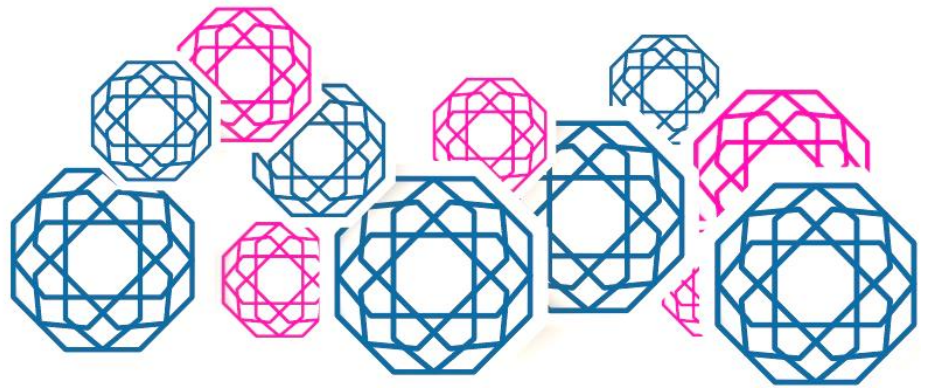


# International Conference Islam in the West

29-30 September 2019  
Landmark Hotel  
Amman, Jordan



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN  
STIFTUNG** Für die Freiheit.  
Middle East and North Africa

Under the patronage of HRH Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (RIIFS) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) cordially create an open dialogue space to discuss, explore, analyze, and understand the multifold aspects of the “Islam in the West” phenomenon.

The conference attempts to bridge the gap between Muslims and Western positions and perceptions about this phenomenon, discloses the unknown and hidden sides of it and enables policy makers to build better influential and productive policies to deal with it.

## Day 1 - 29 September 2019

09:30 Registration

**Master of Ceremony:** Dr. Renee Hattar, Head of International Studies, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies

10:00 **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Dirk Kunze, Regional Director MENA, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom  
Dr. Wajih Kanso, Director, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies

10:30 **Keynote Speaker**

HRH Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, Chairman, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:30 **First Session - Islam versus West**

**Mutual Perceptions and Relations: Past, Present and Future Trends**

**Objective:** To learn about the phases of the relation between Islam and the West and explore the current situation.

**Moderator:** Dr. Wajih Kanso, Director, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Rocio Daga, Lecturer at Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Germany  
“Towards a Common House: Beyond Cultural, Religious or Ideological Boundaries. The Challenge in Europe”
- Dr. Radwan El-Sayed, Lecturer at the Lebanese University, Lebanon  
“Mutual Perceptions and Relations: Past, Present and Future?”
- Dr. Mohammed Abdel Fadeel, Lecturer at the Section of Islamic Studies in German at Al-Azhar University, Egypt  
“Islamic Studies in the West: from Orientalism to Theology - Germany as a Model”

**Open debate started by:**

- Dr. Amer Al Hafi, Academic Adviser at the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Jordan
- Dr. Amer Shatara, Professor at the University of Jordan - Faculty of Arts, Jordan

13:30 **Lunch Break**

14:30

**Second Session - Muslims in the West**

**Reasons Behind the Dilemmas of Cultural Identity, Social Integration and Political Loyalty**

**Objective: To demonstrate how Muslims were able to adapt in a non-Muslim society, be part of its culture, and be able to manage the competing previous identity with the newly acquired identity.**

**Moderator:** Dr. Tawfiq Shomar, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Jordan

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Yafa Shanneik, Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom  
"Caught 'in-between': Marriage and Divorce among Muslim Refugees in Germany"
- Imam Izzeddin El Zir, Vice-president of the Florence School of Dialogue, Lebanon  
"Muslims in Italy, Dilemmas: Cultural Identity, Social Integration and Political Loyalty"
- Dr. Jamal Al-Shalabi, Professor at The Hashemite University - Political Sciences, Jordan  
"The Experience of a young Arab-Muslim in France: between expectations and lived realities, what went wrong?"

