless, we still are an active group that holds periodic meetings in Barcelona, Spain, as well as on-line meetings with different organizations around the globe. Web: <http://amho.es>



B.R. & Suzanne (*Skeiv Verden, Norway*), participate to CALEM conferences since the very beginning - <http://www.skeivverden.no/>

INTERNATIONAL FACILITATORS

From United Kingdom, Netherlands and Italy



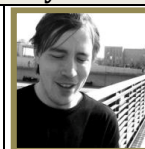
Azzah-Stéphanie Wonmaly De Riquet (*facilitator for Muslim transgenders, Netherlands*)

<http://facebook.com/azzah.hariwonmaly>



Pav Akhtar (*former president of Imaan UK, member of the black pride and the labour party, UK*)

pav.akhtar@facebook.com



Pier Cesare Notaro (*undergoing PhD. in political sciences; MOI, Italy*)

piercesarenotaro@facebook.com



TAWHEED 'UMRAH DOCUMENTARY

Inclusive pilgrimage to Mecca and Madinah with Amina Wadud



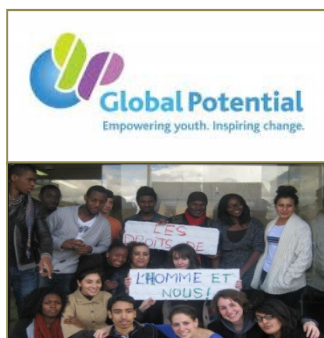
The last workshop of our three days colloquium shall be dedicated to the documentary about the inclusive pilgrimage a group of us accomplished to Mecca and Madinah; a workshop followed by a discussion about “what is Islam for me”.

“We are Thursday, June 7, 2012; it is the eighteenth day of the lunar month of peace: Radjab, year 1433. Amina Wadud arrived this morning in Paris, from San Francisco. She will spend the night with us, so we could all leave together from Paris to Medina, Saudi Arabia. After a short nap to recover from jetlag between North America and Europe, Amina and the rest of our group met with some of our Friends and our loved ones for share a traditional dinner and to celebrate our imminent departure for the Holy Land. Farida prepared some North African dishes. The atmosphere is full swing; we spend the evening discussing about this and that. After evening prayers done together, our friends eventually return home. We fall asleep bearing in mind the unique night that separates us now from our meeting with the Ka'aba: this historical relic, the square, dark room, which symbolizes all that is most sacred in the hopes and ideals of our humanity...” - the rest of the text blog and pictures are available online⁹.

We are preparing the 2013 inclusive Hadj, mid October inch'Allah; stay tuned!

GLOBAL POTENTIAL - COEXISTER

Interfaith dialogue & French Low-income suburb youth



This year CALEM Paris' colloquium is organized in collaboration with the *Global Potential* youth international network; our imam, Dr. Amina Wadud shall have an afternoon workshop to exchange ideas with the GP - France youth. Plus, imam Ani Zoneveld shall be also invited to a special workshop with **COEXISTER**: an organization gathering French Muslim, Christian and Jewish youth representatives.

“Global Potential provides youth and communities the leadership and entrepreneurial skills to create renewed life perspectives to affect positive change locally and globally. GP’s methodology is a holistic year and a half engagement model that trains youth to become leaders through tools of media advocacy, social entrepreneurship, global awareness, community development and service-learning. GP builds capacity among hundreds of passionate and dedicated volunteers to impart the GP programs.”¹⁰



“Interfaith solidarity. This is the heart of the action of Coexister. Get to know each other is the only way that makes sense if it is then to act together in favor of civic action or solidarity in the service of members of society regardless of culture or religion. Awareness. Sought by many schools and universities but also by associations and businesses in the first year of the young association Coexister administrators were brought to meet more than 3,000 young people to raise awareness about the urgency of an inter-cultural society built on respect for diversity.”¹¹

⁹ http://www.calem.eu/Tawheed-Umrah_islamic-pilgrimage-Mecca-Madinah-June2012-Radjab1433_with-Amina-Wadud-&3b-inclusive-progressive-secular-Muslims.html

¹⁰ <http://global-potential.org/home/>

¹¹ <http://www.coexister.fr/>



PRAYERS & MEDITATION

Universally inclusive ethics

No one shall be forced to meditate or relax of course. Besides, like the MPV's inclusive Unity mosques in North America¹², *our inclusive prayer spaces is a place of healing for everyone - for those who identify as Muslim, regardless of sect or tariqa. We also welcome those who do not identify as Muslim but need a space for healing, and those who are family, spouses/partners, friends, seekers and allies. We understand that women and men are equal agents of God in all aspects of ritual practice, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, race, class, dis/ability, HIV status, language, or any other grounds. In setting up our prayer space, we strive to create a caring environment in which no one is segregated or excluded. This means that a man or a woman may lead prayers. Congregants are seated together and pray together as one community. Of course, individual men and women can choose to stand/sit to one side or the other if they prefer. Whether you pray regularly or not, we invite you to this open and welcoming space.*



SPIRITUAL DANCE - THEATER PLAY - SPIRITUAL MUSIC TOWARDS UNIVERSAL LOVE

Live performances at the Paris LGBT Center

Please notice that an Indian traditional spiritual dance show - Bharatanatyam - shall be performed at the Paris LGBT Center, after the plenary conference, encourage cultural and spiritual inclusivity, respect and true exchange between all human beings. Participants shall be able to try to dance also all together, for those who want to. Plus, a participatory theater play shall be performed as a social event on the Sunday evening inch'Allah, a song from our imam Ani Zoneveld (first Islamic spiritual pop singer) and another performance from our brother Halim Corto (a French singer who sing against homophobia).



SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the European Council's Youth program support to this colloquium, participants between 15 and 30 years old - native from one of the European Council nations¹³ - are able to ask for a scholarship to facilitate their accommodation, transport in Paris: CALEM.conference.2010@gmail.com ;

Or download the Scholarship from our website:

<http://www.calem.eu/publications/CALEM-2012-Mandate-&-form.zip>

¹² http://www.mpvusa.org/progressive-friendly_mosques_a.html

¹³ List of the European Council members states available online: <http://www.coe.int/en/#>



INIMuslim / CALEM 2012 - MANIFESTO

For a secular Muslim marriage opened to all citizens

The North American Association of *Muslims for Progressive Values* has organized a three-day conference on the eve of Ramadan, at the Manhattan College of New York from 13 to 15 July 2012. The key liturgical concept on which they founded the whole association, presented by Ani Zonneveld, being the creation of a fundamentally inclusive "safe space" toward each and every Muslim; this is the "backbone" of these "Tawhid" mosques that the association founded in several cities in Canada and the United States.

It is interesting to note that it is common prayer, practiced in a fundamentally inclusive way, which is one of the pillars supporting the proposed reform of the representation we have of Islam, undertaken by the MPV association since 2006. In their project, MPV are often helped by Christian congregations, or even by private companies, which let you use a part of their building especially for the Friday prayer. One of the other pillars on which is built the association, one of the most controversial, is the fundamental respect for the rights of LGBT individuals; a principle that has even been given one of the mosques in the Association of Washington, the Imam Abdullah Daayiee gay.

In France, in terms of this particular issue of the fight against homophobia and transphobia, the citizen network *Homosexual Muslims of France* has worked at such inclusiveness of the Islam of France, to consider our LGBT brothers and sisters as fellow Muslims, in the same way as any other citizen is. HM2F has organized more than a dozen conferences and seminars in France and Europe on this particular subject; while fighting against primary Islamophobia from some politician or intellectual that essentialize Islam, believing that Muslims cannot develop a fundamentally egalitarian and inclusive, enlightened and humanist representation of their cultural and cultural heritage. Hundreds of citizens, intellectual and human rights activists have taken part in France or in Europe, to this cycle of seminars, conferences or colloquiums organized within an interassociative dynamic named *CALEM*.



Full text of this Manifesto 2012 is available on the CALEM's confederation website¹⁴ as well as on our partner's one, Saphirnews¹⁵. Previous CALEM Manifestos:

CALEM 2010 Manifesto - <http://www.calem.eu/Manifesto-2010.html>

CALEM 2011 Manifesto - <http://www.calem.eu/Manifesto-2011.html>

¹⁴ http://www.calem.eu/publications-2012.html#CALEM_COLLOQUIUM_2012_

¹⁵ One of the main French Muslim media (available in French only): http://www.saphirnews.com/Misogynie-homophobie-transphobie-pourquoi-les-musulmans-progressistes-ne-sont-ils-pas-tous-inclusifs_a15067.html



CONTACT

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Faire un don



Thank you to help our endeavors and donate online:

http://www.homosexuels-musulmans.org/faire-un-don_make-a-donation.html

THANKS

Thanks to the Council of Europe, the INIMuslim networking program, the French citizen network HM2F (Homosexual Muslims of France), the members of CALEM (informal Confederation of Associations LGBT, European or Muslim) and to all the 2012 facilitators and participants; thanks to *Halim Corto* and *Pierre Monis* for they Love songs against homophobia.

CALEM received in 2012 the SOS Homophobia prize; A colloquium organized this year in collaboration with the Global Potential empowering youth, Coexister-interfaith youth dialogue, UK Black Pride, Safra project, MOItaly, A.M.HO-Spain, LLH Norway, ASWAT-Morocco, Rainbow Sudan, LGBT-UA Emirates, KAOS GL Turkey, Sarajevo Open Center, NLO Serbia, Pro-LGBT-Albania, AKD-Albania, Women's Resource Center Armenia, French Coordination inter-pride & Fédération LGBT, Paris LGBT Center, ANTransgender, UMEspaña, Muslim for Progressive Values (USA, Canada, France), Lahore Ahmadiyya sufi international congregation & the International Congress on Islamic Feminism. Thanks to our media partners: Respect Magazine, TÊTU magazine, GayMiddleEast.com, GayStarNews, SaphirNews.com, Radio Monte Carlo, France Info, BBC news & France 24. Thanks to Madame *Bariza Khiari*, sénatrice de Paris & first French Senate Muslim women.



