

The consultation is being jointly organized by

- ❖ The Lutheran World Federation, Geneva (Switzerland)
- ❖ The Faculty for Theology at the University of Oslo (the GOBA project, supported by the Research Council of Norway)
- ❖ The Center for Islamic Theology in Münster (Germany)

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Consultation venue:



Domus Theologica, Blindernveien 9, Oslo, Norway



UiO : **Faculty of Theology**
University of Oslo

Zentrum für
Islamische
Theologie
ZIT
MÜNSTER

Transformative Readings of Sacred Scriptures

International Christian – Muslim Consultation on Hermeneutics



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

10-13 March 2016
Faculty of Theology
University of Oslo

How does the reading of sacred texts become transformative for those who interact with the text? How does the text unfold its meaning? Sacred scriptures are crucial reference points for religious communities. They project meaning and provide orientation for the believers' relationship with God and the world.

For Christians and Muslims scriptural interpretation is an important tool in order to understand God's will. Within each community, there have been intense theological debates about how to understand divine revelation.

The question of how to faithfully transmit the divine message across different generations and in diverse contexts so that it becomes meaningful and relevant for the readers has been widely discussed, both theoretically and practically. This question touches on the complex relationship between text, tradition and context.

This question is not dealt with in isolation from other religious communities. There is an interaction, both at the scholarly level and the grass-roots level, either in reaction against, or in cooperation with other religious communities and other outside readers.

Hermeneutical explorations become most tangible by looking at specific topical questions together and it is most fruitful to look at how the Bible and the Qur'an deal with theological as well as ethical issues. Currently, the following four themes are widely debated:

- mercy/ grace
- violence
- gender
- environmental ethics

At the consultation, these themes are discussed by Christian and Muslim scholars from different regions globally. They come with a range of expertise in scriptural interpretation, religious studies, pastoral care, philosophical theology, gender studies and pedagogics.

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