



MUSLIM LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Famile Arslan is a lawyer in The Hague where she runs her own law firm called 'Arslan Lawyers'. Her area of expertise is family law, immigration law, housing and labour, social insurance and penalty. Famile Arslan is the first lawyer in the Netherlands who wears the *hijab*.



Apart from her regular job, she is a board member of the 'Islam and Citizenship Foundation' which works on issues related to Islamic values and citizenship and the role Muslim organizations can play in this debate. The objective of this foundation is to stimulate social debate within the Muslim community and broaden it, when relevant, to Dutch society as a whole.

Famile is also involved in a project that tackles domestic violence within the Muslim community. She is the chairwoman of the 'Commission for Complaints' at Islamic schools (Klachtencommissie voor Islamitisch onderwijs). She is also working with 'Fatush Productions' on a project dealing with emancipation of Muslim women. In the past, Famile has been part of an expert group which advised the Minister of Education on Islamic schools. She is also part of an initiative to promote dialogue between Muslims and Jews.

As researcher for a healthcare organization, Famile designed coursework for intercultural communication. Famile has also helped setup an emergency call center for migrant women. At the center, Famile has educated volunteers and taught courses about inter-cultural communication.

Famile is now engaged in setting up a national Muslim women's network. Through this network, she wants to create a platform for Muslim women to engage in social, economic and political issues. Famile Arslan is also setting up her own foundation through which she plans to provide training in communication, empowerment, assertiveness, debating, and media. Famile often takes part in panel discussions and is a frequent spokeswoman in the media on topics such as emancipation, integration and migration. Famile Arslan also writes articles for the weblog, www.wijblijvenhier.nl.

Famile Arslan is born in Turkey and raised in the Netherlands. She has a Master's degree in International Law. Before pursuing a law degree, she worked at the Ministry of Justice and the Immigration Department where she handled asylum cases along with regular immigration cases. She has been practising law since 2002.