



# U.S.-ISLAMIC WORLD FORUM

DOHA, QATAR

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## Press Release:

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### U.S.-Islamic World Forum Participants Call for an Alliance of Muslim Minorities

Participants at the 2006 U.S.-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar, a global leaders' conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and the Brookings Institution, called for the formation of an alliance of Muslim minorities. This annual dialogue, made possible by the vision and support of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani and the State of Qatar hosted a leader's seminar on the challenges faced by the hundreds of millions of Muslims who live as minorities around the world (with 150 million in India and nearly 40 million in Europe and North America).

Distinguished leaders, scholars, activists and intellectuals discussed the common challenges that Muslim scholars, activists and intellectuals discussed the common challenges that Muslim minorities face. The key areas of concern were socio-economic and political marginalization and the problems of hatred towards Muslims communities and extremism within Muslim communities. Participants discussed the importance of Muslim minority communities debating their identity and their role as citizens.

The leaders seminar was part of the Brookings Institutions' Bridging the Divide Initiative that seeks to involve the American Muslim community in improving US-Islamic World Relations and was chaired by M. J. Akbar from India, Imam Faisal Rauf of the United States. The seminar was coordinated by Muqtedar Khan of the Brookings Institution and Hady Amr, of the Arab Western Summit of Skills. Important institutions from the United States and Europe were represented at the seminars.

The participants agreed to work towards sharing knowledge, experience, and expertise to combat the challenge of citizenship, extremism and the socio-economic marginalization of Muslim minorities. Through their dialogue, they determined the desire to establish a global alliance of Muslim minorities that will work towards fostering improved Islamic-Western relations. Participants also discussed the importance of Isjtihad and the need to understand Islam and Islamic practices in the context of the societies they live in so that Muslims could live wholesome, integrated Islamic lives while contributing to the larger society.

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For more on the U.S.-Islamic World Forum:

<http://www.us-islamicworldforum.org/>

For more on the Brookings Islamic World Project:

<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/research/projects/islam/islam.htm>