



## Inspirational and influential Muslim Women across Europe recognised by new award

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Time is running out to nominate for the **European Muslim Women of Influence List (EMWI) 2010**. This exciting new initiative recognizes the achievements of Muslim women from across Europe, at local, national and international levels: be it as role models for younger generations, breaking down professional or societal barriers, or attaining prominence within their chosen field. More information about the selection criteria and EMWI can be found at: [www.cedar-emwi.com](http://www.cedar-emwi.com)

European Muslim women are a diverse and dynamic demographic group that plays a vital role in the cultural, economic, professional and social spheres across Europe. Yet their positive efforts and achievements frequently go uncelebrated. *'As central community players and part of an emerging group of dynamic achievers, comfortable with their national, religious and ethnic identities, European Muslim Women are key to harnessing positive social change across Europe'* says Famile Arslan - the first lawyer to wear the hijab in the Netherlands and member of the EMWI selection committee.

**Ten finalists** will be selected from a list of 50 shortlisted nominees from across Europe. The award ceremony, to be held in mid-2010, will bring together shortlisted nominees, media, prominent partners and friends, as well as the celebrated Board of Judges, comprised of men and women from Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds. Aside from the honour of being one of the Top Ten European Women of Influence, these women will benefit from public profiling of their work and high level private networking opportunities.

EMWI is facilitated by **CEDAR**, a pan European network of Muslim professionals that seeks to generate a culture of success and leadership amongst Europe's diverse Muslim communities. It aims to foster professional aspiration and achievement amongst less privileged and marginalised communities and to create a more diversified picture of European Muslims in the mainstream media. It does this by providing networking initiatives, opportunities to share experiences and expertise and by seeding concrete projects.

CEDAR's advisory board includes such prominent individuals as: Ahmed Aboutaleb (Mayor of Rotterdam, The Netherlands), Cherie Blair (Cherie Blair Foundation, UK), Gwyneth Williams (Director of English Networks, BBC World, UK), Krisitane Backer (Former host MTV, Germany)

and Farah Pandith (Special Representative to Muslim Communities for the US Department of State).

### **Notes for Editors**

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CEDAR is facilitated by the **Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)** and the **Salzburg Global Seminar (SGS)**. [www.strategicdialogue.org](http://www.strategicdialogue.org) ; [www.salzburgglobal.org](http://www.salzburgglobal.org) and has been supported by the **Vodafone Stiftung Deutschland** and the **Open Society Institute**.

The public can submit their nominations for the European Muslim Women of Influence List through the EMWI website [www.cedar-emwi.com](http://www.cedar-emwi.com).

The website is available in German, French, Spanish and English, reflecting EMWI's pan-European vision and reach.

The EMWI award ceremony will take place in mid-2010 and will be open to the Press.