Exploring New Directions in the Islamic Legal Tradition:
Human Rights and Legal Reform in the 21st Century

Tue 18 June 2013
9.30 am- 6:30pm
Day Conference

Telford Room,
Hamilton Centre
Brunel University Campus,
Kingston Lane, Uxbridge

Brunel academics & students: Free
Non-Brunel academics: £20
Non Brunel students: £10
Public: £20
Price includes refreshments & lunch

SPEAKERS:

Mr Nazir Afzal OBE
Chief Crown Prosecutor
CPS North West

Prof Shaheen Sardar Ali
University of Warwick

Dr Rajnaara C. Akhtar
University of Warwick

Dr Samia Bano
University of Reading

Prof Ilias Bantekas
Brunel University

Prof Martin W Lau
SOAS, University of London

Ms Lena- Maria Möller
Hamburg University
& Max Planck Institute

Prof Siobhan Mullally
National University of Ireland, Cork

Prof Javaid Rehman
Brunel University

Dr Ayesha Shahid
Brunel University

Dr Siraj Sait
University of East London

Ms Bnar Shekhani
Brunel University

Organised by the Brunel Law School and the URC Security,
Human Rights & the Media, in collaboration with the Brunel Human
Rights Centre and the Law and Religion Research Group (BLRRG)

For information & registration please contact:
yesha.shahid@brunel.ac.uk; sharon.weaver@brunel.ac.uk
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PROGRAMME

9:00am - 9:30am: Registration and coffee/tea
9:30-9:40: Welcome and Introduction: Dr Ayesha Shahid, Brunel University

9.40 - 10.30
Keynote Address, Prof Shaheen Sardar Ali,
Professor of Law, University of Warwick and Vice-Chair,
United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Chair: Prof Javaid Rehman, Brunel University

‘Exploring New Directions in Islamic Legal Tradition:
Reinterpreting Sharia from Within?’

10.30am – 12.30 pm: SESSION I
ISLAMIC LEGAL TRADITION(s) AND ISSUES IN HUMAN RIGHTS
Chair: Dr Alexandra Xanthaki, Brunel Law School, Brunel University

• Prof Siobhan Mullally, National University of Ireland, Cork
• Dr Siraj Sait, University of East London, ‘Muslim Woman as 'head of household': Gender Equality, Property Rights and Islamic Debate’
• Prof Javaid Rehman, Brunel University, ‘Sharia and Democratic Accountability: Reforming Islamic Legal Tradition since the ‘Arab Spring’’

12:30pm - 1:30 am: Lunch break
1.30 - 3.30 pm: SESSION II
IN QUEST FOR EQUALITY: ISLAMIC FAMILY LAW REFORM AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES
Chair: Prof Siobhan Mullally, National University of Ireland, Cork

- Prof Martin Lau, SOAS, University of London(TBC)
- Ms Lena- Maria Möller, Hamburg University and Max Planck Institute, ‘Family Law in the Arab Gulf: Recent Developments and Reform Patterns’
- Prof Ilias Bantekas, Brunel University, ‘Transnational Talaq in English Courts: An Anthropological Perspective’
- Dr Ayesha Shahid, Brunel University, ‘Post-Divorce Maintenance for Muslim Women in Pakistan and Bangladesh: A Comparative Perspective’
- Ms Bnar Shekhani, Brunel University, ‘Examining Muslim Women’s Rights within the Personal Status Code of Iraq’

3:30pm – 3:45pm: Coffee/tea & refreshments break

3:45pm – 5.30 pm: SESSION III
PLURAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN BRITAIN: SHARIAH COUNCILS, MUSLIM WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND ENGLISH LAW
Chair: Prof Shaheen Sardar Ali, Warwick University

- Dr Samia Bano, University of Reading, ‘Religious Arbitration and English Family Law: What are the consequences for British Muslim Women?’
- Dr Rajaara C. Akhtar, University of Warwick, ’Towards Conceptualising User Friendly Shariah Councils for British Muslims’
- Mr Nazir Afzal OBE, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS North West, ‘Supremacy of State Law’
- 5.30pm-5:45pm: Vote of Thanks: Prof Javaid Rehman, Brunel University

5:45pm-6:30pm: Drinks reception at Elliot Jacques Atrium

For information & registration for this event, please contact:
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