

# INFLUENCING SOCIAL CHANGE:

## The Role of Faith

A complimentary seminar and dinner discussing the value of faith and how it can contribute to the betterment of society



In an age when the public practice of any faith is increasingly undermined, understanding the value of faith in today's society is vital. An-Nisaa Group invites you to examine the role of faith in tackling some of today's social problems. Join An-Nisaa Group and guest speakers for a thought-provoking event, stimulating discussion and a complimentary three course meal.

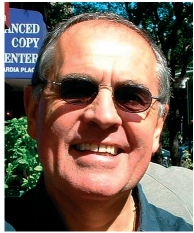
**Date:** 29th April 2007

**Time:** 2:30pm – 7:30pm (including dinner)

**Venue:** The Copthorne Hotel, The Waterfront, Level Street, Dudley DY5 1UR



# SPEAKERS AND SYNOPSIS OF TALKS:



**Doctor Walker:**  
Director of Religions for Peace (UK), a national chapter of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

This coalition of representatives from all of the great faiths is the largest interfaith organisation in the world working for peace.

**Talk:** *“Interfaith Cooperation: Changing Conflict from a Source of Violence to a Resource for Peace.”*

People of faiths on every continent are learning that conflict is neither good nor bad. It is neutral. It is up to us how we use it. Will it be a potential source of violence? Or, shall we use it as a resource for justice, peace, harmony? Let’s explore how different faiths in common action can change our world for peace.



**Yahya Birt:**  
National Director of City Circle, London. The City Circle aims to assist the process of community cohesion and

integration by building bilateral strategic alliances between Muslim and non-Muslim communities. He is also a writer and researcher.

**Talk:** *“Thoughts on the ‘Heresy’ of Public Religion.”*

In the face of increasing criticism, the case for the positive role of faith communities in public life has to be remade and restated. Is “public religion” always reactionary and self-interested? Is “identity politics” always divisive: is it about exceptional claims or claims to equal treatment?



**Joy Madeiros:**  
Director of Public Policy for Faithworks and the Organisation Development Director of the

Oasis Trust. She has pioneered work on equality and diversity within Christian organisations for many years.

**Talk:** *“Why Faith Works.”*

In today’s society there is a constant debate for the role of faith in public life. Do faith based projects add value and benefit to community development and if so how?



**Rabbi Leonard Tann:** has served the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Synagogue for almost 21 years. He was awarded an honorary doctorate

by Aston University in July 2005 for his community and inter-faith work.

**Talk:** *“Making a Difference.”*

Through sharing views and experiences, seeds of new ideas can be sown and positive change can come to fruition. A platform for open and honest dialogue about faith based activity within our communities is imperative to make this happen.



**Nuzhat Ali:**  
achieved a first class honours degree in Education Studies. She is a co-founder of Mezaan consultancy which

delivers training on Education and Islamic Affairs. She also works on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation funded Women Working Towards Excellence ‘Our Lives’ project.

**Talk:** *“Creating Positive Change through Faith.”*

Is education solely the remit of school or does society also play a role? Against the shameful indictment of the recent UNICEF report, what can we do to make lasting, positive changes in society, and what contribution can faith make, if any?

If you would like to attend this seminar, please fill in the enclosed booking form and return to An-Nisaa Group. For further information, please visit [www.an-nisaa.org.uk](http://www.an-nisaa.org.uk) or call: 07736 045395.

## Directions to Venue: Cophorne Hotel, Dudley



### By Road

From M5 Junction 4: follow A491 Stourbridge, after 5 miles you will reach Hagley; turn right at roundabout and left at traffic lights.

At next 2 roundabouts follow A4036 signs. At set of traffic lights (Merry Hill Centre on left) go straight on, following A4036.

At next set of traffic lights turn left into Level Street (B4179).

At next roundabout go straight on, hotel is on right.