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“WHO SPEAKS FOR ISLAM?” FORUMS ENGAGED NATION

Organized by USCCD; Co-hosted by GALLUP®



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | Seven national forums “*Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*” were based on Gallup World Poll’s massive, multiyear research. The study investigated more than 35 nations that are predominantly Muslim or have significant Muslim populations.

Gallup posed questions to residents that are on the minds of millions: *Is Islam to blame for terrorism? Why is there so much anti-Americanism in the Muslim world? Who are the extremists? Where are the moderates? What do Muslim women really want?*

Grounded in statistics, not in contentious rhetoric, the forums “*Who Speaks for Islam?*” presented data-driven evidence – the voices of a billion Muslims, not those of individual “experts” or “extremists” – to one of the most heated and consequential debates of our time.

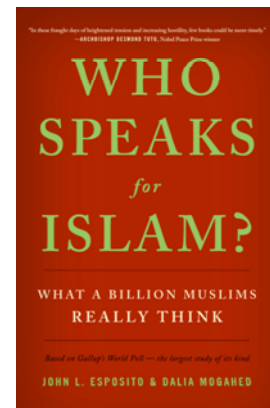
Launched in Des Moines, Iowa, the USCCD organized and coordinated the community forums, working with area World Affairs Councils or nonprofits engaged with international relations. At each venue, Gallup’s analytical perspective was presented by Dalia Mogahed through a PowerPoint that illustrated the results of this worldwide survey.

Featured Speaker **Dalia Mogahed** is senior analyst and executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies. She was appointed in April 2009 to Obama’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Coauthor of the book *Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*, she also directs the Muslim-West Facts Initiative through which Gallup, in collaboration with the Coexist Foundation, is disseminating the findings of the Gallup World Poll to key opinion leaders in the Muslim World and the West.



At the March 2009 forum in Springfield, Ill., Magali Rheault, Senior Analyst with the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, was the key-note speaker and disseminate the findings.

Forums were presented to live audiences that totaled more than 2,700 people. Extensive questions and answer periods followed each presentation. Media coverage of print, radio, television, as well as Website, Facebook, Tweeter, and related blogs, expanded the national audience to tens of thousands globally.



DES MOINES, IOWA | 27 May 2008

Sponsors | Iowa Sister States; Iowa Council for International Understanding; Des Moines Public Library; Rotary International of Des Moines, A.M.



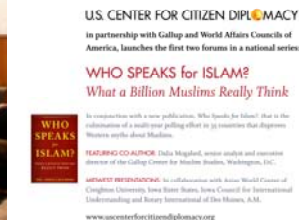
www.iowasisterstates.org
www.iciu.org



OMAHA, NEBRASKA | 28 May 2008

Sponsor | Asia World Center of Creighton University

www.creighton.edu/ccas/asianworldcenter



Dalia Mogahed, co-author of *Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*, spoke to a remarkably receptive standing-room-only audience at the Des Moines Public Library's at the invitation of the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy.

"It is quite appropriate that we would start our seven-state tour here in Iowa, because this is where everything started [for Gallup]," Mogahed, senior analyst and executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, told her audience.

By Michael Morain, DSM Register:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080525/ENT01/805250303/1046/ENT>

NPR (KIOS 91.5 FM) and CTI 22 (on Cox Cable Channel 22) in Nebraska broadcast the May 28, 2008 forum throughout June, July and August 2008. This forum was sponsored in cooperation with the Asian World Center at Creighton University.

To view the entire forum, please use the video link on the AWC website: <http://www2.creighton.edu/ccas/asianworldcenter/nationalforum/index.php>

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=886027736881885889#>

NAPLES, FLORIDA | 17 November 2008

Sponsor | Naples Council on World Affairs



www.ncwa-fl.org



In Naples, more than 1,300 people attended forums offered in the morning and afternoon.



SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS | 30 March 2009

Sponsors | WAC of Central Illinois, University of Illinois; Sister Cities Association of Springfield; and *Springfield Commission on International Visitors*, the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield and the UIS ECCE Speaker Series.



www.springfieldmo.gov/sistercities
www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/IVC

In Springfield, the speaker was Majali Rheault, whose main areas of research are integration and identity of **European Muslims** and perceptions of **African Muslims**. As part of the *Muslim-West Facts Initiative* and in collaboration with the Coexist Foundation, she has traveled the world to disseminate key findings from the Gallup World Poll to inform opinion leaders about Muslims' views.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN | 19 October 2009

Sponsors | Institute of World Affairs, Center for International Education, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; The Islamic Center of Milwaukee; Milwaukee Public TV

Forum Interview: www.globalcommons.org



http://www4.uwm.edu/cie/iwa/events/event_details.cfm?event_id=2863

<http://thepeaceseekers.blogspot.com/>

https://www4.uwm.edu/news/announcements/index.cfm?ac-tion0=announcements_detail&item_i

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA | 21 October 2009

Sponsors | World Affairs Council of Northern California; Egyptian-American Society

San Francisco Forum Video:
<http://wacsf.vportal.net/>



www.itsyourworld.org



MISSOULA, MONTANA | 27 October 2009

Sponsors | World Affairs Council of Montana; First Interstate Bank; International Programs and the Central & Southwest Asia Program, The University of Montana; The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation; Max and Betty Swanson Foundation; Kathy Caras Veazey; Milt and Joan Datsopoulos; S.G. Long & Company

www.Montanaworldaffairs.org

[Missoula] Healing the political rift is possible with education, Mogahed said, but that healing requires work from both sides. It takes wading through media reports on both sides that are unnecessarily divisive and, in some Muslim countries, actually perpetrated by governments.



"We need a way to get the facts out, the facts of what regular people think on both sides of the equation," she said. "The West needs to understand that the image of Muslims has been harmfully reshaped by the fringe. ..."

Reporter Michael Moore, Missoula, MT

http://www.missoulian.com/news/local/article_9c7163b6-c1ef-11de-b674-001cc4c03286.html

For more information: www.muslimwestfacts.com