

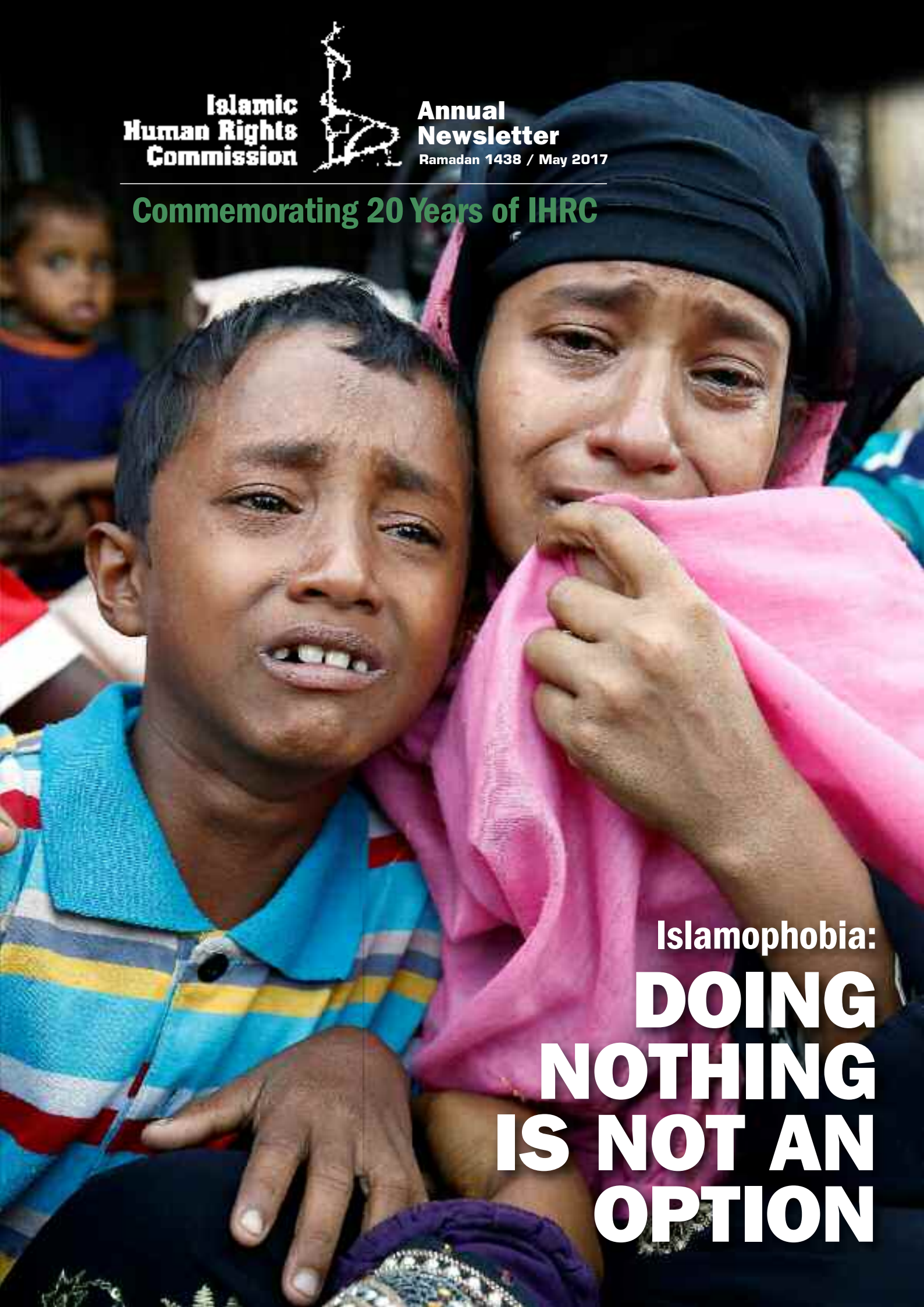
**Islamic
Human Rights
Commission**



**Annual
Newsletter**

Ramadan 1438 / May 2017

Commemorating 20 Years of IHRC



Islamophobia:
**DOING
NOTHING
IS NOT AN
OPTION**

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

The aims of the Islamic Human Rights Commission

- To champion the rights and duties revealed for human beings.
- To promote a new social and international order, based on truth, justice, righteousness and generosity, rather than self-interest.
- To demand virtue and oppose wrongdoing in the exercise of power (from whatever base that power derives - e.g. political, judicial, media, economic, military, personal, etc.).
- To gather information about, and to publicise, atrocities, oppression, discrimination, and other abuses of divinely-granted rights.
- To campaign for redress, and to support the victims of such crimes.
- To campaign to bring the perpetrators and their accomplices to justice.
- To cooperate with other groups and individuals where such cooperation is likely to further the achievement of these aims.

