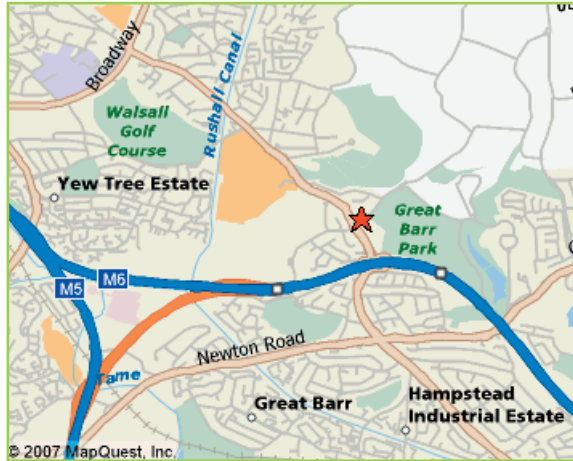


## Map & Directions to the Venue

Beacon Suite, Holiday Inn Birmingham M6, Jct. 7  
Chapel Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7BG  
[www.holidayinn.co.uk](http://www.holidayinn.co.uk)



At Junction 7 on the M6, follow the A34 to Walsall. The hotel is on the right hand side off Chapel Lane, close to the M5 and other networks.

Free parking available.

An-Nisaa Group presents

# The Struggle For Gender Equity: Social and Religious Influences



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007**  
**2 - 5.30pm (1pm lunch)**

**Beacon Suite, Holiday Inn Birmingham M6, Jct. 7**  
**Chapel Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7BG**

To reserve your **free** place please  
complete the attached booking form

This is a reservation only event. Limited places available



AN-NISAA  
GROUP

community  
development  
foundation

[www.an-nisaa.org.uk](http://www.an-nisaa.org.uk)

## Speakers



### Zareen Roohi Ahmed (Chair)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BRITISH MUSLIM FORUM

Zareen, Chief Executive of the British Muslim Forum was one of 100 Muslims in Britain to be recognized for her achievements and contribution to British society. Since joining the BMF, Zareen has worked tirelessly to establish the organisation and initiate a range of projects designed to improve the position of Muslims in Britain. Zareen's doctoral research is a study of "the exclusion of Pakistani Muslim Women in British society and how this impacts on regeneration, citizenship, democracy and security issues".



### Professor Ron Geaves

PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER

Ron is the author of a number of books including Sectarian Influences in British Islam (1996), Sufis of Britain: an exploration of Muslim identity, The Continuum Glossary of Religious Studies (2002), Islam and the West: post-September 11th (2004) and Aspects of Islam (2005). Although primarily a scholar of diaspora religions he has also studied Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism.



### Ruqaiyya Waris Maqsood

WRITER AND LECTURER

Ruqaiyya Waris Maqsood is the author of some forty books on Islam and other subjects. She gained her honours degree in Christian Theology at the University of Hull in 1963, and Post Graduate Teaching Certificate in 1964, with distinctions in theory and practice. Her professional life was spent as Head of Religious Studies at various tough UK inner city secondary schools, until she retired in 1996, to concentrate on writing and lecturing.



### Baroness Uddin (TBC)

HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness Uddin is a strident advocate for social justice, human rights and equality over the last two decades, Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green was elevated to the peerage by Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1998, becoming the first Muslim woman to enter the House of Lords. Baroness Uddin continues to champion a range of initiatives and organizations which promote women's participation in civil society, violence against women and human rights, in the UK and internationally with a number of governments in the Muslim world.



### Rabbi Dr. Margaret Jacobi

BIRMINGHAM PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

Margaret has been the rabbi of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue since 1994, the first woman rabbi to serve the congregation. She is currently joint chair of the Rabbinic Conference of Liberal Judaism. She trained in medicine at Birmingham Progressive Synagogue and worked as a medical scientist before training for the rabbinate. She has written articles on medical ethics and on women in Judaism.

The idea of a religiously-based call for gender equity might sound like a contradiction in terms to many, given that in a largely secular society, religion tends to be associated with conservatism, retrogression and - above all - male supremacy. However, throughout history, the monotheistic faiths have - at their best - been the most consistent and compelling advocates of social justice.

Exclusion of women at various levels of society, thought to be a disease of the East but an actual reality within the West has been detrimental to the fabric of many communities hindering the wider participation of womankind.

The speakers bought together for this half day seminar will attempt to address amongst other questions the following:

- The changing status of women throughout history - what were the crucial factors impacting upon social justice and equity?
- Why is there a disparity between equity as prescribed by scripture and actual practice?
- Religion - has it been a help or hindrance in relation to gender equity?
- What real contribution, if any, has religion made with regards to the participation of women in society?
- What are the effects of excluding women in the socio-political frameworks of our societies?

## Programme (Provisional)

- 1.00pm Lunch and Registration**
- 2.00pm Welcome by An-Nisaa Group**
- 2.10pm Opening from the Chair**  
Zareen Roohi Ahmed
- 2.20pm Women in the Political Arena (TBC)**  
Baroness Uddin
- 2.40pm The ideal and clash between religion and culture**  
Professor Ron Geaves
- 3.20pm The veiled truth: Gender equity in Islam**  
Ruqaiyya Waris Maqsood
- 4.00pm Tea/Coffee Break**
- 4.15pm Involvement of women in Judaism: How the issue of inequality has been and is being addressed**  
Rabbi Dr. Margaret Jacobi
- 4.55pm Question and Answers Panel**
- 5.15-5.30pm Closing remarks**

## The Struggle for Gender Equity: Social and Religious Influences

### Your details

Name: .....  
 Job Title: .....  
 Organisation: .....  
 Address: .....  
 Postcode: .....  
 Telephone: .....  
 Email: .....

Number of people attending: .....  
 Attendee(s) name/job title  
 1. ....  
 2. ....  
 3. ....

### Lunch

Will you require lunch?  Yes  No  
 If yes, for how many attendees? .....  
 Do you require any specific dietary requirements? .....

**Cost:** This is a **FREE** seminar. Lunch and refreshments provided.

**Cancellations:** Cancellations must be received by 11th April 2007.

Please return completed booking forms to:

Shaheen Barakat-An-Nisaa Group, 22 Bath Road, Walsall, WS1 3BS, 07971860697. Additional booking forms can be downloaded from our website: [www.an-nisaa.org.uk](http://www.an-nisaa.org.uk) and returned via e-mail to [shaheen@an-nisaa.org.uk](mailto:shaheen@an-nisaa.org.uk).