

BACKGROUND

***From the commitment of one,
to the commitment of many***

After having held several activities in Europe, KARAMAH EU had its official launch on the 1st of March, 2013 in Brussels. It was the initiative of a group of Belgian Muslim women who had participated in the Law and Leadership Summer Program (LLSP) organized by KARAMAH, *Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights*, in Washington, DC. The content and depth of the courses on Islamic jurisprudence, and the discussions with Muslim women and Islamic scholars from Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Turkey, Senegal, Nigeria, and many other parts of the world, made a lasting impression on them. They felt Muslims, from all over Europe and its neighboring countries could also benefit from gathering in a similar, intellectually and spiritually stimulating, setting to learn, discuss and exchange experiences with one another.

The U.S.-based NGO KARAMAH, *Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights*, was founded in 1993 by Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, professor emerita and Islamic scholar at the University of Richmond School of Law. Dr. al-Hibri, the descendant of a long line of Lebanese Sheikhs, started producing Islamic jurisprudential research in 1981.

In creating KARAMAH, Dr. al-Hibri's foremost goal was to advance Muslim women's knowledge of their rights and to empower them in the march towards greater participation in their civil societies and the global community. What began in 1993 as a small group of dedicated individuals quickly grew into a vibrant and distinguished organization. The KARAMAH-network of Muslim jurists and leaders has now spread from North America to the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

CONTACT

Stay informed

If you want us to keep you posted of future events, sign up for our newsletter by sending us an email at info@karamah.org.

You can also stay informed by becoming a member of our Facebook-group KARAMAH EU. Here you will always find news about our future and past events, but also interesting topics that you can discuss with other members, or share with your friends.

If you want more information on KARAMAH EU or KARAMAH, *Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights*, you can also visit the website www.karamah.org.



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KARAMAH EU



***A world with dignity,
liberty and justice for all***

***Un monde de dignité,
liberté et justice pour tous***

***Een wereld met waardigheid,
vrijheid en gerechtigheid voor allen***

من أجل عالم تسوده الحرية والكرامة والعدالة

KARAMAH EU

KARAMAH EU is a non-profit women and human rights organization based in Brussels, Belgium.

KARAMAH EU's vision and mission are informed by the view that a just society values the informed participation of its members through the pursuit of knowledge, access to opportunities, and equity, regardless of gender or other differences.

By providing a wide range of education programs and developing a network of Muslim jurists, scholars and leaders, KARAMAH EU contributes to the understanding and promotion of human rights worldwide, particularly the rights of Muslim women under civil as well as Islamic law.

Located in the heart of Europe, KARAMAH EU aims to include participants from all over Europe and its neighbouring countries, and expand the scope of its activities to the entire region. At Karamah EU we have a special interest in the challenges European Muslim men and women face in their respective countries and communities.

VISION

Dignity to all

KARAMAH EU envisions a world in which all human beings, regardless of gender or other differences, enjoy their God-given right of dignity ('*karamah*' in Arabic). We believe that through education and dialogue, Muslims will be empowered to transform archaic, culture-based interpretations of Islamic sources, to the betterment of themselves and their communities. This will enable them to develop critical thinking without undermining attachment to their faith. We trust this will allow Muslims to actively contribute to their communities and civil societies and also give them the confidence they need to question and oppose any infringements of their rights in civil society.

MISSION

Empowerment through Education

KARAMAH EU empowers Muslim women and the broader community by providing lectures and workshops, interactive debates and legal outreach, all emanating from an educational core. Our central mission is to develop meaningful and substantive programs, that allow Muslims to learn from Islamic and other scholars, and have discussions with them, about the different questions they have and challenges they face in their communities.

KARAMAH EU relies on the wider KARAMAH-network to develop thoughtful and comprehensive scholarship in Islamic jurisprudence. Diversity in Islamic scholarship is facilitated by mobilizing Muslim women jurists and raising voices that are few and seldom heard in the realm of serious Islamic scholarship. This scholarly work is made available through publications but also through lectures given by the respective authors.

OBJECTIVES

Education, Interaction, Connection

Through our education programs, legal advocacy and dialogue we contribute to the understanding and promotion of human rights and empower European Muslims, young women in particular, to fully realize their potential as citizens of their respective societies. **KARAMAH EU aims in particular to:**

- increase understanding of Islam and promote a multi-disciplinary approach reflecting the diversity of Islamic law and scholarship, as well as the gender-equitable principles of Islam,
- empower European Muslims, especially women, by providing them with tools necessary to address the challenges they face in their communities, respectful of their faith and multiple identities,
- support the struggle of Muslims for equal rights and opportunities both inside their communities and in society at large, through legal advocacy and dialogue.

To reach these objectives KARAMAH EU invites speakers who are knowledgeable about Islam and the European context, to give lectures and workshops, but also interact with Muslims and discuss openly with them the questions and concerns they have. The goal is to do this in a way that allows emphasizing the diversity and richness of past and contemporary Islamic scholarship, and that engages Muslim women scholars whose work has yet to be given the attention it deserves in mainstream settings.

KARAMAH EU has no intention to promote one particular Islamic view or legal opinion. Instead it is our aim to educate Muslims and the broader public about the whole range of views contained in classical and contemporary Islamic legal opinions.

We also hold discussion circles to discuss particular topics in smaller groups and in a more intimate setting, to allow in-depth discussions. Once the European branch of the international KARAMAH-network is firmly established, we also plan to provide intensive summer programs for participants from Europe and its neighboring countries.