**Open debate started by:**

- Dr. Nart Qakhun, Professor at Al-ALBayt University, Jordan
- Dr. Alexander Henley, Lecturer in Islam at Oxford's Faculty of Theology and Religion, United Kingdom

19:00

**Dinner at Lebanese Um Khalil Restaurant**

- 9:30 **Third Session - Muslims and the Western Political System**  
**What are the Pre-Conditions for an Active Citizenship and the Challenges behind the Political Inclusion of Muslims?**
- Objective: To learn about Muslims' loyalty and active citizenship in a political system that is not completely concurrent with their religious beliefs and practices.**
- Moderator:** **Sanad Nawar**, Project Coordinator, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
- Speakers:**
- **Dr. Dani Ghsoub**, Assistant Professor/Chairperson of the Department of Government and International Relations at the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Notre Dame University, Lebanon  
"Compatibility of Islamic System of Values with the Liberal-Democratic Western one"
  - **Dr. Brahim Kas**, Researcher at the University Paris 8, France  
"Muslims and the Western Political System: the Case of France"
  - **Dr. Michele Brignone**, Executive Director of the Oasis International Foundation, Italy  
"Muslim Civic and Political Participation in Italy: Discourses and Practices"
- Open debate started by:**
- **Dr. Saleh Nusairat**, Deputy Director at the National Center for Curriculum Development, Jordan
  - **Dr. Mohammad Kheir Eiedat**, Associate Professor at The University of Jordan - Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II School of International Studies, Jordan
- 11:30 **Coffee Break**
- 12:00 **Fourth Session - Islam in the West as a New Phenomenon**  
**Distinct Practices, Interpretations and Beliefs**
- Objective: To explore how Islam in the West is evolving as new phenomenon that is manifested in distinct religious practices, new unprecedented interpretations of religious texts and new trends in religious beliefs.**
- Moderator:** **Dr. Renee Hattar**, Head of International Studies, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies
- Speakers:**
- **Dr. Maria Angeles Corpas Aguirre**, Professor at the University of Distance Education - Contemporary History, Spain  
"Islam in Contemporary Spain: the difficult path between religious identity and secularist demands"
  - **Dr. Nader El Bizri**, Professor of Philosophy and Civilization Studies at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon  
"Islamicate Thought in the European Intellectual Milieu, Past and Present"
  - **Mr. Charles Saint Pro**, General Director of the Observatoire d'études Géopolitiques, France  
"Ignorance feeds Islamophobia"
- Open debate started by:**
- **Dr. Nabil Sadoun**, Strategic and Educational Expert, Jordan
  - **Dr. Adnan Al Assaf**, Full Professor in the Department of Islamic Jurisprudence and its Foundations at the University of Jordan, Jordan
- 13:30 **Lunch Break**

14:30

**Fifth Session - Western Policies and Civil Society  
Initiatives Toward Muslim Residents in the West**

**Objective: To discuss initiatives made by political authorities and civil society organizations to help Muslims integrate in their new societies.**

**Moderator:** Mr. Dirk Kunze, Regional Director MENA, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Sven Speer, Founding President of the Open Religious Policy Forum, Germany  
"Religious Policy as Integration Policy. State and Islam in Germany "
- Dr. Rene Otayek, Senior Research Director and Professor of Political Science at the Institute of Political Studies, University of Bordeaux, France  
"Islam in France"
- Dr. Renee Hattar, Head of International Studies at the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Jordan  
"Role of Civil society organizations in integrating Muslim residents in Europe"

**Open debate started by:**

- Dr. Wafa Al Khadra, Dean of Faculty of Languages & Communication at the American University of Madaba, Jordan
- Dr. Reham Nasr, Lecturer at Al-Azhar University - Faculty of Humanities, Egypt

16:00

**Coffee Break**

16:30

**Conclusions and Recommendations**