



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ISLAMOPHOBIA

BAKU, MARCH 8-9th

EMBRACING DIVERSITY: TACKLING ISLAMOPHOBIA IN 2024

PROGRAM

***Commemorating the 2nd anniversary of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia: Conference on 'Embracing Diversity: Tackling Islamophobia in 2024'
March 8th - 9th, 2024 Baku, Azerbaijan***

INTRODUCTION

Azerbaijan remains steadfast in its commitment to combating Islamophobia on the modern front. Last year, the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre and the Center of Analysis of International Relations, in partnership with the G20 Interfaith Dialogue Forum, convened a conference titled “Islamophobia as a Specific Form of Racism and Discrimination: New Global and Transnational Challenges” in Baku, Azerbaijan. The aim of the conference was to contribute to the ongoing efforts to combat Islamophobia in all its forms and manifestations.

Throughout the conference, participants engaged in discussions on various aspects of combating Islamophobia, including the importance of adopting an intersectional approach, addressing conspiracy theories about Muslims, examining historical and contemporary perspectives on Islamophobia, fostering joint cooperation in combating Islamophobia, and exploring the role of international organizations. Additionally, discussions centered on promoting religious diversity and interfaith respect to build harmonious societies.

As an integral part of the Islamic civilization, Azerbaijan remains deeply



concerned about violations and abuses of freedom of religion or belief worldwide, including instances of intolerance and hate speech. Therefore, the upcoming second Islamophobia conference, co-organized by the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre, the Center of Analysis of International Relations, and the Baku Initiative Group, in partnership with the G20 Interfaith Dialogue Forum, will serve as a platform for rigorous discussions, research presentations, and open dialogues aimed at addressing the multifaceted issue of Islamophobia.



CONCEPT NOTE

Islamophobia, a multifaceted challenge, calls for collective attention, empathy, and dedication to nurturing a world that values diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. The current year has witnessed a surge in anti-Muslim and anti-Islamic sentiments globally, often manifesting in traditional and social media platforms, as well as through discriminatory practices and surveillance by authorities. Concerns surrounding Islam and Muslim practices have permeated public discourse in Europe and North America, yet scholarly attention to the global and transnational dimensions of Islamophobia remains insufficient, often treating them as isolated, localized phenomena.

However, Islamophobia transcends borders, proliferating through far-right ideologies and fascism in various forms. Instances such as Quran desecration in Sweden and Denmark, depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in France, and violent attacks on women wearing hijabs underscore the pervasive nature of this phenomenon. Despite lacking monitoring mechanisms for anti-Muslim hate crimes in some regions, Muslims remain the primary targets of online platforms fostering hatred. Such animosity is unequivocally reprehensible and has no place in our societies, prompting Azerbaijan to establish an annual tradition of hosting international Islamophobia conferences to combat and monitor anti-Muslim sentiments.



As we convene for this conference, we acknowledge the imperative to dismantle prejudices hindering the full integration of Muslims into society. This gathering serves as a platform for public engagement on this pressing issue, transcending mere intellectual discourse to formulate actionable strategies for a more tolerant and inclusive future. Over the next few days, we will delve into the historical, socio-economic, and cultural factors underpinning Islamophobia, examining the impact of discriminatory policies, media biases, and societal misconceptions. Our objective is not only to raise awareness but also to develop concrete solutions that address the root causes of Islamophobia and foster global solidarity.

The second Baku conference will convene professionals, academics, and government officials to explore the global, historical, theological, and political dimensions driving Islamophobia. Participants will engage in insightful discussions, pose critical questions, and examine the intellectual origins of prejudice against Muslims and Islam. Our aim is clear: to cultivate an environment where people of all faiths coexist harmoniously, where diversity is celebrated, and where principles of justice and equality prevail. Let us approach these discussions with open-mindedness, understanding, and empathy.

Each panel comprises 6-7 speakers and a moderator, with presentations lasting 8-10 minutes followed by a Q&A session. The outcomes of the conference and its publications are envisioned to serve as advisory resources and roadmaps for nation-states grappling with the complex challenges posed by Islamophobia.



PROGRAM:

Fairmont Hotel Baku

Day 1 – Thursday, March 7, 2024

Arrival of guests

Welcoming dinner

Day 2 – Friday, March 8, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. **Registration**

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Opening remarks**

1. Mr. Ravan Hasanov (Azerbaijan) – Executive Director of Baku International Multiculturalism Centre (BIMC)

2. Mr. Farid Shafiyev (Azerbaijan) - Chairman of the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center)

3. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos (Spain) - The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (Video address)

4. Mr. Yousef M. Al-Dobeay (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) – Assistant Secretary-General of Political Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation



5. Prof. Cole Durham (the US) – President of the G20 Interfaith Dialogue Forum

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Presentation of the film on Islamophobia (short film)**

9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Plenary (A): “Calling for Global Dialogue to Promote Tolerance, Peace and Respect for Human Rights and Religious Diversity”

Moderator: Mr. Fariz Ismailzade (Azerbaijan) - Vice Rector for External, Government and Student Affairs, ADA University

Speakers:

H. V. Sheikh Ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade (Azerbaijan) - The Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Board

“Combating Xenophobia in all its Forms and Manifestations as an Important Tool for Ensuring Global Peace and Stability”

Mr. Khalid Fathalrahman Omer Mohamed (Sudan) – Ambassador, Director of the Center for Civilizational Dialogue at ICESCO

“Towards Principled Anchors for the Interfaith Dialogue: Inspiring the Contemporary Developments”

Mrs. Ismat Jahan (Belgium) - Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the European Union

“Cultural and Religious Pluralism in Promoting Social Inclusivity”



Mr. Ebrahim Rasool (South Africa) – Former Ambassador, Founder of World for All Foundation

“The South African Muslim Minority – Confronting Racism and Islamophobia”

Dr. Mohamed Bechari (UAE) - Secretary General of the World Muslim Communities Council

“The Escalation of Islamophobia: Exploiting Crises and Intensifying Conflicts”

Prof. Boumediene Bouzid (Algeria) – Professor, General Secretary of the Supreme Islamic Council

“The Role of Religious Values in Fostering Peace: A Global Dialogue for Tolerance and Coexistence”

Mr. Afzal Khan (the UK) - Vice chair of APPG British Muslim, Shadow Minister for Exports in Labour’s Business and Trade Team

“Islamophobia in the West”

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Discussions**

11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Coffee break**

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**

Breakout Session (B): “Multiculturalism, Islam and the Clash of Civilisations Theory: Rethinking Islamophobia”

Moderator: Mrs. Jannah Scott (the US) – Former Deputy Director of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Center for Faith-Based



and Neighborhood Partnerships; Director of American Center for Religious Freedom

Speakers:

Dr. Mahmut Erol Kılıç (Türkiye) - Director General of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)

“Evolving Perspectives for Countering Islamophobia: A Theoretical Framework”

Dr. Waqaruzzaman Azmi (the UK) - Chairman of Remembering Srebrenica UK and Chief Executive of Badger Health Group

“Bosnian Genocide and Islamophobia”

Mr. Oussama Ali Jammal (the US) - Secretary General of US Council of Muslim Organizations

“Reshaping the Narrative: Muslim American Experiences and the Complexities of Multiculturalism in Combatting Islamophobia”

Assoc. Prof. Yashar Çolak (Türkiye) - Vice-President of Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Islamic Research Center

“Multilayered Approaches in Combating the Internalisation Risk of Islamophobic Stereotypes in the West”

Mr. Elshad Iskandarov (Azerbaijan) - Ambassador at Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

