

Interfaith Alliance UK  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
*for immediate circulation*

17 October 2008

THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE UK WELCOMES PROFESSOR AMINA WADUD

**SHALOM - SALAM - NAMASTE - PEACE BE WITH YOU**

The Interfaith Alliance UK offers its prayerful good wishes and support to The Muslim Education Centre, Oxford, and particularly to Professor Amina Wadud, leading Jummah prayers and conducting the Khutbah on Friday 17 October 2008, in Oxford.

The event empowers UK Muslim women to celebrate gender justice as they reclaim their right to be spiritual equals and leaders. Women will move from the space to which tradition has relegated them, at the back of the mosque and now pray in the front rows.

The courage of Amina Wadud, Visiting Scholar at the Starr King School of the Ministry, Berkeley, California is impossible to describe. To stand before God as the spiritual equal to male congregants - praying together, not behind men and not in another room – shows the capacity of women's leadership. The event will clear the deck of distractions and acknowledge the egalitarianism that permeates Islam.

Every human being, man and woman, Muslim and non-Muslim, has the right to interpret God's message, because the message is addressed to all of humanity. They must interpret and act accordingly; that is the essence of our humanity.

**For further information:** Tamsila Tauqir – 07941 659320

**Note:** The Interfaith Alliance UK, a registered charity – No. 1123638 - aims to present a liberal and progressive voice in the world of interfaith dialogue, strongly rooted in, and consistent with the essential truths of our respective faith traditions. We work together to promote love of the One Same God, witnessed in social justice and parity of esteem for all God's children, regardless of race, gender, creed, disability, sexual orientation, social or economic status. IAUK Trustees include women and men from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions. Further information may be found on the IAUK website:

[www.interfaithalliance.org.uk](http://www.interfaithalliance.org.uk)