

ANNOUNCEMENT

Meeting on HIV/AIDS and Islam

A seminar on HIV/AIDS from an Islamic perspective

Location: Africa Studies Centre, Wassenaarseweg 52, Leiden

Room: 1A21

Date: Tuesday 11 December 2012

Time: 15.00-17.30 hours

Organised by:

Islamic Relief Netherlands

Knowledge Centre for Religion and Development

Connected to:

Conference of IRNARA (International Research Network on Religion and AIDS in Africa) : “Biographies in Times of Crisis, Exploring Religious Narratives of AIDS in Africa and the African Diaspora”

Dates: 13, 14 and 15 December 2012

Muslims have responded to HIV/AIDS in various ways. Like other (religious) groups, Muslims have denied the treat of HIV/aids for a long time. As the impact of HIV/AIDS has become visible, some religious leaders in Muslim majority countries have become actively involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Others have often responded by saying this is still not our problem. It happens, yes, but in other societies, or to other people who are not 'really Muslim.' The transmission of the virus is seen as problematic because it is associated with sexual behaviour that is immoral according to Islamic ideals. Treatment for HIV/AIDS is sometimes considered as ‘Western’ and ‘ungodly’. The taboo on HIV/AIDS in many Muslim communities remains therefore strong.

To break the silence about HIV/AIDS in Muslim communities, Islamic Relief organised a conference in 2007 in South Africa. In total 2000 HIV/AIDS affected peoples, Muslim religious leaders and NGO's met to discuss the subject. This was an important step. But the topic remains sensitive, there is a continued need to discuss the topic of HIV/AIDS and Islam.

For this reason, Islamic Relief together with the Knowledge Centre on Religion and Development, organises a seminar round World AIDS Day. The debate will concentrate on both the Islamic discourse as well as how this impacts on the practices of an Islamic Faith Based Organisation. Dr. Hany el Banna will discuss the topic in a broader Islamic framework. Dr. Hany el Banna is the founder of Islamic Relief and the Chairman to the International HIV-Fund. Sherifa Mia, National Program Manager from Islamic Relief South Africa, will give a clear insight in how the NGO is dealing with HIV/AIDS in its daily work in South Africa. The presentations will be followed by a discussion with the larger audience.

Discussion leader: Hermen van Dorp, Mara Projecten.

Subscription

<http://www.religion-and-development.nl/news/55/december-11-meeting-on-hiv-aids-and-islam-a-seminar-on-hiv-aids-from-an-islamic-perspective>

Connection to the IRNARA conference

The conference is organised back-to-back with the IRNARA conference on 'Biographies in times of crisis', in close cooperation with the ASC. This is particularly beneficial to the Roundtable session with practitioners that is organized on at the IRNARA conference.

Abubaker Sabeela from South Africa will represent Islamic Relief at the Roundtable session.