“Geopolitical Challenges to Inter-Cultural Dialogue: Confronting



Islamophobia in the Context of Current World Order Changes”

Dr. Baptiste Brodard (Switzerland) - Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Aix-Marseille University

“Is the Clash of Civilizations Becoming a Self-fulfilling Prophecy? The Place of Islam in a New Multipolar World”

Prof. Mr. Bülent Aras (Qatar) - Professor of International Relations and Research Director at Center for International Policy Research Qatar

“Rise of Apartheid State and Implications for Islamophobia”

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Discussions**

Breakout Session (B1): “Shaping Public Opinion: Digital Islamophobia”

Moderator: Mr. Sami Zeidan (The UK) – Senior Presenter, Al Jazeera English

Speakers:

Mr. Tarek Mami (France) - Director of Radio France MAGHREB 2
“The History of the Expression Islamophobia in France and Its Consequences”

Prof. Moustafa Mohamed Bayoumi (The USA) - Professor of English Literature, Brooklyn College, City University of New York
“From Breivik to Trump and Beyond: How Digital Islamophobia is a Global Threat to Freedom”



Dr. Sahar Mohamed Khamis (The USA) - Associate Professor of Communication, University of Maryland

“Countering Islamophobia Online: Effective Strategies and Campaigns”

Mr. Rufat Hamzayev (Azerbaijan) - Deputy Chairman of ‘Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting’ CJSC

“Islamophobia and Turkophobia in Digital Media as an Ideological Tool against Azerbaijan”

Mr. Jamaluddin Mohammad Farid Elshayyal (Qatar) - Manager of Content Strategy at the Al Jazeera Media Network’s Digital Division

“From Algorithms and Hate Speech, Why Islamophobia is Flourishing Online and What We Must Do to Combat it”

Dr. Ahlam Hatem Almuhtaseb (US) – Professor, Department of Communication Studies, California State University, San Bernardino; Coordinator, CSUSB Graduate Program in Communication Studies

“Digital Islamophobia Vs. Digital Decolonization and Resistance: The Case of Palestine”

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Discussions**

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch**

2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Breakout session (C): “Confronting Islamophobia in the Context of Higher Education”



Moderator: Mr. Agil Shirinov (Azerbaijan) - Rector of Azerbaijan Institute of Theology

Speakers:

Prof. Tahir Abbas (the UK) - Professor of Radicalization Studies at Leiden University's Institute of Security and Global Affairs in The Hague

“Shelters from the Storm: Familial and Spiritual Havens Against Prejudice and Radicalization Among Northwestern European Muslims”

Mr. Sultan Ahmad Ali (Pakistan) - Chairman of a Renowned Research Think-Tank “MUSLIM Institute” in Islamabad and London, Dewan (Prime Minister) of Junagadh State

“Confronting Islamophobia: Strategies for Awareness and Action in Higher Education”

Prof. Mahjoob Ahmed Suleman Zweiri (Qatar) – Director of Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University

“Why confronting Islamophobia in Higher Education matters?”

Dr. Fahid Ahmed Qurashi (The UK) - Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Salford and Research Director at the Ayaan Institute

“Islamophobia in Higher Education in the Era of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion”

Mr. Tural Aliyev (Azerbaijan) – Head of sector for work with NGOs of the Department for Work with NGOs and Communication of the



Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
“Is There a Vaccine against Islamophobia?”

Dr. Sameera Ahmed (The USA) - PhD, Executive Director of the Family and Youth Institute
“Muslim Youth: Confronting Islamophobia in Higher Education”

Dr. Badrane Benlahcene (Qatar) - Research Associate Professor of Religion and Civilization Studies, Ibn Khaldon Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Qatar University
“The Cultural Roots of Islamophobia; Can Education Help Overcome the Problem?”

4 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Discussions**

4:15 p.m. – 7 p.m. **Free time**

7 p.m. **Dinner**

Day 3 – Saturday, March 9, 2024

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Plenary (D): *“Similarities and differences in the Treatment of Muslims across Western Europe, Basic Human Rights of the Muslim community”*

Moderator: Mr. Sajjad Karim (the UK) – CEO of Haider Global BVBA Brussels

Speakers:



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ISLAMOPHOBIA
04-05 MARCH 2024

Mr. Aiman Mazyek (Germany) - President of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany

“In Group-Focused Enmity and Racism, There Should Be No Differences in the Treatment of the Victims”

Dr. Mohammed Sadek Hamid (the UK) - Research Fellow at the University Wales Trinity St David, UK

“Islamophobia in Europe: Still a Challenge for Us All - A British Case Study”

Mr. Gunduz Ismailov (Azerbaijan) - Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Religious Associations

“Double Standards in Europe’s Muslim Community: Causes and Contemporary consequences”

Mr. Brahim Laytouss (Belgium) - General Director of the European Development and Research Academy (EDARA)

“The Duty of Citizenship and Participation of Muslims in EU, Key Addressing Islamophobia (Correlativity of Rights and Duties)”

Mr. Ahsan Hamid (Pakistan) - Executive Director, Policy Research Center (Policy Research and Advocacy Think Tank in Pakistan)

“Rise of Far-Right Parties in Europe and the Threat of Discrimination against Muslims”

Prof. Raymond Casimer Taras (Canada) - Professor of Politics at Tulane University in New Orleans, The USA

“Understanding why Islamophobia Never Sleeps: Dissecting European Pathways”



Dr. Wolfgang Aschauer (Austria) - Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at the University of Salzburg

“The Dynamics of Anti-Muslim Sentiment - Comparative Insights Based on the ISSP 2018 Module Religion With a Special Emphasis on the United States And Austria”

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Discussions**

11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Coffee break**

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Breakout sessions**

Breakout session (E): “Anti-Muslim policies in France: Normalizing Islamophobia”

Moderator: Mr. Jean-Michel Lucien Brun (France) – Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the French News Portal ‘Musulmans en France’

Speakers:

Mr. Muhammad Abdur Rabbani (The UK) - Managing Director of CAGE International

“How France Silences Independent Muslim Voices to Manufacture Islamophobic Consensus”

Prof. Mohammed El Maazouz (France) - Director of the European Arab Academy for Geostrategic Studies in Paris

“The Philosophical Backgrounds of Islamophobia in Europe: France as a Case Study”



Mr. Roland Eugene Laffitte (France) – Independent researcher and essayist

“Realty and Forms of Islamophobia in France”

Mr. Zaur Sadigbayli (Azerbaijan) - Representative of West Azerbaijani Community in France and Western Europe, Head of Heritage Protection and Right of Return of Western Azerbaijanis PU (France)

“The Presumption of Islamophobia in France on the Examples of the Policies of City, Immigration and Integration”

Mr. Nourredine Belhout (France) – Director of the Faculty of Islamic Sciences of Paris

“Plural Frances and Islam: Understanding Complexity and Diversity”

Dr. James Charles Laurence Wolfreys (The UK) - Senior Lecturer in French and European politics, King’s College London

“Islamophobia and the Authoritarian Dynamic in Contemporary French Politics”

Dr. Sara Cheikh Husain (Australia) – Research Assistant at University of Melbourne

“France and Australia: Comparative Analysis of Islamophobia”

Dr. Kawtar Najib (The UK) – Lecturer in human Geography Social and Spatial Inequalities, University of Liverpool

“From Global Islamophobia to the Criminalization of Spaces of Resistance in France”



1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Discussions**

Breakout Session (E1): “Deliberate Acts Of Destruction And Desecration Of Islamic Cultural And Religious Heritage in Non-Muslim Countries”

Moderator: Mrs. Aytan Gahraman (Azerbaijan) – Counselor at Baku International Multiculturalism Centre

Speakers:

