



EAST-WEST CENTER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

**East-West Center Wednesday Evening Seminar
Fall 2009**

Keoni Auditorium
Imin Conference Center; Jefferson Hall
Wednesday, **October 28, 2009**
6:30pm-8:30pm

"Justice and Equality in Muslim Family Law:
Challenges, Possibilities and Strategies for Reform"

Ms. Zainah Anwar

While civil law governing family relations has been amended to recognize equality between men and women, Muslim Family Law in Malaysia remains discriminatory towards women. The belief that men have authority over women provides the continuing legal basis for men to be able to divorce their wives at will, control their wives' movements, engage in polygamy, demand obedience and justify other inequalities. In challenging the continuing discrimination against Muslim women, this presentation will discuss the possibilities for reform of Muslim Family Law to recognize equality and justice, the challenges faced by women's groups in demanding reform, and share the work of Musawah, a new global initiative to build a movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family.



Ms. Zainah Anwar was educated at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and the MARA Institute of Technology, Malaysia in the fields of international relations and journalism. A scholar, activist, and journalist, she has written and spoken extensively on politics and civil liberties in Malaysia. She is the cofounder of Sisters in Islam and currently serves on the organization's Board of Directors. Working directly with lawyers on the conflict of jurisdiction between the *sharia* and civil courts in Malaysia, she is also the Project Director of Musawah, a Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family.

(You can help reduce climate change by bringing your own cup. Mahalo!)

The community is welcome to attend this lecture!