The Islamic Human Rights Commission is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Fight for Justice

You can resign yourself and despair, or you can fight back. What is your choice?

It is our religious duty as a community to oppose injustice and establish justice, not just for ourselves but for everyone regardless of colour, race or creed.

The winds of Islamophobia that have for many years buffeted the Muslim ummah have become an all-consuming hurricane assailing us from all directions.

In the international arena the plight of Muslim communities in places such as Palestine and Myanmar remains not only unresolved but deteriorates by the day while the statesmen and women who preside over them are feted for their so-called achievements.

Neo-colonial foreign interventions in the Middle East continue to destabilise Muslim countries, undermining freedom and self-determination while turning them into markets and testing grounds for the western military industrial complex.

The pattern of state violence is

repeated at home with anti-terrorism legislation the de rigueur device to control and subordinate our communities. The insidious Prevent strategy in the UK is an example of one such mechanism designed to ensure cradle to grave surveillance of Muslims for any deviation from an always undefined, deliberately fluid political norm.

Like children incapable of determining what is right for ourselves we should be seen and not heard. And if we want to be seen and heard it must be as a reflection and echo of those who cannot bear to see any public manifestations of our faith.

In the febrile environment of hate whipped up by media and politicians, Muslims have shrunk



IHRC Bookshop is pleased to announce our **new Spanish language books** are now available from our shop and website. We offer an eclectic mix of biographies, histories and other Islamic books, some from esteemed organisations such as Walaya Publications and Madrasa Editorial. These titles are essential for any Spanish speaker interested in Islam and its history.







Visit shop.ihr.org for not only these but many more of the books we have in English and other languages. From contemporary politics to classical spirituality, there is always something of note to find at the IHRC Bookshop.



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Fight for Justice

back from asserting their values and rights. Cowed by the prevailing climate and hampered by our own myopia we have either largely retreated into the shadows or opted out of expedience to comply with the dominant agenda.

In their attempts to engineer a socially and politically subservient Muslim community it would not be inaccurate to say that the governing class has partially succeeded in co-opting or undermining our values, unity, institutions and leadership. The assault is so fierce it has shaken our collective confidence to the point where many today question the very value of being Muslim.

“
Muslims have shrunk back from asserting their values and rights
”

If we are not already there we are close to the time in which the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) foretold that “The people will see a time of patience in which someone adhering to his religion will be as if he were grasping a hot coal.”

Patience is the key word in this hadith. Those who believe in Islam as the key to salvation in this world and the hereafter must remain patient in the face of adversity, not surrendering to superior physical forces no matter how tempting or easy it appears. More than that it is our religious duty as a community to oppose injustice and establish justice, not just for ourselves but for everyone regardless of colour, race or creed.

The core work of IHRC revolves around this very principle. For 20 years we have sought to defend the rights of those whose rights have been abused or undermined whether it is through the media, lobbying, political or legal representation, research, activism and advocacy. But more than ever we need you to support us. With a united community standing behind us we are stronger when we speak truth to power and our campaigns more effective for having popular backing.

Join us now.

Faisal Bodi

Demonstrations



IHRC projects messages on the Houses of Parliament in protest against Bahrain's human rights abuses

IHRC continues to struggle against oppression

EVERY year IHRC participates in a number of protests and demonstrations for oppressed people across the world. As well as our larger demonstrations like our annual Al Quds Day march which is attended by thousands of people across the country, we also hold smaller-scale demonstrations and vigils; some organised in emergencies with very short notice.

In 2016/17 we have campaigned on many occasions. Among them were vigils for those suffering and imprisoned in Palestine. We have also held demonstrations for Sheikh Zakzaky who is still being kept under detention along with his wife and other innocent members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria. We continue to demand justice for those who were affected by the Zaria Massacre in 2015. Protests called at late hours of the night have seen IHRC volunteers outside the Nigerian High Commission in London demanding immediate release for those still unlawfully detained.



IHRC projects messages in support of Sheikh Zakzaky outside the Nigerian High Commission in London

IHRC have also held demonstrations outside the houses of Parliament calling attention to Bahrain's numerous human rights abuses. Through the Universal Justice Network, we have also held an International Day of Protest in the name of oppressed peoples everywhere.

We hope you join us the next time there is a call to action. Become part of our volunteer database now:
www.ihr.org.uk/about-ihr/volunteering-for-ihr

Nadia Rasheed

Jewels of the Ahlul Bayt

The Life and Marriage of
FATIMAH AL-ZAHRAH

& The Virtues of
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Available to purchase from
<http://shop.ihr.org>,
www.amazon.co.uk and
www.meccabooks.com



Message from the Chair

Across the west, the political mood continues to inspire crackdowns at home that demonise Muslims in order to rally support for morally bankrupt overseas policies

The last year has been a challenging one for Muslims both domestically and internationally.

