



# Culture, Women, Violence

A Public Forum  
of the Research Programme on  
'Women's empowerment in Muslim contexts:  
gender, poverty, and democratisation from the inside out'

## SPEAKERS

- ◇ Noeleen Heyzer (Executive Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women [UNIFEM])
- ◇ Zaitun Kasim (Programme Manager & Chief Trainer, Sisters in Islam)
- ◇ Farida Shaheed (WEMC Deputy Director; Coordinator, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre; Women Living Under Muslim Laws)
- ◇ Vivienne Wee (WEMC Director; Associate Director, SEARC, CityU)
- ◇ Members of the Research Programme Consortium on 'Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts' (WEMC)



**15 December 2006, 4:30 to 7:00 pm**  
**(Light refreshment will be served at 4:00 pm)**  
**Lecture Theatre 4, City University of Hong Kong**

**Synopsis:** Violence against women continues to be a widespread problem. In 1993, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. In 1999, it designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women as a way of raising public awareness of this problem. Despite this apparent international consensus at state level, violence against women persists in many societies and, worse still, is increasingly perpetuated in the name of culture and religion. This forum will address the power dynamics underlying the use of violence as a mechanism of control. It will explore various forms of gender-based violence, ranging from interpersonal to systemic. It will probe attempts to legitimize violence in cultural and religious terms. It will discuss the strategies of women in diverse contexts to assert their right to live violence-free lives.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Please reserve seat with Mary Ho: tel. 34426321, email: [searc@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:searc@cityu.edu.hk)