Dr. Ibrahim Ibrahim Mahmoud Negr (Egypt) – Senior Advisor to the Grand Mufti of Egypt HE Dr. Shawki Allam and Secretary-General for the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide
“The Impact of Islamophobic Incidents on the Future of Muslims in non-Muslim Societies”

Mr. Sandew Hira (The Netherlands) - Secretary of the Decolonial International Network Foundation
“A Theoretical Framework for Understanding Desecration of Cultural and Religious Heritage”

Prof. Damir Mukhetdinov (The Russian Federation) - First Deputy Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, Rector of Moscow Islamic Institute
“Crimes against the Holy Quran as a Phenomenon of Cultural Degradation”

Ms. Ulviyya Zulfikar (Azerbaijan) - Spokesperson of the Western



Azerbaijan Community

“Destruction and Distortion of Azerbaijani Heritage in Armenia”

Dr. Hüseyin İshıksal (The Northern Cyprus) – Professor, Special Advisor to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus President on International Relations and Diplomacy

“The Situation of Muslims in Europe: The Case of Turkish Cypriot People”

Dr. Bárbara Elena Bejarano Ruiz (Spain) - Honorary professor, Alicante University, Director of the Sources Foundation (Fundación Las Fuentes)

“The Mudejar Status: From Acceptance to Persecution”

Dr. Laurens Daniel de Rooij (The UK) – Associate lecturer in the Sociology of Islam

“Increase in Instances of Islamophobia and Destruction and Desecration of Islamic Cultural and Religious Heritage in The UK”

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Discussions**

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch**

2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Breakout session (F): “The Matrix of Gendered Islamophobia: Muslim Women’s Repression and Resistance, Gender and Society”

Moderator: Ms. Esmira Jafarova (Azerbaijan) - Board Member of the Center of Analysis of International Relations



Speakers:

Ms. Zara Mohammed (The UK) - Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain

“Being Resilient in the Face of Islamophobia”

Dr. Amina Easat-Daas (The UK) – Senior Lecturer in Politics, De Montfort University, UK

“The Left and Gendered Islamophobia”

Mr. Aydin Safikhanli (Azerbaijan) – Head of the Ombudsman Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Member of the IPHRC of the OIC

“The Impact of Islamophobia on Muslim Women and Gross Violation of Human Rights”

Ms. Anila Ali (the US) – President of American Muslim and Multifaith Women’s Empowerment Council

“Women’s Inclusion in Peace and Security and Gender-Based Violence against Women”

Prof. Susana Mangana (Spain) - Professor of Arabic and Islamic studies, Doctoral Researcher at the Human Rights Institute, University of Deusto, Bilbao

“Unveiling the Complexities of Gendered Islamophobia: Navigating Media Narratives, Women’s Agency, and Societal Paradigms”

Prof. Zora Arfina (Indonesia) - Forensic Psychologist and Associate Professor at University of Indonesia

“Causes and Measurement of Islamophobia: A Psychological Perspective”



Dr. Tania Saeed (Pakistan) - Associate Professor of Sociology at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

“Vulnerable-Fanatic”: Securitizing Discourses of Muslim Women across the “Global North” and “South”

4 p.m. -4:15 p.m. **Concluding the discussions with a comprehensive summary and final remarks, followed by the acceptance of the communique**

4:15 p.m. – 6 p.m. **City tour**

7 p.m. **Farewell dinner**

Day 4 – Sunday, March 10, 2024

A trip to Shusha, the esteemed Cultural Capital of Azerbaijan, honored as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World for 2024.

Day 5 - Monday, March 11, 2024

Departure of guests



SPEAKERS



Mr. Ravan Hasanov is the Executive Director of Baku International Multiculturalism Centre. He specialized in Law at the University of Potsdam in Germany, successfully completing the Department of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Criminology program. He defended his dissertation for a PhD at the Institute of Law and Human Rights at the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, specializing in Penal Enforcement Law.

From March 2016 to April 2017, he worked as a senior specialist for the State Advisory Service of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on International, Multicultural, and Religious Affairs, and from April to July 2017, he served as a Counselor.



Mr. Farid Shafiyev is the former Ambassador and Chairman of the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center).

Farid Shafiyev studied History and Law at Baku State University. During his professional career, he pursued further education at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Additionally, Farid Shafiyev obtained a PhD in History from Carleton University in Ottawa.



Nations General Assembly from 2012 to 2013, alongside Serbia's then Foreign Minister, Vuk Jeremic.

Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé is a Spanish diplomat and politician. He served as a member of Congress from 2004 to 2011, representing Córdoba. Since 2019, he has held the position of UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. From 1996 to 2003, Moratinos served as the European Union Special Representative for the Middle East, with his base in Cyprus and Brussels.

He also served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero from 2004 to 2010. In 2007, Moratinos was the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Additionally, he was a member of the High-Level Advisory Council of the President of the 67th Session of the United



Islamic and Economic Commission, Director of the OIC Department within the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Representative of Saudi Arabia to the OIC and is holding the position of Assistant Secretary General for political Affairs since 2019.

Mr. Yousef M Al-Dobeay - Ambassador Al-Dobeay holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from King Saud University in Riyadh (1988), a Master's degree in Diplomatic Studies from the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1991), and a Master's degree in International Law from Kuwait University (1999). He has over 30 years of experience in the diplomatic field within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he progressed until the rank of Ambassador. He moved among the Kingdom's external missions and took part in several international conferences and GCC summits. He also served as officer in charge of the file of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), particularly the work of the





Prof. Cole Durham, Jr. is Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University. Currently serves as the President of the G20 Interfaith Forum Association. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was a Note Editor of the Harvard Law Review and Managing Editor of the Harvard International Law Journal. Mr. Durham has focused on comparative law scholarship, with an emphasis on comparative constitutional law. He is the immediate past President of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), based in Milan, Italy, and a Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion.



Mr. Fariz Ismailzade is the Vice Rector for External, Government, and Student Affairs at ADA University since 2006. He also serves as the Director of the Institute for Development and Diplomacy since 2021. Mr. Ismailzade holds a Doctoral Degree from the Maastricht School of Management. Additionally, he earned an Executive MBA from IE Business School (Spain), a Master's Degree in Social and Economic Development from Washington University in St. Louis, and a BA in Political Science from Western University in Baku with one-year interim studies at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.



H.V. Sheikh-ul Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh, the Spiritual Leader of Muslims in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus region is Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Board, Secretary General of the Baku International Centre for Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Cooperation (BCIC), Member of the Board of Directors of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), Member of the Muslim Council of Elders, Co-chairman of the CIS Inter-Religious Council, and Member of the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Academy of Islamic Thought in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Under his leadership, the Council of Qadies was established within the Caucasian Muslims' Board, reflecting Azerbaijan's Sunni-Shia diversity.



Mr. Khalid Fathalrahman Omer Mohamed, Director of the Center for Civilizational Dialogue at ICES-CO, pursued his education at King Saud University in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and obtained his Master's Degrees from Durham University, The UK. He has held various positions throughout his career, including Political Science Lecturer at the University of Khartoum and Umdurman Islamic University, Ambassador of Sudan to the Kingdom of Morocco (2018-2020), Director of the Office of the Prime Minister, Sudan (2015-2018), Deputy Head of Mission in Saudi Arabia (2013-2015), Deputy Head of Mission in The Hague, Netherlands (2011-2013), Minister Plenipotentiary in London, The UK (2004-2008), Counselor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Sudan (2003), and Director of Research and Studies at the Center for Strategic Studies, Khartoum, Sudan.





