

In pictures:

Muslim women at a conference in New York organised by the American Society for Muslim Advancement spoke to the BBC News website.



Tayyibah Taylor, Georgia USA

Muslim women living in the States are in a very privileged position. We have our American legacy of freedom and our legacy of critical thinking. These are not always present in a Muslim-majority country.



Najah Bazy, Michigan, USA

The indigenous Muslim American woman, is very empowered to function and to use the best of what our constitution teaches us and the best of Islam. However they're very different from a lot of the immigrant Muslim women in the US, who belong to, for lack of a better word, very "immigrant mosques" where women do not have a role.



Sanjida Chowdhury, New York

I think the key issue facing Muslim women is dealing with the misconceptions that most of the world now has about Islam and women in Islam. There are deep-rooted fears. I work all over the US and in very rural areas. When people meet me, I do not fit the profile of what they thought of a Muslim woman because I do not wear a scarf.



Pamela Taylor, Cincinnati, USA

The main issue facing Muslim women is empowerment. Period. We need to have a voice in our governments, in our communities and in our religious institutions as well. This conference is very clearly addressing women's empowerment in the religious setting.



Adriana Decker, Uruguay

There are very few Muslims in Latin America. We have people who have immigrated and who have lost touch with Islam. And then we have a convert movement that is quite polarised. We have a lot of converts that stem from the Sufi movement, and then we have a lot of converts who have the more orthodox or extreme or literalist view of Islam.



Shabnam Hayder, New York

I think one of the main issues for Muslim women is misrepresentation of the religion. I work towards helping people understand that Islam is not a way of controlling people. It fits into your life and how you want to interpret it. And I feel that here in America, media especially, seem to misrepresent Islam in a way that suits its agenda



Imane Karich, Belgium

In continental Europe, the main problem is discrimination against practicing Muslim women, especially when they are wearing the scarf. They face difficulties in getting access to the workplace or to a good position in society.



Manal Radwan, Saudi Arabia

Muslim women may not aspire to be traditionalist, but they are not really sure how to be modern. Many women feel alienated because they don't necessarily identify with who they are, but they identify with who others present them to be. And that's a huge problem.