

## New Publication

### ***Knowing Our Rights: Women, Family, Laws and Customs in the Muslim World (3rd Edition)*** **WLUML (September 2006)**

The latest edition of this handbook has been updated to include all recent changes to relevant laws in several countries. The handbook covers 26 topics relevant to marriage and divorce, including the status of children (paternity and adoption) and child custody and guardianship.

Not only is it unique in providing a user-friendly, cross-comparative analysis of the diversities and commonalities of laws and customs across the Muslim world, it is also the first handbook to attempt to rank laws in Muslim communities in terms of whether they are more or less option-giving for women, analyzed from a rights perspective and the realities of women's lives.

Please contact [pubs@wlu.ml.org](mailto:pubs@wlu.ml.org) to order a copy [http://www.wlu.ml.org/english/newsfulltxt.shtml?cmd\[157\]=x-157-542774](http://www.wlu.ml.org/english/newsfulltxt.shtml?cmd[157]=x-157-542774)

## Visiting Fellowship Collaboration

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the British Academy have announced a new joint scheme to fund Visiting Fellowships from South Asia and the Middle East. The fellowships, which will be a minimum of two months in duration, aim to attract early-career researchers particularly from South Asia and the Middle East to collaborate on research. It is also hoped that through these Visiting Fellowships longer term plans for collaborative research could be developed.

Chief Executive of the ESRC, Professor Ian Diamond commented, "I am delighted that by working together with the British Academy we can facilitate the sharing of skills and knowledge between talented researchers from an increasingly influential area of the world and the UK, helping to invigorate, and further strengthen, British social science and the research methods behind it." Dr Robin Jackson, Chief Executive and Secretary of the British Academy, said, "the British Academy is very pleased to be working in partnership

with ESRC to support these fellowships, which will offer invaluable opportunities to strengthen research links between this country and areas of rapidly growing interest and importance to the UK."

Further information about the scheme can be found at [www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/vfsame.html](http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/vfsame.html) <[http://response.pure360.com/\\_act/link.php?mld=A8178192455989741686&tld=748356](http://response.pure360.com/_act/link.php?mld=A8178192455989741686&tld=748356)>

## Films

### ***In My Father's House***

Directed by Fatima Jebli Ouazzani

In this beautiful, poetic and deeply personal film, Moroccan filmmaker Fatima Jebli Ouazzani investigates the status accorded women in Islamic marriage customs and the continuing importance of virginity. Ouazzani left her father's house in Morocco 16 years ago to escape the constraints her culture and its traditions have put on women. She returns now to confront those traditions, her own family and herself. Following three generations of women — her grandmother's and mother's arranged marriages, her grandmother's subsequent attempts to divorce, and Naima, a young woman who has returned home for a traditional wedding ceremony — she questions whether her choice for a life of her own was worth the loss of her father. Jebli Ouazzani offers us a rare glimpse of the shifts and changes in Moroccan and Islamic culture in this powerful, moving film.

### ***Maid in Lebanon***

Directed by Carole Mansour

Thousands of Asian women leave their homes each year to work as maids in the Arab world with the hope of securing a better economic future. Yet since their experiences are hidden behind closed doors, little is known of the fears and struggles they face while abroad.

This film exposes the little known world of the domestic migrant worker, tracing women's journeys from Sri Lanka to Lebanon. This documentary provides an insightful and sensitive look into the lives of these migrant workers with interviews from family members, employers, hiring agents and specialists in the field. In their own voices, the women reveal cases of torture and rape, physical and mental abuse, as well as positive employment experiences.