

Asra Q. Nomani – Biography

Born in Bombay, India and raised in Morgantown, West Virginia, Asra Q. Nomani is a former *Wall Street Journal* reporter, recognized globally for her advocacy on behalf of women's rights, human rights and children. She is a senior fellow in the practice of journalism at the Independent Women's Network, an organization dedicated to the empowerment of women in civil society.

Ms. Nomani is the author of the forthcoming book, *Woke Army*, published by Post Hill Press, uncovering a disinformation and character assassination campaign against Muslim reformers, ex-Muslim feminists, Jewish leaders and others who challenge an Islamic extremism that promotes sexism, anti-Semitism and the criminalization of members of the LGBTQ+ community. She has previously written two books – *Tantrika: Traveling the Road of Divine Love*, chronicling her manifesto for women's rights, and *Standing Alone: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam*, calling for all people of moderation to stand up against extremism in their communities.

A former professor in the practice of journalism at Georgetown University, she is cofounder of the Pearl Project, an initiative in which she led an investigation of her friend and colleague Daniel Pearl's kidnapping and murder by extremists, and she continues to advocate for justice for Mr. Pearl and against anti-Semitism. She co-authored a book, *The Truth Left Behind: Inside the Kidnapping and Murder of Daniel Pearl*, chronicling the lives of the extremists who ensnared the journalist. She traveled to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to report on the trial of Pearl's alleged killer, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and wrote a moving essay, "[This is Danny Pearl's Final Story,](#)" in the *Washingtonian* magazine about the ripple impact of violence and trauma.

She is cofounder of Coalition for TJ, a parent advocacy and civil rights group led by Asian American immigrant parents challenging anti-Asian racism in education. Ms. Nomani publishes groundbreaking columns and investigative work in a newsletter on Substack, "Asra Investigates."

Ms. Nomani received her BA from West Virginia University, where her father was a professor and her mother a boutique owner on High Street in downtown Morgantown. She has an MA in international communications from American University, where she studied propaganda, cross-cultural communications and the intersection of media, technology and politics.

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