Mrs. Ismat Jahan is a diplomat who is currently serving as the Permanent Observer of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to the European Union. In her role, Jahan contributes to raising awareness to anti-Muslim and antisemitic hate speech, including of hate speech on social media.

From 2009 to 2016, she was Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union and from 2007 to 2009, she was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations. Ismat Jahan is the first woman Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN.

In 2010, Jahan was elected as member of the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).



Mr. Ebrahim Rasool is a politician and diplomat who served as the South African Ambassador to the United States from 2010 to 2015, as a Member of the National Assembly from 2009 to 2010, and as the 5th Premier of the Western Cape from 2004 to 2008. He is a member of the African National Congress.

Ebrahim Rasool is Founder of the World for All Foundation. He serves on the Senate and Council of the University of the Western Cape, the SA Institute for Entrepreneurship, the Maqasid Institute, a Consultant to the All-Dulles Areas Muslim Society, and has been appointed as a non-executive director of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).





Dr. Mohamed Bechari is Secretary General of the UAE-based World Muslim Communities Council. He holds such posts as President of the French National Federation of Muslims and Secretary General of the Islamic European Conference. This Europe-wide umbrella organisation aims to represent Muslims at the European level. Mr. Bechari is also the founder of the Avicenna Institute in Lille and a member of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAI-CIID) in Vienna, Austria.



Mr. Boumediene Bouzid is Professor and General Secretary of the Supreme Islamic Council, Director of office of the Grand Mosque of Algeria. He worked as a professor of Philosophy in several Universities and is a Manager of Islamic Culture in Ministry of Religious Affairs and Wakf. Boumediene Bouzid worked as an editor of 'Islamic Culture' magazine. He went to a religious pre-school before entering high school based on original and religious affairs education in Saida and later majored in philosophy in the university of Oran graduating with Bachelor degree in 1989. His Master degree thesis was about "Interpretation and authority in the Arab Islamic ideology".





Dr. Afzal Khan CBE MP, Vice Chair of the Labour Equality Task Group in Manchester, has been actively involved in various significant roles and initiatives. He has undertaken extensive efforts to address Islamophobia, notably as the Vice Chair of the APPG British Muslim Shadow Trade & Business Minister in 2023. Prior to this, Dr. Khan served as the Shadow Justice Minister from 2022 to 2023.

In 2008, Dr. Afzal Khan was awarded the title of Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by the Queen.



Ms Jannah Scott is the CEO of the American Center for Religious Freedom. She works both in the US and abroad to connect people groups across generations, demography, geography, and sectors. For eight years, Ms. Scott served in the Obama Administration as a deputy director in the US Department of Homeland Security. Her portfolio included crisis response, security policy, community preparedness, countering violent extremist narratives, and engaging people from various sectors toward multicultural and multi-faith dialogue and cooperation. She has published extensively in journal articles, periodicals, and technical writings. Her latest book, currently in final edits for 2024 publication, is entitled “Pursuit of Religious Freedom: A Call to All”.



Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç is the Director-General of the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture (IRCICA). He is also a university professor in philosophy. His previous positions include President of the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (TIEM, Istanbul), Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC, Tehran), and Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta). He has authored 16 books, translated 5, and edited 2 books, in addition to writing numerous articles for international journals.



Dr. Waqaruzzaman Azmi was awarded OBE by Her Majesty the Queen in 2002, one of The UK's highest national honors, in acknowledgment of his major contributions. He has been acknowledged as one of the 500 Most Influential Muslims in the world by Georgetown University, as well as being included in the Bank of Scotland's Asian Power 100 list of the most influential Asians in The UK and Lloyd Bank's list of the 100 most influential Muslims in The UK.

Dr. Azmi previously served as The UK Government's Chief Diversity Adviser at the Cabinet Office and as the EU's Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue. Currently, he holds the position of Chairman of Remembering Srebrenica The UK and serves as the Chief Executive of Badger Health Group.





Mr. Oussama Ali Jammal is the Secretary General of the US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO). Mr. Jammal served in different capacities including President and Chairman of the Board of the Mosque Foundation, Bridgeview, Illinois; State Department's Interfaith sub-committee on International Religious Freedom; Interfaith Advisory Board of the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA)- Cook County, Illinois; Co-convenor of the Interfaith Dialogue between the National Council of Churches and the US Council of Muslim Organizations; Member of the strategy board of the Metro-Industrial Areas Foundation (Metro-IAF); the National Director of MAS-PACE, the Public Affairs and Civic Engagement

Division of the Muslim American Society; President of Fox Valley Muslim Community Center, Illinois; President of the Council of Arab Organizations; and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) annual convention.



Assoc. Prof. Yashar Çolak is the Vice-President of the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Islamic Research Center.

He served at the Presidency of Religious Affairs as an Imam-Khatip, Head of the Directorate of Religious Publications, and Religious Affairs Counselor at the Embassies in London and Washington, D... He earned a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies from the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the Victoria University of Manchester in the United Kingdom and completed his Ph.D. in Islamic History at 19 Mayıs University, Institute of Social Sciences. From 2011 to 2018, he served as the president of the Diyanet Center of America (DCA) in Lanham, Maryland. Between 2018 and 2023, he taught in the Department of Sirah

and Islamic History at Ibn Haldun University in Istanbul. Since the beginning of 2023, he has been serving as the Vice President at the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Islamic Research Center, while on leave from Ibn Haldun University.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ISLAMOPHOBIA
BALKAN REGION - 2023



of Azerbaijan. Currently, Mr. Iskandarov serves as Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Elshad Iskandarov studied History at Baku State University and received a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York. Mr. Iskandarov has held various diplomatic positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including five years in the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the UN. In March 2009, Mr. Iskandarov was granted the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Elshad Iskandarov served as the founding Secretary-General and later as President of the ICYF, an OIC-affiliated international organization, from 2005 to 2018. From 2012 to 2014, Mr. Iskandarov served as Chairman of the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic



Mr. Baptiste Brodard obtained his Ph.D. in social sciences and religious studies in 2020 from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Subsequently, he held positions as an Assistant Professor in Sociology at the International Islamic University Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur and as a Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Aix-Marseille University, France. Additionally, he conducted postdoctoral research at the Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico, focusing on Islamic communities in Colombia and Mexico, with an emphasis on transnational Islamic movements and their roles in disseminating and teaching Islam in non-Muslim countries. Concurrently, he maintains a keen interest in the evolution of contemporary Islamic thought and Islamic activism in society, particularly in the realms of social work, advocacy, and humanitarian aid.





tics in the Caspian Sea Region” (Praeger, 1999), and “September 11 and World Politics” (FUP, 2004).

Prof. Bülent Aras serves as the Research Director at the Center for International Policy Research in Doha, Qatar. He also holds the position of Senior Scholar and Coordinator of the Conflict Resolution and Mediation stream at the Istanbul Policy Center, along with being a Research Professor of International Relations at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Aras has authored 13 books. His publications include “Turkey’s State Crisis” (Syracuse, 2021), “Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process and Turkey” (Novascience, 1998), “New Geopolitics of Eurasia and Turkey’s Position” (Frankcass, 2002), and “Turkey and the Greater Middle East” (TASAM, 2004). Additionally, as a co-editor, he contributed to “Arab Spring, Turkey and Beyond” (Routledge, 2016), “Oil and Geopolitics in the Caspian Sea Region” (Praeger, 1999), and “September 11 and World Politics” (FUP, 2004).



