

PROFILES OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

SPEAKERS

Prof John Esposito is a University Professor as well as a Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, USA. He is Founding Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding in the Walsh School of Foreign Service. He served as a consultant to the US Department of State and other agencies, European and Asian governments and corporations, universities, and the media worldwide. A former President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, Vice Chair of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, and member of the World Economic Forum's Council of 100 Leaders. He is a member of the E. C. European Network of Experts on De-Radicalisation and the board of C-1 World Dialogue and an ambassador for the UN Alliance of Civilisations.

Prof Yasin Aktay is the Deputy Chairman of the AK Party, Turkey. In 1999 he became an Associate Professor in the field of Applied Sociology and in 2005 a Professor in the field of Sociology of Institutions. He spent 20 years as an academician at Selçuk University (Konya). Currently, he is affiliated with Yıldırım Bayazıt University, Ankara. Aktay headed the Institute for Strategic Thinking, a think-tank based in Ankara between 2010-2014, where he is still a honorarium president. He is the author of a number of books, including *Political Thought in Modern Turkey: Islamism* (2004); *Postmodernism and Islam, Globalisation and Orientalism* (with A. Topçuoğlu ile, 1996); and *Fear and Power: Conspiracy Production and Elite Oppression* (2010).

Prof Jeffrey Haynes is Associate Dean (research) in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at London Metropolitan University. He directs the university's Centre for the Study of Religion, Conflict and Cooperation. He is the author or editor of 38 books, the most recent of which are: *Faith-based Organisations at the United Nations* (Palgrave, 2014) and *Religion and Political Change in the Modern World* (Routledge, 2014).

Prof Abdelwahhab ElAffendi is a Political Scientist, who specialises on subjects relating to Islam and Modernity, Politics and Democracy in the Middle East and Africa, Multiculturalism, and East-West relations. He is a Reader in Politics at the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster, and co-ordinator of the Centre's Democracy and Islam Programme.

Dr Adeeb Ziadeh is an associate fellow of the Higher Education Academy in the UK. He has a doctorate in Politics from the University of Exeter, specialising in EU foreign policy towards the Middle East, with a special focus on the relationship with Hamas, political Islam, and terrorism and resistance affairs. Palestinian in origin, Ziadeh obtained his BA and MA in International Studies from Birzeit University in Palestine.

Alastair Sloan is a journalist and columnist for Al-Jazeera, *The Guardian*, *The New Statesman*, and the Middle East Monitor. He writes about British politics, human rights, and the West's relationship with the Middle East.

Dr Anas Altikriti is the Founder and CEO of The Cordoba Foundation, and an internationally accredited translator and interpreter by profession and a postgraduate lecturer in the same field. A leading figure of the British Anti-War Movement and Chair of the 2-million Iraq demonstration in February 2003, Altikriti helped successfully negotiate the release of thirteen hostages to date, including Western Christian peacemakers taken hostage in Iraq in 2005. He is the former President of the Muslim Association of Britain (and is its current chairman); a founding member of the British Muslim Initiative and, a founding member of Nyon Process – UN Alliance of Civilisations.

Dr Azzam Tamimi is a British Palestinian academic and political activist. He is currently the Chairman of Alhiwar TV channel and is its Editor-in-Chief. He headed the Institute of Islamic Political Thought until 2008. Tamimi has written several books on Middle Eastern and Islamic politics, including *Power-Sharing Islam, Islam and Secularism in the Middle East*, *Rachid Ghannouchi, Democrat within Islamism* and *Hamas: A History from Within*.

Dr Barbara Zollner is a lecturer in Middle East Politics in Birkbeck, University of London, specialising in political trends in the Middle East and North Africa, Islamist movements, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood. Zollner is a member of Chatham House, the Middle East Studies Association, and the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies. She has authored numerous books, including *Prison Talk. The Muslim Brotherhood's Internal Struggle During the Period of 'Abdel Nasir's Persecution, 1954 to 1971*, and *Opening to Reform: al-Hudaybi's Legacy* (in: Roel Meijer ed. *The Muslim Brotherhood in Europe: Transnationalization and Localization of an Islamic Movement*).

David Hearst is Editor-in-Chief of the Middle East Eye, an independent London-based portal covering the Middle East in English and French. He writes a column for the *Huffington Post's* The World Post and appears as a commentator on Al-Jazeera Arabic and English, AlAraby TV, Russia Today, and Masr al-Aan TV. Previously, he was chief foreign leader writer of *The Guardian*, a former associate foreign editor, and a correspondent in Moscow, Europe, and Northern Ireland. He joined *The Guardian* from *The Scotsman* where he served as education correspondent.

