

RELIGION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

23rd Annual Conference of Sea of Faith Network (UK)

Registered Charity No. 1113177

The University of Leicester
Tuesday 27st – Thursday 29th July 2010



After our challenging forays into the Arts and Religion at the last two conferences, this year we are hoping to tackle both positive and negative aspects of the relationship between religion and social justice. We are extremely fortunate in our three guest speakers who will introduce global, as well as local, perspectives on some of the most crucial issues facing us internationally and at home.

Growing up in a Durban township, Kumi Naidoo campaigned for equality in education and became involved in the struggle to end apartheid in his native South Africa. Expelled from high school at 15 and arrested in 1986 for mass mobilisations

against the regime, he spent a year 'underground' before finally settling in England. Returning to South Africa on Nelson Mandela's release in 1990, he was active in pursuing gender equality and labour rights. His key career moment came in 1993: he was



KUMI NAIDOO is Executive Director of Greenpeace International; Chair, Global Coalition for Climate Action; Co-Chair, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP); member, UNDP Advisory Committee; was Secretary General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation 1998-2008. Kumi has worked as a researcher, journalist, university lecturer and youth counsellor. University of Durban-Westville BA; University of Pennsylvania DPhil; Magdalen College Oxford Rhodes Scholar DPhil; visiting fellow, Carnegie UK Trust 2009.

just about to head up the Adult Literacy Campaign when Walter Sisulu, one of his heroes, asked him to run the ANC's media production division instead. He turned it down when a friend and mentor, Mary Mkwazi, advised: "If you want to be on TV and be famous then go and do the ANC job. If you really want to make a difference, go and do the adult literacy job." This provided the spur for his lasting commitment to activism and community organisation rather than politics.

Maryam Namazie first experienced the realities of life under an Islamic regime when her family was forced to flee Tehran in 1980. Following graduation in the US, she was working with Ethiopian refugees in Sudan

when, threatened by the new Islamic government, she had to be evacuated from the country. From 1991, she worked with various refugee & human rights organisations, co-ordinated the Advocates Training Programme at Columbia



MARYAM NAMAZIE is a rights activist, commentator and broadcaster, producing TV International and frequently speaking on Channel 4 and the BBC. She is spokesperson for the Council of ex-Muslims of Britain, the One Law For All Campaign and Iran Solidarity, formed in July 2009 to support the Iranian people in their struggle against the Islamic regime. A Distinguished Supporter of the British Humanist Association, and an Honorary Associate of the National Secular Society, she was the winner of the 2005 NSS award.

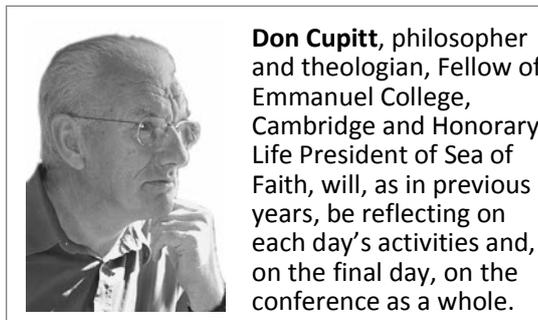
University, worked on the US National Steering Committee of Amnesty International as NYC Refugee Coordinator and was active in the successful campaign against the Sharia court in Canada. In the UK, she has continued to campaign against stonings and executions in Islamist societies and for the secularisation of society not only in Iran but in Britain and elsewhere.

As usual we plan to have three principal speakers at the conference, but when this was written the third speaker was not yet confirmed. Watch for an announcement on the website and in Portholes.

Regular attendees will know that the programme includes, in addition to the contributions of our main speakers, opportunities for all of us to share in workshops, base groups, early-morning and fringe activities,

and just time spent talking with like-minded people. Some workshop and fringe events are already planned, but if YOU have ideas for either, please let us know in the space on the back of the form and we will get in touch. If you haven't run one before there's plenty of help on hand if you need it.

Our conference is being held at the Gilbert Murray Conference Centre on the Oadby site of the University of Leicester (www.le.ac.uk/conference).



Don Cupitt, philosopher and theologian, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and Honorary Life President of Sea of Faith, will, as in previous years, be reflecting on each day's activities and, on the final day, on the conference as a whole.