Mr. Sami Zeidan has trained a large number of anchors, reporters, and producers in prestigious media organizations, including Al Jazeera Media Network, CNN, and NBC. In addition to his work as a trainer, he has worked in television preparation and presentation, and has covered a number of important events in various countries around the world, as well as several sensitive locations such as the White House, the United Nations headquarters, and hotbeds of tension and conflict. In 1999, he won the Excellence in Television Award in the United States. Mr. Zeidan works as news presenter and correspondent for Al Jazeera; Presenter and executive producer at CNBC Arabic; Presenter and writer for CNN International.



Mr. Tarek Mami is the director of Radio France MAGHREB 2. He is the lawyer by education, political journalist and reporter.

Founder of Radio France Maghreb 2, a national general purpose radio station.



Mr. Moustafa Bayoumi is the esteemed author of the critically acclaimed “How Does It Feel To Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America”, a work that garnered both an American Book Award and the Arab American Book Award for Non-Fiction. His publication “This Muslim American Life: Dispatches from the War on Terror” also earned recognition with the Arab American Book Award for Non-Fiction. His article “Journey to Guantánamo” was a finalist for the 2023 Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association’s Excellence in Reporting award. Bayoumi has been honored with fellowships from the Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as the prestigious 2024 Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Award. Currently,

he serves as a professor of English at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and resides in Brooklyn.





Dr. Sahar Mohamed Khamis is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland, College Park. She previously served as the Head of the Mass Communication Department at Qatar University. Dr. Khamis holds a Ph.D. in Mass Media and Cultural Studies from the University of Manchester in England. She has co-authored several influential books, including “Islam Dot Com: Contemporary Islamic Discourses in Cyberspace” and “Egyptian Revolution 2.0: Political Blogging, Civic Engagement, and Citizen Journalism.” Additionally, she has co-edited the book “Arab Women’s Activism and Socio-Political Transformation: Unfinished Gendered Revolutions.” She currently serves as the President of the Arab-US Association for

Communication Educators (AUSACE) and as the Chair of the Spiritual Communication Division at the National Communication Association (NCA).

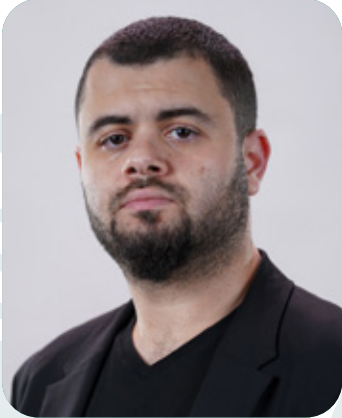


Mr. Rufat Hamzayev worked as the editor-in-chief of AzTV’s Public-Political Programs Department. Since 2019, he has worked as the director of the “News” Information Programs Studio.

Within the framework of the “Year of Heydar Aliyev”, he was a screenwriter and host of the “Confidential” project, dedicated to the activities of National leader in the security agencies. In the documentaries “Naturalist” (2023), “Port Pahlavi” (2023), “Khan-kendi-1967” (2023) documents marked “top secret” about the operations in which he personally participated and led were used.

In accordance with the order of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev dating February 24, 2020, he has been appointed the deputy chairman of “Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting” CJSC.





Mr. Jamaluddin Mohammad Farid Elshayyal currently serves as the Manager of Content Strategy at the Al Jazeera Media Network's Digital Division.

Previously, Jamal held the position of an international award-winning senior correspondent for Al Jazeera. He joined the network's English channel in 2006 as a member of its launch team and served as its inaugural Middle East Editor.

Jamal, a native of The UK, graduated from the University of London. His work on combating Islamophobia garnered attention, and he was frequently sought after for consultation by both governmental and non-governmental organizations. In 2006, Jamal made history as the youngest Muslim candidate for a major political party to contest in The UK local elections, representing the Labour Party in the Uxbridge South constituency.



Dr. Ahlam Hatem Almuhtaseb is a professor of media studies and the graduate coordinator of the Department of Communication Studies at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). She has an M.A. in Journalism and a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Memphis, Tennessee. Her documentary 1948: Creation & Catastrophe was screened at over 20 film festivals and at universities and community organizations throughout the world. She co-produced and co-directed the film that focuses on the year 1948 and its catastrophic consequences for the Palestinian nation which has originated from her field work in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. The film won the Jerusalem International Film Festival's 2019 Special Jury Award in the Feature Documentary category.





Associate Professor Agil Shirinov received his PhD in social sciences (Islamic philosophical theology) from Marmara University, Türkiye. He worked as Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Theology of Baku State University from 2008 to 2018. His teaching and research interests cover the history of Islamic denominations (in particular heterodox and radical denominations of Islam as well as relations between Islamic theology (kalam) and medieval peripatetic philosophy and Sufism. Dr. Shirinov has authored six books and more than 20 articles of Islamic theology and philosophy as well as the history of different Islamic denominations. Associate Professor Agil Shirinov currently serves as the Rector of Azerbaijan Institute of Theology.



Mr. Tahir Abbas is a Professor of Radicalisation Studies at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs at Leiden University in The Hague and an Honorary Professor at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter. He is currently the Scientific Coordinator of the European Commission (EC)-funded H2020 DRIVE project, which is exploring radicalisation and social exclusion in northwest Europe. He is also the Principal Investigator of the EC-funded PROTONE project, which explores ways in which to protect religious places of worship in Europe. He was Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Birmingham (2003–2010) and a Professor of Sociology at Istanbul University (2010–2016) before joining the Institute in August 2018. He has

also been a Senior Research Officer in The UK government (2001–2003) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (2016–2018).



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ISLAMOPHOBIA
Baku, March 2019



H.E. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali is from the tenth line of descendants belonging to the royal house of famous Sufi Saint, Sultaan Al-'Aarifin Sultan Bahoo (R.A), with millions of followers. A leader with God-gifted foresightedness and sagacity, he is the Chairman of a renowned research think-tank called MUSLIM Institute based in Islamabad and London. H.E. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali is also the current Dewan (Prime Minister) of Junagadh State. He is the Chief Editor of a monthly internationally distributed magazine called "Mirrat-ul-Arifeen International."



Professor Mahjoob Ahmed Suleman Zweiri is the Director of Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University. He is a Professor in Contemporary Politics and History of the Middle East. Before joining Qatar University in 2010, Prof. Zweiri was senior researcher in Middle East Politics and Iran at the Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. He was also a visiting professor to School of Government & International Affairs at Durham University. From March 2003-December 2006 he was a research fellow and then a director of the Centre for Iranian Studies in the Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Durham University.





Dr. Fahid Ahmed Qurashi is a Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Salford and a Research Director at the Ayaan Institute. He lectures and conducts research in the areas of Islamophobia, racism, crime, counterterrorism, political Islam, surveillance, and radicalisation.



Tural Aliyev is Ph.D. in Political Sciences, lecturer of the Department of Political Science and Political Administration of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He is head of sector for work with NGOs of the Department for Work with NGOs and Communication of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

His academic interest is the intellectual history and social-political ideas of the Azerbaijan Enlightenment Movement.





Dr. Sameera Ahmed is the Executive Director and Founder of The Family and Youth Institute. She holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Dr. Ahmed is a leading expert on American Muslim youth and has produced numerous publications, including *The State of American Muslim Youth*, *Uplifting Black Muslim Youth*, *Prevalence of Risk Behaviors of US Muslim College Students*, and *Alcohol Use Among US Muslim College Students*. Dr Ahmed is known for her contributions in promoting Muslim mental health through many avenues, including the publication of *Counseling Muslims: Handbook of Mental Health Issues and Interventions*, the most cited academic book on Muslim Mental health. She has

been invited as a subject matter expert to events organized by the White House, Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), and the Department of Education (DOE).



