



Demystifying the narrative of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

Date: Tuesday, 25 September

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Location: New York, United Nations, Conference Room 5

About the event:

The narrative of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant distorted Islam to legitimize the spread of its ideology and violence, and to justify its state-building efforts. In this context, a UN Women report¹ released in June 2018 revealed how this terrorist group uses women's voices and experiences to promote a suppressive world view. In order to demystify this narrative, it is important to understand how the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant uses Islam to recruit supporters and inspire violence across the globe.

This side event - jointly organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers - aims to set the record straight on how the so-called Islamic State distorted Islam and to propose ways to demystify its violent discourse. The side event builds on the ministerial side event "Bringing to Justice the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" organized in New York during the 71st General by the Permanent Missions of Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Speakers will include:

- H.E. Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah, President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies; Chairman of the Fatwa Council of the United Arab Emirates, Abu (*confirmed*)
- Ms. Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (*invited*)
- Mr. Adama Dieng, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (*Confirmed*)
- Ms. Pramila Patten, United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Mohammad Naciri, Regional Director for Arab States, UN Women (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Director of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (*confirmed*)
- Dr. Nelly Lahoud, Author of *Empowerment or Subjugation*, International Institute for Strategic Studies (*invited*)

Please **RSVP by 21 September**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xYN3P9K2sdSO5VjD6RISJQMntoChPztKUKjN3huSwRo/edit>

All attendees regardless of UN ground pass require a special event ticket.
A reception will follow.

¹ Dr. Nelly Lahoud, *Empowerment or Subjugation: An Analysis of ISIL's Gendered Messaging*

For additional information, please contact Simona Cruciani (cruciani@un.org) or Arishaa Khan (arishaa.khan@peacemakersnetwork.org).