



# THE SALAAM NETWORK

*Striving to make our Beloved Community of Louisville Whole*

## SEMINAR (Sessions 1-8)

### ***“NORMATIVE ISLAMIC EDUCATION FOR MUSLIM WOMEN”***

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. RIFFAT HASSAN. CONSULTANT: DR. JOE BRENNAN**

**PARTICIPANTS: MUSLIM WOMEN AND FIVE MEMEBERS OF *THE SALAAM NETWORK* (GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)**

**VENUE: THOMAS JEFFERSON UNITARIAN CHURCH**

**DATE/TIME: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH (UNLESS IT IS A HOLIDAY) (4.00 - 7.00 p. m.)**

**OBJECTIVE:** Islam, like other major world religions, developed in patriarchal cultures, which were male-oriented, male-centered and male-controlled. The Islamic tradition, like other major religious traditions, derives from multiple sources of which the most authoritative is the Qur’an which Muslims believe to be the literal Word of God transmitted through the agency of Archangel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad who lived in Arabia (570-632 A.D.).

Historically, the Qur’an was interpreted almost exclusively by, men. Women were, traditionally, denied access to religious scholarship, and generally remained unaware of the androcentrism and misogyny that became embedded in their tradition. Dr. Riffat Hassan is the pioneer of feminist theology in the Islamic tradition. In 1974, she undertook a study of the Qur’an (1974-1984) from a non-patriarchal perspective. Her groundbreaking research, which has impacted millions of Muslim women globally, is recognized internationally.

Dr. Hassan is very keen to share her knowledge and experience with local Muslim women and has started a monthly Seminar on “*Normative Islamic Education for Muslim Women.*” The study will involve a close reading of the Qur’anic texts pertaining to women. Dr. Hassan’s hope in embarking on this educational initiative is that it will impart knowledge that will lead to the internal and external empowerment of Muslim women who will become the catalysts for positive change in their communities. Since there is commonality in issues relating to women across traditions, Dr. Hassan hopes that this course of study will also be of use and interest to non-Muslims attending it.

**TEXTBOOK FOR THE SEMINAR: “*QUR’ANIC TEACHINGS RELATING TO MUSLIM WOMEN*” - A RESOURCE BOOK BY DR. RIFFAT HASSAN. ASSIGNED READING FOR SESSION ONE WILL BE EMAILED TO EVERYONE ATTENDING THE SEMINAR.**