Dr. Badrane Benlahcene is Research Associate Professor of Religion and Civilization Studies, Ibn Khaldon Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Qatar University. He holds a PhD in Philosophy and Civilization Studies from University Putra Malaysia, and an MA in Comparative Religions and Islamic Thought from the International Islamic University Malaysia.

He worked previously as an Associate Professor of Comparative Religion and Islamic Thought at Hamad Bin Khalifa university, Qatar (2013-2020), Associate Professor of Islamic Studies, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia (2009- 2013), Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Batna University, Algeria (2005-2009), and Head of Research at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (August 2004-August 2005).





Mr. Sajjad Karim is the CEO of Haider Global BVBA Brussels which provides discreet, strategic advice to a select number of heads of state, governments and ambassadors on managing their European Union affairs.

He served as a The UK Member of the European Parliament for three parliamentary terms from 2004 to 2019. He was the first British Muslim elected to the European Parliament.

Sajjad served as President of the European Parliament working group on Islamophobia and played a key role in having Islamophobia recognised as a form of discrimination at a European Union level.



Mr. Aiman A. Mazyek served as Pavilion Director of the World Expo 2000, where he directed the first Islam pavilion at an Expo World Fair. He has been a member of the General Assembly of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD) since 1994. From 2001 to 2004 he worked there full-time as a press spokesman. In 2006 he was elected to the board as its honorary general secretary and since 2010 has been its chairman. So far he has been spokesman for the Coordination Council of Muslims (KRM, made up of DITIB, Islamrat, VIKZ and ZMD) three times. Since 2019 he is also CEO of Fondation “Mouatana”.





Dr. Sadek Hamid is a Research Fellow at the University Wales Trinity St David, Lampeter. U.K. He has also been a Senior Researcher at Oxford University's Centre for Islamic Studies and a Lecturer at the Universities of Chester and Liverpool Hope, U.K. His research interests include British Muslims, Islam in America and Europe, Islamic activism, religious radicalisation, inter-faith relations, religion and public policy. His books include *Sufis, Salafis and Islamists: The Contested Ground of British Islamic Activism*, (I. B. Tauris, 2016), and co-author of *British Muslims: New Directions in Islamic Thought, Creativity and Activism*, (Edinburgh University Press, 2018), among other works.



Mr. Gunduz Ismailov studied Theology at Baku State University and then continued his studies at Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and at the graduate school of the Institute of Manuscripts named after Muhammad Fuzuli of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

In 2006-2011, Mr. Ismailov worked as Consultant, acting deputy head of the department, head of the department of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan. From February 18, 2011, Mr Ismayilov has been working as Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan.





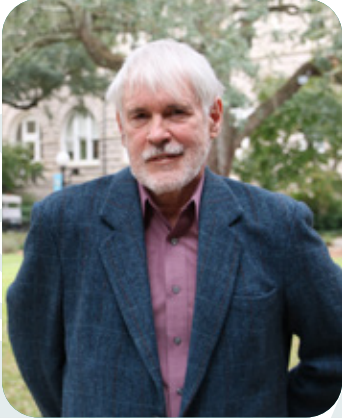
Mr. Brahim Laytouss is General Director of the European Development and Research Academy (EDARA) in Belgium and Islam expert and lecturer at the Flemish Ministry of Education. He is also Member of the Intercontinental Parliament of Cultures (IPC) and the Representative member for Belgium, International Advisor of the American University for Culture and Education (AUCE), Member of the Advisory board of the University for peace of the UN (UN- CEFS).

He signed a Strategic partnership for the EU region with Salaam Center for Extremism Studies (SCES) in Cairo, Egypt and with St Philip Centre in The UK And with Baraza (International Interfaith Centre) in Germany.

Due to his teachings, lecturing, and involvement in different organizations and (Muslim) associations, Knack magazine named Mr. Laytouss as number 15 out of 25 of Flanders' most influential minority Belgians.



Mr. Ahsan Hamid holds an M.Phil. in governance and public policies, bringing a wealth of experience in public diplomacy, regional connectivity, institutional governance and reforms, peacebuilding, policy analysis, and youth development. Mr. Hamid leads a policy research and advocacy think tank, the Policy Research Center (PRC), based in Islamabad. He has previously worked with the United Nations Development Programme. Mr. Hamid is an alumnus of the United Nations Association of Civilizations' program on peacebuilding and contributed to its report on preventing violent extremism in South Asia.



Dr. Raymond Taras, born and educated in Montreal, Canada, carried out his doctoral studies at Essex University (The UK) and University of Warsaw (Poland). He has authored or edited over twenty books and many journal articles. Subjects include the rise of liberal and illiberal nationalisms; the internationalization of ethnic conflict; the dangers of xenophobia and Islamophobia in Europe; critiques of multiculturalism; the impact of fear on foreign policy making; and most recently Thucydides' meditations on fear which explore phobias in six major countries.



Mr. Wolfgang Aschauer is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at the University of Salzburg. His main research fields are quantitative methods (particularly cross-national survey research), European integration and challenges of cultural diversity and social cohesion (with a focus on ethnocentrism and Islamophobia in Western societies). In 2015, he completed his habilitation project 'The societal malaise of EU citizens' Causes, characteristics, consequences' The book was published by Springer-VS in German Language in 2017 In 2020 he was awarded as Fulbright Botstiber-Professor for Austrian-American Studies and completed a research stay at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (Harvard University).





Mr. Jean-Michel Brun is a versatile figure in media, renowned as a journalist, editor-in-chief, filmmaker, and TV producer. With a career spanning two decades as a war reporter in conflict zones across the Middle East and beyond, Mr. Brun brings a wealth of experience to storytelling. As CEO of multiple press agencies, including PUBLIC CITY in France and MOUNT10 in London, Mr. Brun oversees the dissemination of news worldwide. served as Editor-in-Chief of online publications focusing on the Muslim community in France and Azerbaijani affairs. With a global perspective, Brun has directed documentaries across continents, offering unique insights into diverse cultures and landscapes.



Mr. Muhammad Abdur Rabbani, a British activist and Managing Director of CAGE, has been at the forefront of campaigning against human rights abuses, advocating for due process in national security programs globally. Known for addressing detention, rendition, and torture issues during the “War on Terror,” Rabbani gained significant attention in 2017.

In July 2023, Rabbani faced detention in Paris and bans from entering France, Poland, and Switzerland, following his criticisms of France’s policies towards Muslims. He is contesting these bans in French courts, highlighting the struggle against state-led Islamophobia and the impact on civil liberties.





Prof. Mohammed El-Maazouz is a Researcher in Political Anthropology. He also works as Director of the European-Arab Academy for Geopolitical Studies in Paris. He has authored numerous intellectual works on philosophy, politics, and Islamophobia. Prof. El-Maazouz is a novelist and recipient of various Arab and European awards.



Mr. Roland Eugene Laffitte is an independent researcher and essayist. He is interested in relationships of all kinds, past and present, particularly political and cultural, between societies living on the shores of the Mediterranean, and particularly in the reciprocal interpenetration of the civilizations that they have caused to flourish from Antiquity to these days. Mr. Laffitte has authored many publications on France, Islam and its Muslims.





Mr. Zaur Sadigbayli is a French-Azerbaijani political scientist, political commentator and jurist who has lived in Nice since 1997. He was born in Yerevan (Armenia) on September 15, 1976, into a family of intelligentsia. His mother, a Russian teacher, was originally from Baku. His father, originally from Yerevan, was a political journalist and writer. On 26 May 1988 Mr. Sadigbayli had to leave Armenia with his parents, brother and paternal grandmother because of threats to their lives. He had become a refugee in Azerbaijan. Since June 2021 he has been a member of the new Board of Directors of the Congress of Azerbaijanis in Europe and March 2023 of the West Azerbaijan Community (WAC). Representative of the WAC in France and Western Europe, he created in September

2023 in France an Association for the Protection of the Heritage and the Right of Return of Western Azerbaijanis (APPDRAO). His current goal with his compatriots in solidarity with him is to launch and promote in France in the media and on various platforms the debate on the protection of the centuries-old historical, cultural, architectural and other heritage of Azerbaijanis in Armenia today, as well as the debate on the right of return of compatriots like him expelled or who had to flee Armenia between 1987 and 1990.



