

# All About ISIS: Osire Glacier to speak in North Hatley

**Special collaboration  
Rachel Garber**

"All About ISIS" is the topic of a special program on the Syrian situation with Professor Osire Glacier, PhD. She will explain the complexities in play behind the current Syrian refugee crisis, with special focus on ISIS – the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Marking United Nations Day, UUEstrie is presenting the event on Sunday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m., at UUEstrie, 201 Main St., North Hatley. All interested persons are welcome to attend. There is no admission fee.

Since 2010, Glacier has been teaching the politics of the modern Middle East in the departments of history, religion and politics and international studies at Bishop's. She

uses all these three perspectives to offer insights into the extremist militant group known as ISIS or ISIL, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. She plans to talk about the origins of ISIS, its aims, and its strategies for achieving them. She will also talk about the consequences of this group's actions, and what possible solutions can be envisaged.

After immigrating from Morocco, Glacier earned a PhD at McGill University, studying contemporary problems of the Middle East and North Africa. She has authored two books: *Universal Rights, Systemic Violations and Cultural Relativism in Morocco*, *Political Women in Morocco: Then and Now*. She has been a Canadian citizen since 2013.

"The harsh reality is that we have millions of Syrian people who are in complete despair. It's one

of the major humanitarian crises since World War II. People are in harsh suffering," she said. She noted that the western world has a great capacity to host refugees. "But unfortunately there is a far right discourse that makes immigrants look like a nuisance, that they are not human capital. These people are humans, number one. They need help. But they are worth the investment, number two. They will enrich the economy, the culture, and the political understanding of world conflicts."

Glacier's goal is to contribute to "finding solutions that diminish human suffering in a sensitive way. The UN as an organization is well developed, and when it comes to long-term solutions and peace in the area, it can play a role."

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