



Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for
Muslim-Christian Understanding
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Georgetown University
Office of the President

Common Word Conference

The Boundaries of Religious Pluralism & Freedom: The Devil is in the Detail

October 31, 2012 – Lohrfink Auditorium, Rafik B. Hariri Building, Georgetown University

9:00-9:45 AM

Opening: John L. Esposito, Georgetown University

Welcome: President John J. DeGioia, Georgetown University

A Common Word Between Us and You Seyyed Hossein Nasr, George Washington University

9:45-11:00 AM

Panel 1: Are There Limits to Religious Freedom that Religions Agree On?

Few dispute the value and centrality of religious freedom, but religious traditions also often guard areas of faith, practice or community that they hold beyond the reach of that freedom. If religious traditions agree on the importance of religious freedom, can they agree on limitations such as apostasy, limits on building churches and missionary work?

Chair-Discussant: Richard Cizik, New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good

Speakers:

David Law, Georgetown University Law Center & Washington University in St. Louis

Jim Wallis, Sojourners

Farid Esack, University of Johannesburg - South Africa

11:00-11:15 AM Coffee Break

11:15-12:45 PM

Panel 2: Challenges to the Relationship of Law to Religion in Western Democracies and in Post Arab Spring State Building

Religious communities have had different arrangements with the (nation) states in which they exist. In Western democracies with established traditions of the separation of church and state, the relationship between state and religion and the complexities this poses for religious freedom have emerged more clearly than ever. At the same time, as Egypt, Tunisia and Libya move from revolution to state building, questions of religious freedom and its limitation are at the forefront. What will the Arab Spring mean for religious freedom? Will governments dominated by Islamic parties seek to limit it or embrace it?

Chair-Discussant: Mohammad Fadel, University of Toronto

Speakers:

Kathleen Moore, University of California Santa Barbara

Emad Shahin, American University in Cairo - Egypt

Said Ferjani, *Al-Nahda* Party - Tunisia

Mohamed Yousry Salama, *Al-Dostour* Party - Egypt

12:45-1:45 PM Break

1:45-3:15 PM

Plenary: *The Challenge of Religious Pluralism in Christian-Muslim Relations: The Arab Spring, Nigeria and Malaysia*

However different, Muslim countries from emerging democracies in Egypt and Tunisia to the governments of Nigeria and Malaysia face the issue of guaranteeing equality of citizenship amidst religious, ethnic and regional diversity. What are the key issues and the way forward?

Chair-Discussant: Chris Seiple, Institute for Global Engagement

Speakers:

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington Emeritus

Zainah Anwar, Sisters in Islam - Malaysia

His Eminence Mustafa Ceric, Grand Mufti - Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Kaduna Diocese (Anglican Communion) - Nigeria

3:15-3:30 PM Coffee Break

3:30-4:45 PM

Panel 3: *Gender & Religious Freedom in Christian-Muslim Relations*

Do gender issues (for example: hijab, shariah, family laws, education) create obstacles for multi-faith understanding and relations?

Chair-Discussant: Tamara Sonn, College of William & Mary

Speakers:

Dalia Mogahed, Gallup Center for Muslim Studies

Alfred Raouf, *Almasry Alhurr* ("The Free Egyptian") Movement - Egypt

Merve Kavakci-Islam, Howard University

Dining Options for Lunch Break

Georgetown University

- **Cosi Restaurant:** Located in the North Gallery of the Leavey Center offering fresh baked flat bread sandwiches, made to order salads, specialty coffee and frozen drinks.
- **Faculty Club Restaurant:** Located in the South Gallery of the Leavey Center, the Faculty Club is a deluxe buffet restaurant. An array of choices is offered every day, including an appetizing salad bar, a variety of meat dishes, fresh seafood and a bountiful selection of desserts.
- **Hoya Court:** Located in the center hall of the Leavey Center, options include Pizza Hut, Subway, KFC, Taco Bell and Aromi d'Italia serving Gelato Italian Ice Cream.
- **Epicurean Restaurant:** Situated on the ground floor of Darnall Hall, offers a variety of dining formats, including hibachi stations, a sushi bar, grill station, a lounge area and a self service eatery and salad bar with more than 100 items.

Walking Distance

- **The Tombs:** 1226 36th Street NW, (202) 337-6668. Favorite of University faculty, students, and neighbors, Tombs offers a simple, affordable menu of burgers, hearty soups and salads, daily specials and house made desserts.
- **Billy Martin's Tavern:** 1264 Wisconsin Ave. NW. (202) 333-7370. This tavern in the heart of Georgetown dates from the end of Prohibition and is one of the tangible links to Washington's Camelot era. John F. Kennedy wooed Jacqueline Bouvier at these wooden tables (the exact spot has an engraved marker) and diplomats, spies and senators have supped here. The menu is traditional American with steaks, crab cakes and clam chowder.
- **Paolo's Ristorante:** Wisconsin Ave. NW & N Street, (202) 333-7353. Dine outside and watch the world go by, or sit inside and watch your pizza being prepared in our fabulous brick oven, and most of all - enjoy! Located in the heart of Georgetown, Paolo's serves fine Cal-Italian cuisine full of exciting pizzas and exquisite pastas.
- **Mai Thai (formerly Bangkok Bistro):** 3251 Prospect Street, (202) 337-2424. Asian inspired, Mai Thai offers healthy Thai Cuisine at very reasonable prices. Among the extensive entrees include, but are not limited to, noodle dishes, curries, pad thais, fresh seafoods, and vegetarian options.

Please note: A prayer room is available in Conference Room 4 of the Georgetown University Hotel & Conference Center, in the Leavey Center (access from the third floor of the Hariri Building).