Dr Daud Abdullah was senior researcher at the Palestinian Return Centre, London (1996-2009) and Deputy Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain (2006-

10). He lectured in Islamic Studies at Birkbeck, University of London (2003-2012), and is currently the Director of the Middle East Monitor (MEMO). He has published several books and articles on Islam and the Palestinian Question, his latest book is *A History of Palestinian Resistance*. He is a regular contributor to *The Palestine Times* and *The Palestine Chronicle*. Recently contributed to the *Islamic Political Radicalism: A European Perspective* collection as well as a new volume, the *American Foreign Policy and The Muslim World*.

Baroness Dr Jenny Tonge was a Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park in London and who became a life peer as Baroness Tonge in 2005, gaining a seat in the House of Lords. She has long been a strong critic of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. She resigned from her parliamentary party in 2012 in defiance of her views defending the Palestinians.

Jeremy Corbyn MP is a British Labour Party politician who has been the Member of Parliament for Islington North, London since 1983. He has been a member of the Socialist Campaign Group and a long-time supporter of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) where he is a Vice-Chair. He fiercely opposed the Iraq War and has been a prominent campaigner against the Gaza-Israel conflict. He is an elected member of the Stop the War Coalition steering committee.

John McHugo is the author of *A Concise History of the Arabs* (2013) and *Syria: From the Great War to Civil War* (2014). He is a board member of CAABU and chair of the Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine. He originally studied Arabic and conducted research into early medieval Sufi thought at Oxford and the American University in Cairo, then qualified as a solicitor and worked as an international lawyer in Arab countries for many years. In 2007, he took early retirement to devote himself to writing and research.

Dr Madawi Rashid is a Saudi-Arabian-born Professor of Social Anthropology at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at King's College London since 1994. She gives occasional lectures in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. She is working on religio-political debate in Saudi Arabia after 11 September 2001. She has written several books and contributed to academic journals on the Arabian Peninsula, Arab migration, globalisation and religious transnationalism.

Dr Maha Azzam is a leading policy expert on the Middle East and political Islam. She is Associate Fellow of the Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House, The Royal Institute for International Affairs, London. She is Head of the Egyptian Revolutionary Council (ERC), and Chair of Egyptians for Democracy UK. She is a founding member of the Brussels Initiative (May 2014), a set of 10 principles that were agreed upon by leading Egyptian democratic forces abroad. Azzam was on the first Egyptian Delegation for Public Diplomacy following the coup.

Dr Maria Holt is a Reader in Politics at the University of Westminster. She teaches Middle Eastern politics. Her research interests include gender and conflict in the Arab world, violence against women in the Middle East, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Her most recent publications are *Women and Conflict in the Middle East: Palestinian*

Refugees and the Response to Violence (2014) and *Women, Islam, and Resistance in the Arab World* (with Haifaa Jawad, 2013).

Mohammad Soudan is a Civil Engineer from Egypt, who graduated from Alexandria University in 1978. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineering, a member of the Engineering Syndicate of Egypt as well as the Institute of Civil Engineering in the UK. Soudan is the Foreign Relations Secretary of the Freedom and Justice Party in Egypt, and is a prominent political writer and analyst.

Mona AlQazzaz is a human rights activist and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. She is a final year PhD student at the University of Cambridge and has represented the Brotherhood internationally.

Dr Omar El-Hamdoon is a qualified Dental Surgeon having completed undergraduate degrees in Dentistry and Dental Surgery, and a postgraduate degree in Restorative Dentistry, as well as attaining a diploma for becoming a member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery. He studied Islamic Studies at the European Institute of Human Sciences (EIHS), France, and attained an *ijaza* (license) in Islamic Studies in 2003. In 2010, he became national head of the Da'wa Department in the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB), and in May 2011, became the President of MAB. El-Hamdoon is also one of the Assistant Secretary-Generals at the Muslim Council of Britain and Vice Chair of the Mosques and Imams' National Advisory Board.

Prof Rosemary Hollis is Director of the Olive Tree Programme at City University, London. She formally worked for Chatham House as its Director of Research. She is the author of *Britain and the Middle East in the 9/11 Era* (2010).

Dr Tareq Baconi is a research scholar at the Middle East Institute at Columbia University. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Kings College London. He specialises in contemporary geopolitics of the Middle East, particularly Israel-Palestine, Islamic movements and the energy sector. His doctoral dissertation focused on Hamas, in particular the movement's political evolution. He is also an adjunct visiting fellow at the US Middle East Project and a Policy Member at al Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network.

