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For immediate release:

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N E W S R E L E A S E

Eboo Patel

Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America

Wednesday, April 17 / 8:00 p.m. / Free
UCSB Corwin Pavilion

S U M M A R Y F A C T S

- Eboo Patel, Found and President of Interfaith Youth Core and author of *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*
- “Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America”
- Wednesday, April 17 / 8:00 p.m. / FREE
- UCSB Corwin Pavilion
- Copies of *Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America* will be available for purchase and signing at this event
- Information: Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB (805) 893-2317
- Digital copies of press materials available at <http://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/news/press-releases/>

Description:

More than a decade after the attacks of 9/11, suspicion and animosity toward American Muslims have still not subsided. In *Sacred Ground*, author and renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel argues that such prejudice represents not just a problem for Muslims, but a challenge to the very idea of America. Patel illustrates how the forces of pluralism in America have time and again defeated the forces of prejudice. He then asks us to share in his vision of a better America—a robustly pluralistic country in which our commonalities are more important than our differences, and in which difference enriches, rather than threatens, our religious traditions.

Speaker Profile:

Named by *US News & World Report* as one of America's Best Leaders of 2009, Eboo Patel is the Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), a Chicago-based organization building the interfaith movement on college campuses. Author of the book *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*, which won the Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion, and his latest book *Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America*, Eboo is also a regular contributor to the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, Huffington Post, NPR, and CNN. He served on President Obama's inaugural Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship.

Eboo serves on the Religious Advisory Committee of the Council on Foreign Relations, on the Board of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, on the National Committee of the Aga Khan Foundation USA, and on the Department of Homeland Security's Faith-based Advisory Council. He has spoken at the TED Conference, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum and universities around the world. Eboo is a Young Global Leader in the World Economic Forum and an Ashoka Fellow, part of a select group of social entrepreneurs whose ideas are changing the world. He was named by *Islamica Magazine* as one of ten young Muslim visionaries shaping Islam in America and was chosen by Harvard's Kennedy School Review as one of five future policy leaders to watch. Both Eboo and IFYC were honored with the Roosevelt Institute's Freedom of Worship Medal in 2009 and Eboo was recently awarded the Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize, an award given to an individual to enhance awareness of the crucial role of religious dialogue in the pursuit of peace.

Reviews of *Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America*

"Eboo Patel is a remarkable young man with the wisdom to seek truth and the courage to speak it. One of America's foremost advocates and practitioners of interfaith understanding, he has written a book that combines timely social commentary with compelling history and a wealth of personal anecdotes. *Sacred Ground* is a refreshing, thought-provoking, myth-smashing, and deeply patriotic exploration of American identity and ideals." — *Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright*

“*Sacred Ground* is simultaneously a chronicle of religious tensions in post-9/11 America and an account of how to create, through trial and error and critical self-reflection, the most successful interfaith movement in the country. Patel probes like a professor, inspires like a preacher, and writes like a poet. I really loved this book; it is a tale that is truly hard to put down.” — *Robert D. Putnam, author of American Grace*

“Interfaith cooperation is one of America’s founding ideals. It still sets us apart from much of the world. Eboo Patel has lived that value and, in this book, spreads that good word. Uplifting and invaluable, *Sacred Ground* is essential reading for our polarized era.” — *Walter Isaacson, author of Steve Jobs and Benjamin Franklin*

Sponsor:

This event is presented by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB.

**For more information, call
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