



SPEAKERS' FORUM SERIES
FAITH & DEVELOPMENT

FAITH AND EDUCATION

Contestations around the Madrasa in Bangladesh

March 12, 2016
BRAC Center, 75, Bir Uttam AK Khandakar Road,
Mohakhali, Dhaka- 1212,



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to invite you to the fourth Speakers' Forum titled **“Faith and Education: Contestations around the Madrasa in Bangladesh”** on March 12th, 2016. The Forum is a joint initiative between Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, World Faiths Development Dialogue, and Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University. Part of a multi-year exploration of the role of faith-inspired actors in development, these forums will provide a non-politicized space to draw in the experience and expertise of scholars and development practitioners from local, regional, and international contexts to express their constructive dialogue on social issues at the intersection of religion and critical development topics. These topics also highlight areas where religious leaders or institutions play significant roles or where a fuller understanding of religious dimensions can enrich development work and policy.

The fourth Speakers' Forum will focus on madrasa education, exploring the history of these institutions in South Asia and their contemporary role as education providers in Bangladesh. Through the course of the day, we hope to gain some critical insights on madrasas' contribution to education provision and broader social impacts, as well as exploring issues of social alienation of madrasa students and the challenges of integration and inclusive citizenship.

We look forward to your attendance and engagement on this important issue at this day-long event.

Sincerely,

Professor Abdul Bayes

Acting Chairperson

Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University

Professor Samia Huq

Associate Professor and Coordinator

of Georgetown-BRAC University Speakers Forum Series

Program

- 9:00 am **Arrival and Registration** Tea and snacks will be served
- 9:30 am **Welcome Address**
Katherine Marshall, *Executive Director, World Faiths Development Dialogue*
Mohammad Abdul Bayes, *Acting Chairperson, BRAC University Department of Economics and Social Sciences*
- 10:00 am **Session 1 “What is a Madrasa?” Deobandi Traditions in South Asia**
Professor Ebrahim Moosa, *Notre Dame University*
Discussant: Professor Katherine Marshall, *Georgetown University*
- 11:00 am **Session 2 Madrasas in Bangladesh: Literacy and Social Capital**
Professor Niaz Asadullah, *University of Malaya*
Discussant: Dr. Binayak Sen, *Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies*
- 11:45 am **Tea Break**
- 12:00 pm **Session 3 Panel Discussion - Madrasas and Social Participation**
Talat Mahmud, *Save the Children*
Nurul Momen Bhuiyan, *Bangladesh National University*
Saiful Haque, *Move Foundation*
Shagufe Hossain, *Leaping Boundaries*
Moderators: Professor Samia Huq, *BRAC University*
and Nathaniel Adams, *World Faiths Development Dialogue*
- 1:30 pm **Closing**
Katherine Marshall, *Executive Director, World Faiths Development Dialogue*
- 1:45 pm **Lunch**

SPEAKERS' FORUM

The Speakers' Forum seeks to bring together international scholars to engage with local scholars, activists and interested citizens on various issues that affect the ways in which we think about religion's ability, constraints, and potential in promoting development. We believe that this discussion, undertaken with academic insights and tenor, will be important to reflect on global experiences and local realities through sharing and mutual learning.



Inspiring Excellence

**DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMICS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

BERKLEY CENTER
for Religion, Peace & World Affairs
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



WORLD FAITHS
DEVELOPMENT
DIALOGUE