Toby Cadman is an international law specialist and has extensive experience in the fields of international law, war crimes, human rights, terrorism and extradition law. Cadman's particular area of expertise is international legal obligations and the UN system of protection. He has served as counsel in a number of high profile international cases, appearing before the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Crimes Tribunal Bangladesh, the European Court of Human Rights, the Bosnian War Crimes Chamber and the UN Human Rights Committee. He is member of the Bar of England and Wales and a Barrister Member at Nine Bedford Row International, a member of the International Criminal Bureau in The Hague, and the Founding Partner of the TMC Advisory Group.

Victoria Brittain is a journalist and writer. She has spent much of her working life in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, writing for *The Guardian* and various French magazines. She has been a consultant to the UN on the Impact of Conflict on Women. Her most recent work is a verbatim play, *Waiting*, with the words of the wives of Guantanamo and other prisoners. She was co-author of Moazzam Begg's book, *Enemy Combatant*. She is on the Council of the Institute of Race Relations, the Board of Widows Rights International, and is a Patron of Palestine Solidarity.

Ismail Adam Patel is the chairman and a founding member of Friends of al-Aqsa, a UK-based NGO. A graduate of the University of Manchester, Patel contributes regularly to discussions, debates and conferences nationally and internationally, addressing peace in Palestine and other issues affecting Muslims in the UK and abroad. His articles have appeared in *The Independent*, *OpenDemocracy* and *The Guardian's* 'Comment is Free' as well as other print and broadcast media. Patel has penned several books, including: *Madina to Jerusalem: Encounters with the Byzantine Empire*; *Palestine: A Beginner's Guide*; *The Night Journey* and *Virtues of Jerusalem: An Islamic Perspective*.

Dr. Farid ElShayyal is a historian. Until 2013, he was a Visiting Professor at King's College London and the Centre for Islamic Studies, SOAS, University of London respectively. Previously, he was head of Islamic Studies at the Markfield Institute of Higher Education; a Senior lecturer of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Westminster; and lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He has authored, edited and translated into English numerous publications, including *Islam: State and Citizenship*, *Towards a Civic Democratic Islamic Discourse II*; *Death Penalty in Islam* by Dr. M. Shahrour; and *Inside the Muslim Brotherhood* by Youssef Nada with Douglas Thompson.

MODERATORS

The Right Honourable Clare Short was Member of Parliament for Birmingham Ladywood from 1983 to 2010 and Secretary of State for International Development from 1997 to May 2003. In 2003, Clare resigned from the Government over the Iraq war and in 2006, she resigned the Labour whip. In November 2004, her book, *An Honourable Deception? New Labour, Iraq, and the Misuse of Power*, was published as an attempt to explain why Tony Blair went to war in Iraq. In 2005, it was awarded Political Book of the Year by Channel 4. She stood down from Parliament in 2010 and is now active in various organisations, including Trade Justice for the developing world and for a just settlement of the Palestinian / Israeli conflict. She is a member of the Advisory Committee of International Lawyers for Africa. In March 2011 she was elected Chair of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

Peter Osborne is a British journalist. He is chief political commentator of the *Daily Telegraph* and associate editor of the *Spectator*. He is author of *The Rise of Political Lying* and *The Triumph of the Political Class*, and, with Frances Weaver, the pamphlet *Guilty Men*.

Baroness Pola Uddin is a Labour Party life peer and community activist. She is the first Muslim and Asian to sit in the House of Lords. Baroness Uddin was invited to the House of Lords for her contribution to the advancement of women and disability rights. Since entering the House of Lords she has supported a number of initiatives. She has received a national and international reputation as a leader in promoting women's equal rights, including human rights, in Britain and abroad.

Ben White is a journalist and author, specialising in Palestine/Israel. He is a staff writer at Middle East Monitor, and his articles have been published by Al Jazeera, *The Guardian's* "Comment is Free", Electronic Intifada, and others. White is a PhD candidate at the University of Exeter.

John Rees is a British political activist, broadcaster, writer and is a national officer of the Stop the War Coalition. He is a spokesman for the People's Assembly Against Austerity, and founding member of Counterfire. He is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at Goldsmiths, University of London. Rees was formerly a leading member of the Socialist Workers Party.

Nasim Ahmed is a researcher and staff writer for the Middle East Monitor. He has published numerous articles on Palestine, Political Islam and Middle East. He previously worked as the head of research for the Palestinian Return Centre where he was also its managing editor for the *Journal of Palestine Refugee Studies*.

Shazia Arshad is a public relations professional who has recently joined a new organisation specialising in the Gulf. She formerly worked at the Middle East Monitor as a Parliamentary Officer.

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