

Mumtaz Ahmad

Join us for a consultation
Distinguished Visiting Fellow
Mumtaz Ahmad and David J. Goa



Blasphemy and the Challenge of Freedom of Speech

Saturday, 1 February, 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Room N101, Kings University College
9125 – 50 St NW, Edmonton

In some countries, blasphemy and apostasy have a legal status. In modern Western liberal democratic countries including Canada, the right of freedom of speech has periodically lead to public statements and artistic works considered by some religious communities as blasphemy, harmful to the dignity of the faith they hold dear. In a pluralistic society and given the reach of the modern media, do we need to develop a cultural sensitivity that takes into account the meaning of such statements and artistic works and the implications of giving them attention for others. How do we hold together the value of freedom of speech and a regard for the sensibilities of others? What is the responsibility of the media and of religious communities in the face of such speech?

Mumtaz Ahmad is Professor of Political Science and Vice President (academic affairs) at the International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan, and Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA.

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