

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

Women in FoRB: Making a Difference

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

1:30-3:30 pm ET

North Congressional Meeting Room (CVC 268)

Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Statement by Soraya M. Deen

Founder, Muslim Women Speakers

Co- chair, Women's Working Group - @IRFRoundtable and Chair - Religious Freedom Roundtable Sri Lanka

When I was thirteen, I went to the local mosque in my community. I was told I couldn't come to the mosque and that I couldn't pray in the mosque.

Millions of Muslim women and women of other faith, across the world are discriminated, denied and deprived of equity and agency in worship.

This results in religion-based oppression, dominance, and violence. Tradition & customs, often rooted in patriarchy & outworn theological constructs legitimizes this discrimination.

We must challenge that.

Religious freedom will not be achieved when women are denied a voice, and their rights are sacrificed.