Mr. Nourredine Belhout is the Director of the Faculty of Islamic Sciences in Paris and a prominent member of the Ulema association and the EMF European Muslim Forum. As a professor of Islamic sciences, he shares his expertise through lectures and teachings in various French cities, including Paris, Lyon, and Marseille.

Belhout is also an accomplished speaker and Imam Khatib, delivering sermons and leading prayers in mosques across France. He frequently appears on radio and television shows to discuss Islamic topics and current affairs.

Beyond France, Belhout actively participates in international conferences in countries such as Qatar, the UAE, Egypt, Finland, and Morocco. Notable events

include the international Islamic finance conference in Qatar, the World Arabic Language Council in Dubai, and the global forum in Helsinki, Finland.





Mr. James Charles Laurence Wolfreys teaches French Politics and History in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at King's College London. He is a co-author (with Peter Fysh) of *The Politics of Racism in France* (Palgrave, 2003) and the author of the "Republic of Islamophobia" (Hurst, 2018).



Dr Sara Cheikh Husain is a passionate early career researcher. Her PhD funded by the UNESCO Chair for Comparative Research on cultural diversity and Social Justice, explores Victorian Muslim Community Organisations' perceptions of and responses to Islamophobia. She is invested in human rights and diversity areas of inquiry particularly social injustices facing Palestinians, refugees and migrant Muslims. Sara has published in academic journals and presented at various conferences. She collaborated with the Australian Muslim Advocacy Network AMAN to co-produce a supplementary document to AMAN's input to the report on Anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination by the UN special rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief in 2020. Also, she co-authored the Islamophobia Register report: *A War of Words: Preliminary Media Analysis of the 2023 Israel-Gaza War*. Sara volunteers at various academic and community bodies.

She is currently the General Executive at the Australian Association of Islam and Muslims Studies AAIMs, an Associate Member at Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies CRIS and Member of the Advisory Committee at the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute.





Dr Kawtar Najib is a Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Liverpool (England). Her research interests centre on the geographies of inequality and discrimination using both quantitative and qualitative methods. She explores more broadly issues of social and spatial justice and was the principal researcher of the SAMA project (Spaces of Anti-Muslim Acts, funded by the European Commission) which highlights the impact of Islamophobic discrimination on space and people. She is the author of the book 'Spatialized Islamophobia' (published in 2021 by Routledge) which brings increased recognition of 'Geography' and 'Space' in Islamophobia Studies.



Mrs. Aytan Gahraman is a Counselor at the Baku International Multiculturalism Center. She previously worked as a researcher in ethnic and social studies at the Institute of Ethnography of ANAS. In 2018, she served as the chairperson and moderator of the organizing committee for the VI Baku International Humanitarian Forum, themed "Multiculturalism Policy as a Factor of Ensuring Stability in Society," hosted by BIMC. Additionally, she delivered a speech on "Prevention of Discrimination and Tolerance" at the 2022 OSCE Warsaw Conference on the Human Dimension.



Dr. Ibrahim Ibrahim Mahmoud Negm is a highly accomplished scholar specializing in Islamic studies and interfaith relations.

Since 2005, he has served as Senior Advisor to the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Dr. Shawki Allam. In this role, Dr. Negm also serves as Secretary General for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide and chairs the Salam Center for Extremism Studies and Islamophobia Watch at Dar Al-Iftaa in Cairo.

Dr. Negm's commitment to education is evident through his teaching roles, including serving as Adjunct Professor of Islamic Studies in English at Al-Azhar University and founding the Islamic Learning Foundation in New York. Dr. Negm has also served as Executive Director at the Islamic Center of South Shore in New York.



Sandew Hira, penname of Dew Baboeram, is secretary of the Decolonial International Network Foundation (DIN). He studied economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam in Holland. He has written 25 books on different topics, among them colonial history. His last book is titled *Decolonizing The Mind: A guide to decolonial theory and practice* (Amrit Publisher, January 2023). Follow the work of Sandew Hira and the Decolonial International Network with these links. The book *His lectures are based on the book by Sandew Hira: Decolonizing The Mind: A guide to theory and practice*. Amrit Publishers. The Hague 2023.





Dr. Barbara Ruiz-Bejarano is honorary professor at the UNESCO-University of Alicante Chair “Islam, Culture and Society”. She holds a PhD in Islamic Studies and her main research is focused on Muslim communities in non-Islamic societies. She is the Director of Fundación Las Fuentes. She works mainly in economic relations with the Islamic world, policy making, Muslim minorities in Europe, Islamophobia, economic development, female and youth empowerment or regional cooperation. She formerly worked in several European programmes for research, development, cooperation and education.



Dr. Damir Mukhetdinov is a Russian Muslim theologian, religious and public figure, doctor of theology, candidate of political sciences, first deputy chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, Rector of the Moscow Islamic Institute, professor at St. Petersburg State University, head of the Center for Islamic Studies at St. Petersburg State University. He is also Executive Secretary of the Muslim International Forum. Dr. Mukhetdinov is a prominent researcher of the Islamic theological school, the history of Islam in Russia and the world Islamic renewal movement.



Ms. Ulviyya Zulfikar is an alumna of the Faculty of International Relations at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. She served as an analytical journalist and editor from 2007 to 2021 for ATV channel.

In 2020, Ms. Zulfikar assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief at News.a, an English-language online news agency. Ms. Zulfikar also serves as the spokesperson for the Western Azerbaijan Community since 2022.

Ms. Zulfikar's personal connection to the historical events of Western Azerbaijan - Irvan adds depth to her advocacy efforts, as her grandfather was among those deported from the region in 1918.



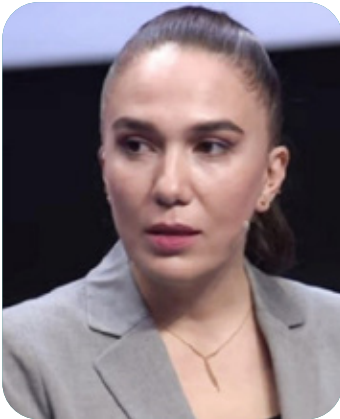
Dr. Hüseyin İshıksal is the Special Advisor to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President on International Relations and Diplomacy, Member of the Negotiation Team, and the Chairperson of the International Relations Committee since 2020.

In 2014, Professor İshıksal was appointed as one of the members of the Consultative Committee of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Presidency for the negotiations. He was also the Near East University Representative of the TRNC Higher Education Supervision and Accreditation Board International Relations Planning and Co-ordination Group between 2018-2020.





Dr. Laurens Daniel de Rooij, an associate lecturer specializing in the Sociology of Islam, earned his doctorate at Durham University in England. His interdisciplinary research focuses on how non-Muslim individuals in Europe perceive and interact with Islam and Muslims, exploring the impact of media portrayals and daily interactions. He has conducted research and held positions at various institutions worldwide, including the University of Cape Town, University of Chester, London Metropolitan University, and Mahidol University in Bangkok.



