

Contributor Bios

Naser Ahmad is the of President of Ommana Foundation & CEO of NOMA Group of Companies. Ommana Foundation is a US-based Public Charity working internationally through its Community Uplift Centers with the goal of providing clean water, early childhood education, and vocational training for women. NOMA Group consists of companies that provide IT Consulting, Construction, Remodeling, Property Management & Real Estate Services.

Muna Ali is a Ph.D. candidate in sociocultural anthropology at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on Islam in America and on issues of identity, intra-community relations, and civic engagement among Muslim Americans.

Sonya Brown is currently a curate in the St Philip's parish, Leicester and was ordained deacon in July 2010. Previously to beginning training for ordination she worked as a Development Worker for the Southwark diocesan organisation Welcare. She enjoys living and learning in the very multifaith context of Leicester.

Ben Daniel is a Presbyterian minister in Oakland, California. He is a Huffington Post blogger and the author of *Neighbor: Christian Encounters with "Illegal" Immigration* and *The Search for Truth About Islam*.

Mohammad H. Fadel is Associate Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on legal process in medieval Islamic law while at the University of Chicago.

Aysha Hidayatullah is Assistant Professor of Islamic studies at the University of San Francisco. Her research interests include feminist exegesis of the Qur'an; representations of women in early Islamic history; feminist methodologies in the study of Islam; and the pedagogy of Islamic studies.

Azra Hussain is the founder and president of the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Arizona, a non-profit, apolitical, educational organization founded in 1999. She trains speakers and facilitates educational and interfaith events for ISBA.

Hans Küng is a Swiss Catholic priest, theologian, and author. Since 1995 he has been President of the Foundation for a Global Ethic. He is author of many books, including *On Being a Christian* and *Islam: Past, Present and Future*.

Brian McLaren is a prominent Christian pastor, author, activist and speaker and leading figure in the emerging church movement. He is author of many books, including *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World* and *A New Kind of Christianity*.

Zarinah Nadir is an attorney in private practice and serves on the board of the Islamic Social Services Association-USA. For over fifteen years, she has been a dedicated grassroots community organizer particularly concerned with cultural sensitivity, youth empowerment, and women's rights.

Rami Nashashibi has served as the Executive Director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) since its incorporation as a nonprofit in January 1997. He has a PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago and has lectured across the United States, Europe, and Asia on a range of topics related to American Muslim identity, community activism and social justice issues, and is a recipient of several prestigious community service and organizing honors. His work with IMAN have been featured on many national and international media outlets including the BBC, PBS and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Eboo Patel was named by *US News & World Report* as one of America's Best Leaders of 2009, Eboo Patel is the founder and Executive Director of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), a Chicago-based institution building the global interfaith youth movement. Author of the award-winning book *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim*, he is also a regular contributor to the Washington Post, National Public Radio and CNN. He holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University.

Stephen Prothero is a professor in the Department of Religion at Boston University and the author of numerous books, including *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World--and Why Their Differences Matter* and the New York Times bestseller *Religious Literacy: What Americans Need to Know*. He has commented on religion on dozens of National Public Radio programs, and on television on CNN, NBC, MSNBC, FOX, and PBS. He was also a guest on "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart, "The Colbert Report," and "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Alan Race is dean of postgraduate studies at St. Philip's Centre and priest of St. Philip's Church, Leicester. He is author of *Interfaith Encounter*.

Feisal Abdul Rauf is an American Sufi imam, author, activist and public intellectual whose stated goal is to improve relations between the Muslim world and the West. Author of *What's Right with Islam Is What's Right with America*, Imam Rauf received national attention for his plans to build Park51, an Islamic Community Center, two blocks from Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan.

Samir Selmanovic is a Christian minister who is known particularly for his work in interfaith dialogue. He is the founder of "Faith House Manhattan," an interfaith community of Christians, Muslims, Jews and humanists/atheists. He also leads a Christian community named "Citylights", and serves on the Interfaith Relations Commission of the United States National Council on Churches. He is author of *It's Really All About God: Reflections of a Muslim Atheist Jewish Christian*.

Mark Toulouse is Professor of the History of Christianity and Principal of Emmanuel College, Toronto, where he developed a Muslim Studies program. He completed his PhD at the University of Chicago.

*If I knew you and you knew me
And each of us could clearly see,
By that Inner Light divine,
The meaning of your life and mine,
I am sure that we would differ less,
And clasp our hands in friendliness,
If I knew you and you knew me.*

-- Howard Thurman

