Global Muslim Youth Resistance:
Strategies for Social, Political, Economic and Cultural Change

Edited by Tahir Abbas and Sadek Hamid

Young Muslims under the age of 25 constitute nearly 800 million people across the globe and represent more than 50 percent of the population in many Muslim majority countries. The geopolitical implications of this demographic transformation are already making an impact. The uprisings in half a dozen Arab countries in 2011 demonstrated the potency of Muslim youth activism in the MENA region. Massive peaceful street protests, in part mobilised through a series of globally-networked social media platforms, confirmed increased civic and political participation among a new generation of Arab Muslim women and men, shifting the attention away from youth wings within Islamist movements. Similarly, young Muslims in Western Europe find themselves experiencing economic marginalisation, cultural exclusion and political dislocation which have lead to frustration and violence. At the same time, there is a body of young Muslims who are immersed in positive social engagement and alliances against different forms of extremism. Their peers in North America are resisting social marginalisation, challenging Islamophobia, hybridising their identities, reinventing their religiosity and changing the perception of Islam in the West. Other young Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and South East Asia are contesting anachronistic beliefs and practices within their communities, creating vibrant NGOs, social enterprises and are producing artistic, literary and musical expressions which redefine what it means to be Muslim in the early twenty-first century. Young Muslims are agents of social change, shaping the future of Muslim societies across the world in matters of identity, politics, gender, violence, political participation, integration, multiculturalism and human rights in both the east and west.

This edited collection seeks to map the terrain of these diverse experiences of Muslim ‘youth landscapes’ across the globe as they determine their paths to resistance by challenging dominant paradigms inside and outside of their communities. We are seeking original multi-disciplinary contributions for a landmark extended edited volume that examines these changing realities. We wish to hear principally from scholars working in this area but we are also interested in contributions from youth activists, youth work practitioners, policy-makers and NGO professionals.

Please send a 500-word abstract and a 250-word biography to Tahir Abbas (tahir_abbas@hotmail.co.uk) and Sadek Hamid (sadekhamid@hotmail.com) by 31 August 2012. It is anticipated that the final 7,500 word chapters will be need to be submitted by 31 January 2013. We envisage publication of the edited book towards the end of 2013.