



**Critical Acclaim For  
'THE LIGHT IN HER EYES'**  
By Julia Meltzer and Laura Nix

"A timely documentary."  
—Neil Genzlinger, *The New York Times*

"A new movement of Muslim women is daring to challenge . . . prevailing views. . . [Film subject] Houda and her daughter, Enas, accentuate the differences between the actual Muslim religion and Islamic extremists, emphasizing the rights the Qu'ran grants to women."  
—"The Takeaway," NPR

"The film is one that continually overturns the stereotypical view people often have of Islam, and women's relationship to it."  
—Nancy Ramsey, ABC News

"A film about one of thousands of Quranic schools for girls in Syria has shocked some Syrians but impressed others with the implication that one of the bastions of Arab secularism has become a deeply religious society."  
—Reuters

"A world rarely seen by outsiders, it is the first feature film to be made inside the women's side of a mosque in Syria. The film reveals why modern women are choosing to practice Islam in a rapidly changing society. . . . This wonderful documentary will be surprising for many. . ."  
—Kamran Pasha, *The Huffington Post*

"As news of Syria grows more desperate by the day, filmmakers Julia Meltzer and Laura Nix give us hope by reminding North American audiences of the aspirations and desires of several inspiring Syrian women. . . . [A] rare glimpse into the hearts of these inspiring examples of Syrian women."  
—Patheos

"Provocative and effective. . . . The conviction that motivates Houda's work is classic: knowledge is power. *The Light in Her Eyes* is a reminder of limits of the labels 'conservative' and 'progressive'."  
—The Revealer

"Unique . . . a documentary that allows for an unprecedented look into the rarely seen . . . world of Muslim women. . . . A must-see documentary that can open up an array of conversations on gender, politics and religion."  
—Marwa Abed, *Islamic Horizons*

"A highlight is Habash's whip-smart daughter Enas. . ."  
—*Christian Science Monitor*

"An extraordinary portrait of a Syrian leader who challenges women to live according to Islamic teachings without giving up their dreams."  
—*Asbury Park Press*

“Many people think of Islam, or religion generally, as disempowering for girls and women. *The Light in Her Eyes* challenges that notion. . . . The film explores how modernity and Muslim faith co-exist, challenging many Western assumptions. . . .”

—**Tablet**

“Nuanced, surprising and, ultimately, intriguing.”

—**Amy DePaul, Women’s Media Center**

“Shows the delicate balance of Middle Eastern women in advancing intellectually while staying true to their faith—a faith whose leaders often denounce their efforts. . . . In proto-feminist circles of Syria, women want it all: the roots of their faith *and* the opportunity to learn.”

—**James Davis, God Online**

“A fascinating documentary that explores the work of . . . an unconventional leader.”

—**Spirituality & Practice**

“Just watch the inspiring, subversive twists and turns of faith-filled aspirations rising in young women through *The Light in Her Eyes*. Watching these girls and women, you can envision how dramatically Islam could move further toward compassion and human rights. . . . Houda knows exactly what she is doing.”

—**David Crumm, ReadtheSpirit.com**

“These women are creating a foundation of support that will continue to weave itself like a fabric throughout Syrian society and give women their own space for personal, professional and spiritual development.”

—**Amanda Quraishi, Tikkun**