

Living under Civil Laws and Religious Laws in Australia: Conflict or Harmony?

**May 1, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University**

This one-day National Forum is jointly sponsored by the Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre, the Islamic Council of Queensland, and the Interfaith Multicultural Forum, with funding by the Queensland Government under the Multicultural Assistance Program.

Objectives

- *Clarify what faith/religious laws, doctrines, codes are practised by followers in their daily life in Australian society;
- *Share ideas and experiences on how members of their faith are successfully living as law-abiding citizens under both civil laws and faith or religious laws, doctrines or codes;
- *Explore possible conflicts/tensions between civil and faith laws and how these can be overcome or have been constructively resolved in order to promote a peaceful, harmonious and democratic Australia.

Sessions

- ❖ *Session 1: Sharia Law and Living as Muslims in Australian Society*
Dr. Mohamad Abdalla, Director, Griffith Islamic Research Unit, Griffith University
Jamila Hussain, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Technology, Sydney
Dr. Nadirsyah Hosen, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong
- ❖ *Session 2: Respecting Faith “Laws” Codes and Doctrines and Australian Civil Law: Jewish and Christian Perspectives*
Grahame Leonard, President, Executive Council of Australian Jewry
Madeline Brennan, Member, Bar Association of Queensland
Prof. Gary Bouma, UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations Asia Pacific, Monash University
- ❖ *Session 3: Practicing Hinduism, Buddhism, & Sikhism under Australian Civil Law*
Dr. A. Balasubramaniam, Chairman, Hindu Council of Australia
Jim Ferguson, President, Buddhist Council of Queensland
Jessie Kaur Singh, Executive Director Multifaith Affairs UNITEDSIKHS
- ❖ *Session 4: Responses: Social, Cultural & Legal Perspectives*
John Woodley, former Democrats Senator, Uniting Church Minister
Assoc. Prof. Julia Howell, Dept. of International Business and Asian Studies, Griffith University
Rev. Dr. Noel Preston, Adjunct Prof. Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice & Governance, Griffith University
Prof. Toh Swee-Hin, Director, Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University

- Always People
- Believing Women for a Culture of Peace
- Buddhist Council of Queensland
- Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney
- Centre for Multicultural and Community Development, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care
- Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam, The University of Melbourne
- Dharma Realm Buddhist Assn. Gold Coast
- Faculty of Arts, Griffith University
- Executive Council of Australian Jewry
- FoGuangShan Chung Tian Buddhist Temple
- Griffith Islamic Research Unit, Griffith University

- Hindu Council of Australia
- International Day of Peace Alliance
- Islamic Friendship Association of Australia
- Islamic Women’s Association of Queensland
- Multicultural Centre, University of Southern Queensland
- Northside Interfaith Group
- Pure Land Learning College, Toowoomba
- Solidarity Philippines Australia Network
- Sunshine Coast Interfaith Network
- UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations Asia Pacific, Monash University
- UNITEDSIKHS International Sikhs Organization

Other sponsors to be confirmed

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 (GST included) Please fax registration to (0)7-3735-7131 by 23rd April.

The form can also be downloaded from <http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/mfc/>

Email mfc@griffith.edu.au For parking on Nathan campus, see map at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/ofm/parking/>