



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Progressive Muslim Journalist Mona Eltahawy Challenges Gender Inequality in Islam**

Los Angeles, CA – August 13, 2012 – [Muslims for Progressive Values](#) (MPV) will host a reception, “Unshackling Islam from Patriarchy: An Evening with Mona Eltahawy,” at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Equality Center.

MPV's members and friends believe that Islam is inherently progressive, inclusive and egalitarian. As a result of MPV's grassroots efforts in invoking inclusivity, there is a viable shift among Muslims globally, and especially in North America, toward open discourse on issues such as women-led prayers and even LGBTQ rights.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Eltahawy, is an award-winning columnist and a widely sought analyst on issues of Arab and Muslim issues. Egyptian-born and New York-based, she has been described as “The Woman Explaining Egypt to the West.” As a self-identified, “proud liberal Muslim,” Eltahawy was in the news recently for non-violently protesting anti-Muslim posters in the New York subway by spray painting over them. Ms. Eltahawy promises to deliver an incisive look at the potential for Islamic communities to function and thrive “unshackled from patriarchy”.

In addition to the keynote, the reception will include remarks from Georgetown University Chaplain, Imam Yahya Hendi, a brief film screening of “Keeping it Halal,” a silent auction and a special musical performance by Ani Zonneveld, (MPV co-founder) from her new collection of songs, “Islamic Hymns.”

What: Benefit Reception

Where: Human Rights Campaign  
1640 Rhode Island Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

When: Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
6:30pm to 8:30pm

For ticket information please visit: <http://monaeltahawypostsandy.eventbrite.com/>

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To arrange for an interview of Ani Zonneveld please contact her at 323-696-2678 (PST) or [ani@mpvusa.org](mailto:ani@mpvusa.org)

Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV) is a 501 (c) (3) founded in 2007. MPV asserts that Islam is inherently progressive, inclusive and egalitarian which is an understanding that informs the ten principles by which the organization is guided. In the short years since its inception, MPV has expanded to include chapters in Los Angeles, Washington DC, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Columbus (OH), France as well as in Ottawa and Toronto, Canada. More information can be found at [www.mpvusa.org](http://www.mpvusa.org).