

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Religion, Peace and Violence: Controversial debates at London Met

Religious leaders, organisations and communities should, it is widely agreed, seek to develop improved capability and capacity to build peace and cooperation.

But just how successful are they? Why do religion-linked conflicts appear to be growing? How can religious leaders, organisations and communities challenge violent extremist religious ideologies?

These crucial questions will be among those debated at a high profile international conference to be held at London Metropolitan University on 'The Power of Religion: Towards Peace and Moderation or Violence and Extremism?'

The three-day conference, from June 28-30, will bring together scholars, activists, religious thinkers, policy makers and journalists, to focus on practical steps to improve inter-religious cooperation and to derail religious extremism and violence.

Topics to be debated include the 'Islamic veil' controversy among Muslims in France and elsewhere in Europe, the interaction of religion, politics and secularisation in the UK and the role of religion in the 'Arab Spring'.

The conference will feature a host of expert speakers, including Professor Amin Saikal, Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian National University, Professor Marc Gopin from George Mason University, USA and Professor Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford University.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

The Power of Religion: Towards Peace and Moderation or Violence and Extremism?
28 - 30 June 2011
9am-6pm daily

16 Goulston Street, London, E1 7TP

For the full conference programme see: www.londonmet.ac.uk/csccc

This conference has been organised by the Centre for the Study of Religion Conflict and Cooperation (CSRCC), based within London Metropolitan University's Faculty of Law, Governance and International Relations.

www.londonmet.ac.uk

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