

Report on Gender Institute funding for Professor Syed Tanveer Nasreen's public lecture

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I received support from the ANU Gender Institute for hosting Professor Syed Tanveer Nasreen's public Lecture, co-hosted by ANU's South Asia Research Institute (SARI), on 26th April, 2018. **The title of the talk was: Between piety, agency and ethical leadership: Why the triple talaq must stop: interrogating a slice of contemporary history in India.**

Professor Nasreen is the Head of the Women's Studies Centre at the University of Burdwan in India. She is an Historian (trained by the distinguished feminist Professor Tanika Sircar) and an expert on Muslim women in India. During her brief visit to ANU, she presented a public lecture on her recent work on Indian Muslim women's activism in abolishing the highly misogynist triple talaq system, illustrating how the polygamy of Islam has been 'used' in India by prominent people to the disadvantage of women. Prof Nasreen has been actively engaged in recent years on the rights of Muslim women in India who have faced patriarchal oppression under special civil codes for Muslim women. Her lecture presented a feminist perspective on the rights of Muslim women in India.

The public lecture was held in Crawford School of Public Policy, and was heavily attended by feminists, South Asia scholars as well as the members of South Asian communities, and distinguished members of the diplomatic community. At least 80 people had registered for the event, and 60 were present. Emeritus Professor Ramesh Thakur (of Crawford School of Public Policy) chaired the session, while Professor Margaret Jolly welcomes Prof Nasreen and introduced the Gender Institute.

The entire lecture was 'Live streamed' on SARI Facebook page, and has been viewed many times since. Currently, the full video recording is available under the 'Events' section of ANU Gender Institute website, and the SARI Facebook page.

In addition, Professor Nasreen met with two Early Career Researchers, both from South Asia and both researching feminist topics: Sana Ashraf and Joyce Das.

Professor Nasreen also met with Masters students taking 'Gender and Development' course.

Within Australia, there is a growing debate on Islam and Muslim women's rights. The event will contribute to this debate by pointing out the diversities within the category of 'minority' women and bring forth cases where Muslim women are struggling to get their voices heard.