



DIALOGUES ON  
CIVILIZATIONS  
**Reset**

**CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM:  
THE MUSLIM MINORITY IN THE INDIAN DEMOCRACY.  
EAST-WEST COMPARISON**

**18-20 October, 2010**

**INDIA HABITAT CENTER**

---

The conference focuses on multiculturalism and the relation between majorities and minorities within a State. More theoretical discussions on the economic and political aspects of the multicultural challenge in liberal states will be presented together with more empirical issues such as: how to reconcile dress code and religious symbols in social life, the role of media, and gender issues.



**seminar**

**India Habitat Centre**

- 9.00 – 9.30** Registration
- 9.30 - 10.30** Inaugural Session  
**Georg Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza** (President of ResetDoc)  
**Raj Liberhan** (Director of India Habitat Centre, New Dehli)  
**Najeeb Jung** (Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Dehli)

**Session I****DRESS CODE AND RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS IN SOCIAL LIFE**

---

- Chair** **Malvika Singh** (Publisher, Seminar)
- 10.30 – 10.50** *Who's afraid of the veil? For the "laicités" the challenge of inclusion and pluralism. The Turkish and the French cases*  
**Nilüfer Göle** (Directrice d'études at the Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)
- 10.50 – 11.10** Discussion
- 11.10 – 11.30** *General overview on minorities and religious symbols in India*  
**MJ Akbar** (Writer and Journalist. Editor of The Sunday Guardian)
- 11.30 – 11.50** Discussion
- 12.00 - 14.00** *Lunch Break*

**Session II****THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN MINORITY /MAJORITY RELATIONS**

---

- Chair** **Roberto Toscano** (writer, former Italian ambassador in India)
- 14.00 – 16.00** Round Table: *When the Fear of Diversity boosts the Audience: How Media can Increase (In)Security*
- Jörg Lau** (Writer and Journalist, Die Zeit)  
**Shoma Chaudhury** (Managing Editor, Tehelka)  
**Giancarlo Bosetti** (Director, Reset)  
**Krishna Prasad** (Editor, Outlook India)  
**Srinivasan Jain** (Indian NDTV)  
**Pankaj Pachauri** (Indian NDTV)

**Session III**

**REALIGNING LIBERALISM: THE CHALLENGE OF PLURALISM**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Giancarlo Bosetti</b> (Director, Reset)
<b>9.30 – 9.50</b>	<i>Religion and Politics in an Interdependent World</i> <b>Benjamin Barber</b> (Distinguished Senior Fellow, DEMOS and President, CivWorld)
<b>9.50 – 10.10</b>	<i>Comparing Secularism in India, the EU and the US</i> <b>Rajeev Bhargava</b> (Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies)
<b>10.10 - 10.30</b>	Discussion
<b>10.40 - 11.30</b>	<i>Liberal State, Multiculturalism and Muslim minority: India and Europe Compared</i> <b>Anwar Alam</b> (Director, Centre for West Asian Studies - Jamia Millia Islamia University) <b>Stefano Allievi</b> (Professor, University of Padova, Italy) Discussion

**Session IV**

**CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES AND THEIR IMPACT ON SOCIAL INEQUALITIES**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Raj Liberhan</b> (Director, Indian Habitat Centre)
<b>11.30 – 11.50</b>	<i>Sachar Report, Political Parties and Discourse on Indian Inequalities</i> <b>Mujibur Rehman</b> (Faculty at the Centre for Minorities studies, Jamia Millia Islamia)
<b>11.50 – 12.10</b>	Discussion
<b>12.00 – 14.00</b>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
<b>14.00 – 14.20</b>	<i>The Religious Divide in the Indian Society</i> <b>Madhu Kishwar</b> (Senior Fellow at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and Founder of Manushi Sangathan)
<b>14.20 – 14.30</b>	Discussion
<b>14.30 – 16.00</b>	Round Table: <i>Relations between Social Issues and Inequalities</i> <b>Roberto Toscano</b> (Former Italian Ambassador in New Delhi) <b>Ramin Jahanbegloo</b> (Professor, Centre for Ethics - University of Toronto) <b>Dipankar Gupta</b> (Former Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems School – Jawaharla Nehru University, New Delhi) <b>Asaf Savas Akat</b> (Economist, Bilgi University, Istanbul)

**Jamia Millia Islamia University**

---

**9.30 - 10.00** Welcome Address  
**Najeeb Jung** (Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University)

**Session V****GENDER ISSUES**

---

**Chair** **Giovanna Melandri** (Former Minister of Culture of Italy, MP for the Democratic Party)

**10.00 – 12.00** Round Table: *The State of Women Movements in Indian and Western Societies*  
**Nina zu Fürstenberg** (Director of Reset-DoC)  
**Ruchira Gupta** (President, Apne Aap Women Worldwide ONG)  
**Farah Naqvi** (Writer, consultant and activist on gender rights and minority rights from both a justice and development perspective)  
**Mariella Gramaglia** (writer, former secretary for equal opportunities of the Rome Council)  
**Nilüfer Göle** (Directrice d'études at the Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

**12.00 – 12.30** Discussion

**12.30 – 14.00** *Lunch Break*

**Session VI****THE TASKS OF POLITICS IN MANAGING MIGRATION AND FEAR**

---

**Chair** **Harsh Sethi** (Consulting Editor, Seminar)

**14.00 – 14.20** *Comparison of Minority Rights in India: Christians, Muslims and Buddhists*  
**Mushirul Hasan** (Director of National Archives, New Dehli)

**14.20 – 16.00** Round Table: *Secularism & Traditions, Toleration & Cohesion in different contexts*  
**Roberto Toscano** (Italian Ambassador in New Delhi)  
**Ramin Jahanbegloo** (Professor, Centre for Ethics - University of Toronto)  
**Dipankar Gupta** (Former Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems School - Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)  
**Giovanna Melandri** (Former Minister of Culture of Italy, MP for the Democratic Party)

**16.00- 16.30** *Closing Remarks of the direction of ResetDoc. Future Projects of East-West Dialogue*