

The International Relations Students' Association

Presents

Reducing the Gender Gap in Muslim Societies: the case of Pakistan

Ana Komnenic, Anita Tavra, Eliana Chia and Dr. Muhammad Iqbal

The Maria-Helena Foundation
www.mariahelenafoundation.org

Date : Thursday, February 23, 2012
Time : 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm (registration/networking starts at 6:30 pm)
Location : 1866 Main Mall, Buchanan Building Block A, Room 102
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Developing and using the skills of men and women is essential for socio-economic advancement of societies. Women make up one half of the human resource pool and therefore it is necessary to quantify their contributions to society relative to those of men. The World Economic Forum through its *Global Gender Gap Reports* describes the magnitude of gender-based disparities.

The Gender Gap is calculated based on four elements: educational attainment, economic participation and opportunity, health and survival, and political empowerment. The World Economic Forum presents a survey of the results for different regions of the world.

Muslim majority societies generally have very large Gender Gaps. Pakistan - a very conservative, patriarchal society - has one of the biggest Gender Gaps, along with countries such as Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

In this presentation we will discuss some of the reasons behind the high Gender Gaps in Muslim societies and how this Gap could be reduced. We will also describe how the activities of the Maria-Helena Foundation in Pakistan are helping to narrow this Gap.

Kindly pass this invitation on to others within your circle of friends and family who might be interested in attending this event. Thank you.

For further information contact:

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal (iqbal@mail.ubc.ca)
Professor Emeritus, The University of British Columbia
Founder and President, The Maria-Helena Foundation