Ms. Esmira Jafarova is a Board Member of the Center for Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center). She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations and Law from Baku State University, followed by a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and European Studies from the Central European University in Hungary. Ms. Jafarova obtained her Ph.D. degree in Political Sciences from the University of Vienna, Austria. Specifically, her study examined the effectiveness of the UN, the OSCE, the CIS, and the EU in facilitating conflict resolution in the South Caucasus.



Ms. Zara Mohammed holds an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Strathclyde. In January 2021, Zara made history by becoming the youngest and first female Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain.

Prior to her groundbreaking role, Zara served on the executive team of the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) for three years, where she was elected as the first female President for the term 2016-17. She has actively engaged in public consultations on crucial issues such as Muslim women and employment, and Islamophobia.



Dr. Amina Easat-Daas is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at De Montfort University, The UK. She is an esteemed scholar with forthcoming publications including 'The Palgrave Handbook of Gendered Islamophobia', 'Muslim Women's Political Participation in France and Belgium', and the co-edited collection 'Countering Islamophobia in Europe'. Dr. Easat-Daas' research focuses on Islam and Muslimness in France and Belgium, gendered Islamophobia, and the utilization of the arts in countering Islamophobia across Europe. Her work sheds light on crucial issues surrounding identity, politics, and social justice, making significant contributions to academic discourse and societal understanding.





Mr. Aydin Safikhanli is the Head of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He holds a Ph.D. in Law and serves as a Lecturer at the UNESCO Chair on Human Rights and Information Law at Baku State University. Additionally, Safikhanli is a State Counselor of the 3rd class and a member of the IPHRC-OIC. Mr. Safikhanli is also a member of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (IPHRC-OIC). Also, he was appointed as a member of the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Integration of Azerbaijan to EU” by presidential decree.



Ms. Anila Anila, a distinguished faith leader and bridge builder, has dedicated her life to fostering interfaith harmony, empowering individuals to reach their highest potential, and fighting hate, especially Islamophobia. As the founder of CalPak Educational Services and President/CEO of AMMWEC, she empowers Muslim women by providing resources, mentorship, and a platform for their voices. Recently nominated as the G 100 chair for Pakistan against gender-based violence and chair for Pakistan in the International Religious Freedom Roundtable, Anila is a committed advocate for social change. Her impactful online presence, including engaging lectures and writings, reflects her dedication to creating a more inclusive and interconnected world where women help dispel misconceptions about Islam.



Prof. Susana Mangana is currently a doctoral researcher at the Institute of Human Rights “Pedro Arrupe” at the University of Deusto, Bilbao. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Economics and Arabic Philology from the University of London, a Master’s degree in Business Management and Administration from the Pontifical University of Comillas, and a postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies in Arab and Islamic Studies from the Autonomous University of Madrid.

Prof. Mangana has extensive experience in interreligious dialogue and a deep understanding of Middle Eastern culture and politics. She has directed the Permanent Chair of Islam and the Arab World at the Catholic University of Uruguay until August 2023, where she is still a visiting professor. She collaborates with various international media outlets as an analyst of international politics and culture in the Muslim world.



Dr. Zora A. Sukabdi is a forensic psychologist and an expert in rehabilitation. Zora’s work also involves formulating tools to measure human behaviors and identifying parameters for successful rehabilitation and aftercare programs. She holds patents, including the ‘IMOS’ Islamophobia Scale.

Zora’s dedication extends to designing the National Rehabilitation Guidelines for inmates, developing curricula for security entities, participating in reintegration efforts, and assisting government institutions and civil society in Indonesia with rehabilitating families affiliated with Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). She was honored with the Allison Sudrajat Prize from the Government of Australia for her leadership.





Dr. Tania Saeed is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan. She is the author of “Islamophobia and Securitization: Religion, Ethnicity, and the Female Voice” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) and the co-editor of “Exploring Education and Democratization in South Asia: Research, Policy, and Practice” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), among other books and peer-reviewed articles on education, Islamophobia, and the South Asian diasporas.

She was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow (2021-2023) at Ca’Foscari University of Venice, Italy.

Dr. Saeed holds a DPhil (PhD) in Education from the University of Oxford, The UK, and an MSc in Gender, Development, and Globalization from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



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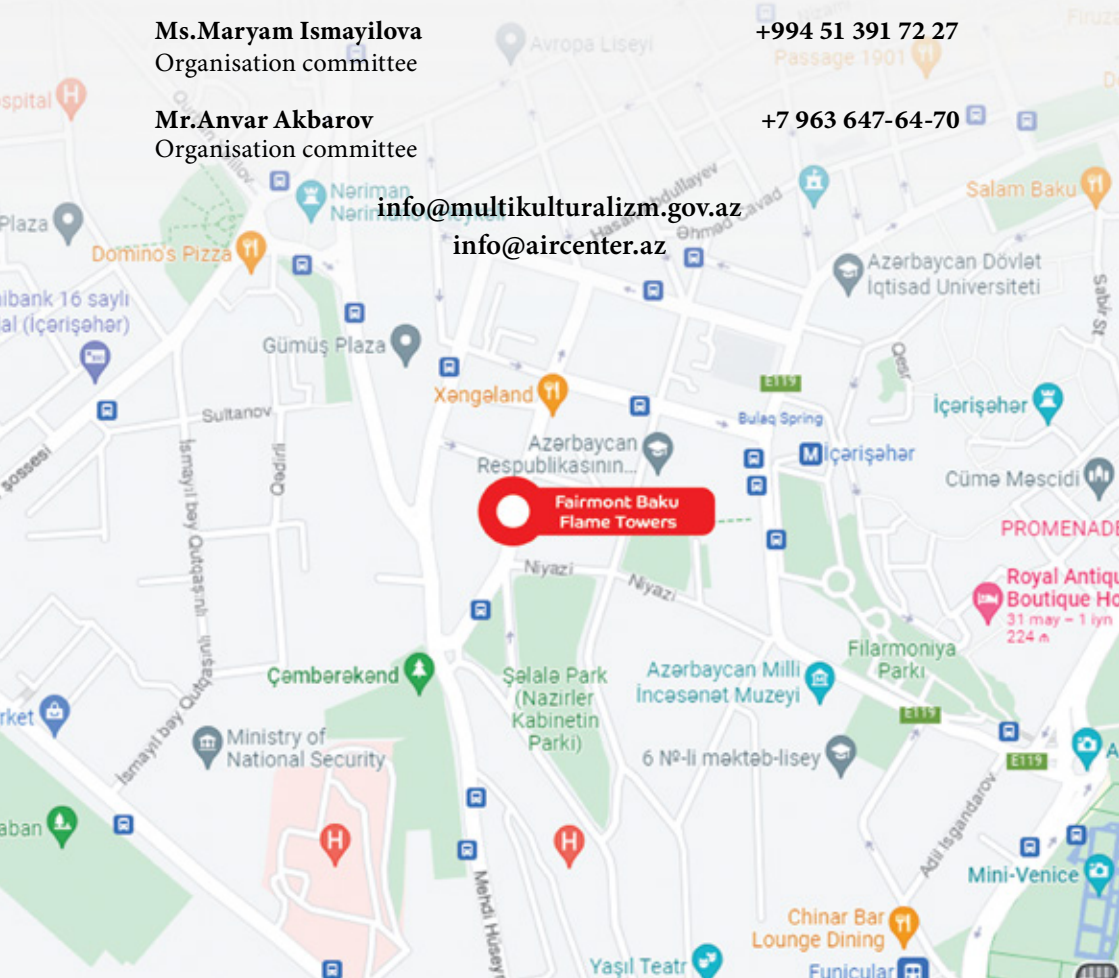
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ISLAMOPHOBIA

BAKU, MARCH 8-9th