



# THE SALAAM NETWORK

*Striving to make our Beloved Community of Louisville Whole*

## ISLAMIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD CIVILIZATION

FALL 2019 OPEN CAMPUS 8-WEEK COURSE PRESENTED BY *THE SALAAM NETWORK* AND THOMAS JEFFERSON UNITARIAN CHURCH (4936 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40222)

**October 30, 2019 Panel Discussion: *Muslim Women: The Expectations, Stereotypes, and Realities of being a Muslimah in America.***

**TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: *Navigating being a Muslimah in America, Race in America, Being a daughter of Immigrants/Convert Muslims, Hijab.***

### **Panelists:**

**Dr. Linda Omer** (also the **Moderator**) is a Palestinian Muslim with Ph. D in biochemistry and molecular genetics from U of L. Her work focuses on the connection between policy and health; she specifically asks the question of how our research can address the injustices of inequity and racism. Dr. Omer also volunteers her time at the Guiding Light Islamic Center.

**Najah Goldstein** is a media veteran, with more than 10 years of experience in news and entertainment. Goldstein is a 2008 graduate of Penn State University, where she earned a BA majoring in Journalism with a minor in Sociology.

**Lena Aslam** is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana where she completed her bachelor's degree in Accounting and her MBA at LSU. She's the daughter of a first-generation Pakistani immigrant and a first-generation American convert. She believes open communication and understanding is a vital piece of fostering relationships in both Muslim and non-Muslim communities. While living in Louisiana, she was involved in community outreach and interfaith work for the past 5+ years.

**Mariam Ba** is a U of L graduate with a degree in Psychology and Pan African Studies. She was born in Senegal to Mauritanian parents. In 2003, at the age of 9, she moved with her parents to the U. S. She served as the President of the Muslim Students Association when she was studying at U o L. She is applying to law school and is interested in becoming a Human Rights Attorney.

**Clara Ruplinger** is a Muslim convert of three years. She graduated in 2018 with a degree in Political Science from Berea College and currently teaches Social Studies. In addition to her work, she is a passionate organizer and activist, and has been involved in social justice movements in both Berea and Louisville. In her free time, she loves gardening, martial arts, and drawing.

**Dahabo Kerow** is a senior at Centre College, Danville. She's passionate about social justice and human rights. She's thrilled to be a part of this panel that humanizes and conveys the experience of Muslim women.