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# The Jihad Seminar

by Hanifa Deen

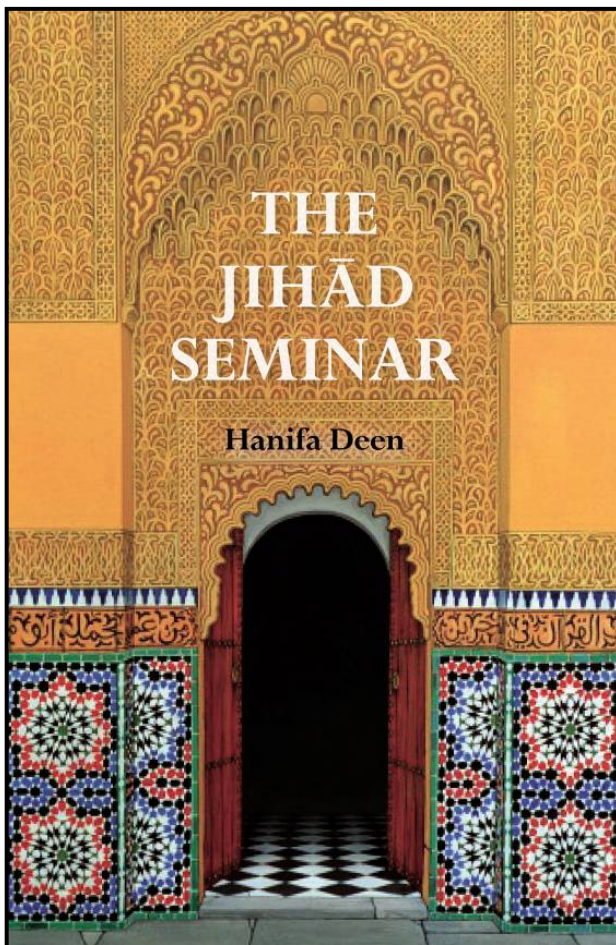
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**Freedom of speech versus freedom from religious vilification is under the spotlight.**



In March 2002, three Muslim converts attend an Evangelical Christian talk on the inner secrets of 'Holy Jihad'. Shocked by what they hear, they convince the Islamic Council of Victoria to lodge a complaint against Catch the Fire Ministries Inc, under a controversial new hate speech law.

A case expected to be over in three days turns into an unholy war of words lasting five long years – freedom of speech versus freedom from religious vilification is under the spotlight. Neither side capitulates: Muslims and the interfaith lobby opposing Born-again activists and their USA/UK supporters.

Award-winning author Hanifa Deen follows this case from beginning to end, witnessing the religious impulse at its best – and worst.

Her very human account focuses on the personalities and motives of the two religious tribes – Muslims and Born-again Christians. Real people – on both sides of the courtroom – express their pain and their innocence at a hearing that turns into a nightmare.

Through Deen's eyes we discover a wider meaning to this conflict.

## Biography

HANIFA DEEN is a Melbourne based author. She has served as Hearing Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and was also a director on the Board of SBS. Hanifa has written three books including the best-selling *Broken Bangles*; and award winning *Caravanserai; A Journey Among Australian Muslims*. (NSW Premier's Literary Award).



Photo credit: Amanda le Bas de Plumetot

**HANIFA DEEN IS APPEARING AT THE MELBOURNE WRITERS' FESTIVAL**

**BROADCAST INTERVIEWS FROM MONDAY AUGUST 11**

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