

2014 Status of Women Committee
Award of Distinction
CITATION FOR DR. HAIDEH MOGHISSI

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Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario



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CITATION FOR HAIDEH MOGHISSI WINNER OF THE 2014 STATUS OF WOMEN AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Dr. Haideh Moghissi is a professor in the Department of Equity Studies at York University and is also a Trudeau Fellow. She holds a law degree from Tehran University and Masters and Doctoral degrees in Political Studies from Queen's University, Ontario.

Her nomination cited her leading scholarship in gender and Islam; her courage and commitment in advocating for women; her national and international scholarly standing; and her academic services at various governance levels at York University. It noted that her work, scholarship, and activism contributes to York University's international reputation, inspires colleagues, and makes Canada and the global community better places for women.

Her activism started many years ago as founder of the National Union of Women, the largest and best-known feminist organization in Iran, during its revolution and early post-revolution period. Voicing women's interests and concerns and objecting to sexist politics led to Dr. Moghissi being placed on the ruling regime's black list, forcing her to leave Iran as a status refugee.

She continued her advocacy and policy work in Canada, serving on the Board of the Kingston and District Immigrant Services and the Advisory Board of the Jesuit Centre for Social Justice and Faith. In those roles, she participated in foreign policy discussions sponsored by the Parliament of Canada; presented at workshops and seminars on domestic assault, honour killings and related issues; and wrote numerous Expert Witness letters to the Refugee and Immigration Board on behalf of women.

As a student and contract faculty at Queen's, Dr. Moghissi was instrumental in getting the university administration to address issues of serious concern to women staff, faculty and students such as sexual harassment, denial of promotion, recognition of feminist scholarship, and prejudicial treatment of racialized students and staff.

Her many contributions to York University include:

- Service on the Board of the Women's Studies Graduate Program;
- Service on the Board of the Office of the Advisor to the University on the Status of Women;
- Chair of the Board of the Centre of Feminist Research;



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- Board member of the Board – Centre for Refugee Studies;
- College representative to the President's Advisory Board for the drafting of a race and ethnic relations policy;
- Member of the Race Equity Caucus since its inception in 2007
- Associate Dean of External Affairs of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies.

Dr. Moghissi's contributions to these and other policy and governance bodies include bringing a different and fresh perspective, furthering respect for diversity, and validating experience and knowledge of women and racialized groups.

Her scholarly work reflects her belief in the intellectual and moral responsibility of academic and other scholars to promote human rights and social justice for women. Her theoretically-rich and analytically sophisticated publications include six books and numerous articles in edited volumes and a wide range of respected journals. Her second book, *Feminism and Islamic Fundamentalism: The Limits of Postmodern Analysis*, won the 2000 Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award in Sociology.

For her outstanding scholarship and great bravery, Dr. Moghissi is a worthy recipient of the Status of Women Award of Distinction.