



**Round-Table, House of Lords**

**Host: Baroness Sally Hamwee**

**Media, Faith and Security: Protecting Freedom of Expression in Religious Context**

28 January 2016, 10am to 2pm (with working lunch)

Organized by the University of Cambridge Centre for the Study of the International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa (CIRMENA), in partnership with the Woolf Institute and the Centre of Islamic Studies, and with the generous support of the ESRC. Our special thanks are due to Baroness Sally Hamwee for her generosity in hosting the Roundtable at the House of Lords

Can we have freedom and security, at the same time? How do we balance the right to speak and think freely with the protections necessary for life without fear? A year ago, the attacks on Charlie Hebdo brought into focus how vulnerable the relationship is between free speech, and the security of the societies in which we live. They were a reminder of media's social significance, not only as a vessel for the free-flow of ideas, but as an instrument that writes the headlines, projects the images and establishes the language we all use to perceive the world around us. Charlie Hebdo launched a year of rolling terrorism. Fulfilling its responsibilities to its citizens, the government enacted laws to suppress extremist activity, clamp down on radicalisation, and protect British values. But tightened security has broadened the range of actions legally understood as threatening, including the 'vocal opposition to British values'. Does this mean that the process of protecting a key universal right has in fact restricted it? How does the believer in a faith that extremists are perverting through violence contribute to a feeling of 'ease' in British society? How does British society ensure that believer is not isolated, alienated, and criminalised? This round-table at the House of Lords will address the challenges that face a society when freedom and security are mutually imperilled, and which have become central to our understandings of free-expression and risk since Charlie Hebdo exploded upon our lives.

## **Programme**

**10a.m. - 10:10 a.m.**

Baroness Sally Hamwee, Joint Committee on Human Rights: Welcome

Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmaian, Project Director: Introduction

**Morning Session: 10:10 a.m. – 12 noon , Baroness Hamwee, Chair**

### **The Domestic Scenario: Tensions between media, faith, and community security**

1. Professor George Joffe, POLIS: 'Risk and Resilience in British Muslim Communities' by Julian Hargreaves, Centre of Islamic Studies
2. Christopher Moses, Faculty of Divinity: 'Negotiating with journalists: Islamic institutions and media scrutiny'
3. Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmaian, POLIS: '“Your news is not the same as my news”: Layered media, isolated diasporas'

Q&A, discussion and synthesis

**Lunch served 12 noon– 12:45 p.m.**

**Afternoon Session: 12:10 a.m. – 1:50 pm, Baroness Hamwee, Chair**

### **Mediating faith and community: Freedom of expression local and global**

1. Dr. Clara Eroukhmanoff, Project Associate, CIRMENA: 'Counter-radicalisation and its impact on freedom of expression: the US case'
2. Michael Clark, POLIS: 'Charlie Hebdo and the Arab Shia: Instrumental rhetoric and freedom of expression'
3. Dr. Shana Cohen, Woolf Institute, Department of Sociology: 'Covering Cooperation: Acknowledging the Good Stories about Interfaith Relations'
4. Baroness Butler-Sloss, 'Reporting and Representation', from *Living with Difference: Community, diversity and the Common Good*, Report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Life, Butler-Sloss Report, Woolf Institute

Q&A, Discussion and synthesis

**Round-Table Wrap-Up 1:50-2:00 pm**

Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmaian: Close - media points, policy implications, applications

*Packet for attendees: 1. Programme, 2. List and biographies of attendees, 3. Four Challenges to address, 4. Persona cards, 5. Go-slow media material.*

*There will be copies of the Butler-Sloss report available on request*