

Journalist Mehdi Hasan to speak on Islamophobia and Media at event in Toronto

- Islamic Relief Canada to host Journalist Mehdi Hasan at fundraising dinner in Toronto
- Mehdi Hasan will make keynote speech on Islamophobia and the media
- Special focus on the persecution of Rohingya Muslims
- Event will fundraise for Islamic Relief's mobile health clinic project in Rohingya
- Event is on **October 2nd 2016 at 6pm** - Chateau Le Jardin, Vaughan, Ontario.

September 20 2016 - Islamic Relief Canada is pleased to host renowned journalist and broadcaster, Mehdi Hasan, at a fundraising dinner on October 2nd.

With the rise in anti-Muslim sentiment across the world, the Al Jazeera Journalist will deliver a keynote address on the misrepresentation of Muslims in the media and the growing tide of Islamophobia in newsrooms across the globe.

The event will also highlight the forgotten tragedy of Rohingya Muslims, featuring a theatrical performance *'I Am Rohingya'* directed and performed by *the Rohingya Canadian youth community*.

The Rohingya people are one of the world's most persecuted minority. They are an ethnic Muslim group in the majority Buddhist country and make up around one million of the total 50 million population.

About 140,000 Rohingya in the Rakhine state live in ghetto-like camps that they can't leave without government permission.

Since 2012, the UNHCR estimates that more than 110,000 people, mostly Rohingya, left on flimsy boats to countries such as Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia.

In the first three months of 2015, the number of refugees, or "boat people" as they were collectively dubbed, doubled from a year earlier to 25,000.

This event will fundraise for Islamic Relief's mobile health clinic project in the densely populated Northern Rakhine State.

Note to Editors

1. Eyewitness testimony from Rohingya by Islamic Relief staff.
2. Islamic Relief staff available for interviews
3. Theatrical performance 'I Am Rohingya' is four acts chronicling the harrowing Rohingya refugee experiences told from the perspective of the Rohingya Canadian youth community. Based on the stories told by the Rohingya youth, the play takes the audience through a timeline of Myanmar before the violence to the forced migration of Rohingya Muslims to Bangladesh, and finally resettling in Canada.
4. Director and performers of play available for interviews
5. Footage available from Rohingya - videos, images and eyewitness testimonies
6. For all media queries, please contact media@islamicrelief.ca /[+16472004662](tel:+16472004662)