Conference registration opens Tuesday 27th July at 12 noon, the first plenary session will start at 2pm and the final session will end at 1pm on Thursday 29th, after which lunch will be served.

Full details of the timetable and workshop options will be sent out in early July. If at that time you will not be at the address shown on your booking form please include a note of an alternative point of contact or let us know at the address on the form or email sofconf10@yahoo.co.uk.

As with all Sea of Faith events, the organisation and the bookings are being handled by volunteers whose little spare time is precious, so if you have any questions about the conference or your booking please email or write in the first instance and if you have to telephone (02380 445275) please be prepared to leave a message. Thank you.

BOOKING

- The booking form may be used for one person or two people at the same address. Please copy the form, if necessary; forms and conference details will also be available at the Sea of Faith website (www.sofn.org.uk).
- Please be sure to read the booking conditions (below) and to write the details of any special requirements you may have concerning accommodation or catering on the back of the form or on a separate sheet.
- Accommodation consists of either standard single rooms with wash basins (other facilities shared) or for a higher charge single rooms with en suite facilities.
- A donation, however small, to the Sea of Faith, would be most gratefully received. This will help members on low incomes and full-time students to attend. Last year's response was generous and we were able to help all those who applied for bursaries.

Booking Conditions

All conference fees paid to the conference provider, The Sea of Faith Network UK ('organiser') by those attending conference ('attendees') constitute a contract in accordance with the following conditions. These, in part, are conditions of the University ('venue'), which we must pass on as information.

Freedom of Information Act

Attendees making a booking agree to and shall understand that such information that is given may be digitally stored and held on computers by the organisers. The information will not be voluntarily given to any third party, with the exception of information regarding medical conditions, as described below.

Medical Conditions and Allergies

Attendees are requested to advise the organiser of any serious disability, medical condition or allergy (e.g. food or bed linen) that may require attention in arrangements or urgent medical assistance during the conference. Giving such information, the attendee shall have agreed that such information may be digitally stored on computers and shared with staff at the venue, should it affect their organisational or emergency procedures, or with the emergency services, if necessity arises.

The attendee should bring necessary medications for foreseeable eventualities (e.g. inhalers). It may be necessary for attendee, venue and organiser to negotiate provision on some appropriate occasions.

Attendees with limited mobility who shall be resident and require a downstairs room are asked to request this of the organisers on the booking form.

Please note, no disability, medical condition or allergy shall lead the organisers to reject an attendee's application.

Bookings

As the venue asks for a confirmed list of attendees in advance of the conference, it is necessary that attendees book by the closing date of 3rd July. Thereafter places may only be available subject to cancellations. Bookings cancelled by 3rd July will be refunded in full subject to a £2.00 administration fee. 60% of the booking fee will be refunded on places cancelled after that date and before 17th July, and 20% on cancellations thereafter.

Rooms

Though the organiser will make every reasonable attempt to accommodate attendees in the room of their preferred choice, this cannot be guaranteed should unexpected numbers apply. Should it be necessary to accommodate attendees in standard or other accommodation, the difference in cost will be refunded.

Programme

Though the organiser will make every reasonable attempt to ensure the smooth running of the conference, in the event of accident, illness or other unforeseen eventuality, they cannot guarantee that all advertised events, conference lectures, seminars, workshops that are advertised in current and subsequent literature can take place.

Those offering workshops are asked to negotiate with the organisers any requirements for electrical equipment as soon as possible.

Loss or damage

The organisers can accept no responsibility or liability in respect of loss or damage to property brought onto the premises by attendees, including cars, or of keys and passes issued by the organiser. The attendee should therefore hold appropriate insurance cover where applicable.

Electrical Equipment

Attendees are asked to ensure that all electrical equipment brought onto the premises (e.g. hair driers) is working in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and is safe.

Liability

No financial or other liability is accepted by the venue or organiser if for reasons beyond its control it is necessary to cancel the conference. All reasonable effort will be made to reimburse attendees, less whatever organizational costs have been incurred.

Security

Attendees shall be required to wear name badges, or have them on their person and be able to show them to security staff on request, throughout the conference.