



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
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THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
SCHOOL OF RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND CLASSICS
and the ISLAMIC STUDIES RESEARCH UNIT (ISRU)

Cordially invite you to a Public Lecture

ISLAMIC FEMINISM: REALITY OR PARADOX?

by Professor Amina Wadud

Date: Thursday, 15 August 2019

Time: 10h30-12h00

Venue: Howard College Theatre
Howard College Campus
University of KwaZulu-Natal

RSVP

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Professor Amina **Wadud**

Professor Amina Wadud is an African-American, Muslim woman who graduated in 1988 with her PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Michigan. In her undergraduate years she studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo, Egypt; Qur'anic studies and tafsir (exegesis of the Qur'an) at Cairo University and philosophy at Al-Azhar University. Her life's work in academia has focused predominantly on Qur'anic Studies and Gender. She worked as an assistant professor in Quranic Studies at IIUM and in 1992 Professor Wadud accepted a position as Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Virginia Commonwealth University. She retired in 2008, and took up a position as a visiting professor at the Centre for Religious and Cross Cultural Studies at Gadja University in Indonesia.

She has published 2 books: Qur'an and woman rereading the sacred text from a woman's perspective (1999) and Inside the Gender Jihad: women's reform in Islam (2006),

numerous essays, chapters and blogs and has given guest lectures at many universities. The book 'Jihad for Justice', which honours the life and work of Professor Wadud, includes 3 chapters by South African scholars. During the 90s she cofounded the NGO Sisters In Islam.

In August 1994 Professor Wadud made history at Claremont Main Road Mosque in Cape Town where she presented the pre-khutbah titled: "Islam as Engaged Surrender" before the Friday congregational prayer. And in 2005 she led a mixed congregational Friday prayer in the United States which broke longstanding traditions of male only imams leading mixed congregational prayer. Both these actions caused considerable controversy in the global Muslim world. In addition, Professor Wadud has drawn from her work on 'justice' and 'equality' to support the Muslim LGBTQ community. Her visit to South Africa this year commemorates 25 years of her being, 'The Lady Imam'.