The environment of hate that is nourished by an extreme undercurrent of xenophobic intolerance and which finds increasing expression in everyday political discourse marched relentlessly forward under a resurgent right energised by the Brexit campaign and the election of Donald Trump.

The Leave campaign's decision to engage publicly in Islamophobic dog-whistle politics coupled with Trump's shamelessly anti-Muslim, anti-foreigner platform is illustrative of the way in which hate has become normalised and infected western political systems.

Indeed it should be a matter of grave concern to everyone that hate speech vis a vis minorities has become so socially acceptable that politicians do not even see the need to dress up their xenophobic tropes before peddling them.

Powerful is the tide of Islamophobia that it is sweeping away everything before it. While too many liberals have found common cause with the right on issues such as women's rights (niqab and hijab bans) and freedom of speech (Prophet Muhammad cartoons), oblivious to the hatred underpinning its rhetoric, others have found it expedient to follow the prevailing wind, resulting in a dangerous lurch to the right that has

alarming implications for the whole of society.

Across the west, the political mood continues to inspire crackdowns at home that demonise Muslims in order to rally support for morally bankrupt overseas policies centred on the continued domination and exploitation of Muslim-majority countries.

“
History has shown us that once the genie of xenophobia is out of the bottle it is very difficult to contain.
”

Fanned by an equally bigoted media, Muslims have been cast as the archetypal villains in the popular imagination, so far removed from any civilised norms that they have forfeited any right to fair and civilised treatment (justifying amongst other things immigration bans and extrajudicial assassinations).

Donald Trump's executive orders banning entry to the US of nationals of majority-Muslim countries has its reflec-

tions at home in the widening of the insidious Prevent strategy and government attempts to regulate - read control - shariah courts and madrasas and on the continent in the recent European Court of Justice decision that companies can ban employees from wearing the Islamic headscarf and other religious symbols.

All of these decisions form part of a growing body of laws designed to institutionalise the inferior and discriminatory legal status of Muslims in the west.

They are evidence, if any more was needed, that Muslims continue to be treated under a 'security lens' approach, a potential fifth column that must be feared and watched, rather than a equal citizens meriting equal rights.

History has shown us that once the genie of xenophobia is out of the bottle it is very difficult to contain. Yet contain it we must if we are to defeat the forces of hate and division and claim our rightful place as a moral touchstone for society. It serves no one to slink into the shadows and accept the status quo. Indeed this is the very aim of the legislation and policies ranged against us - to delegitimise and stigmatise our religion and shake our collective confidence.

For the last two decades IHRC has spared no effort to push back against Islamophobia and indeed we have both helped both define the term and quantify its extent. That institutional Islamophobia

has become an established concept in the field is in no small part down to the work we have done, particularly our hate crime studies and conferences.

In a welcome endorsement of our work, earlier this year IHRC was chosen by the EU to carry out a large-scale project that aims to compare the operation of counter-narratives to Muslim hatred in eight EU member states in order to examine their use and effectiveness in terms of providing alternatives to prevailing narratives of hate and hostility and reducing racism.

In another endorsement of our work IHRC's legal department received recognition in the 2016 Muslim Charities Forum Humanitarian Awards for the work it performs to help people facing discrimination in employment and immigration problems.

And also in 2016 IHRC's head of research Arzu Merali was awarded the annual Organisation of the Islamic Conference prize for her efforts in the field of Islamic human rights.

The work we do and the fact we are thriving is only possible thanks to the support we receive from you. Inspired by your faith you continue to believe, like us, that together we can make the world a better, fairer, more just place for ourselves and future generations. In our deen we have all the tools necessary to step up to this challenge notwithstanding the many obstacles that are put in our way. Whether it's divide and conquer (through sectarian or ethnic differences), demonisation, punitive legislation or even outright violence, these obstacles pale alongside the trials and tribulations suffered by the early generations of Muslims.

We are facing the same challenges they did and what is essential is for us to resist this process of demonization designed to undermine our dignity and self-confidence. Without these qualities we become part of the problem instead of the solution. The only way forward is to resist this process that is being rolled out by the government, establishment and media.

Unfortunately many of our institutions are being forced into giving in to these pressures making our community less and less confident in itself and our pure religion. There is no better or indeed essential time to begin strengthening our resistance and giving ourselves and the next generation the confidence and dignity that is needed not just to preserve our interests but to create a better and more just society for everyone. If you look at the work IHRC has done over the past 20 years, you can see that this has been at the heart of our policy and activity. What we need you to do is support us to confront the challenges we are facing. But we should always remember one thing: God Almighty is on the side of truth and justice and all we have to do is become part of it.

• Please support us by generously donating your money and time to help resist injustice.

Donate at: <https://donations.ihrc.org/>

Massoud Shadjareh
Chair, Islamic Human Rights Commission

Islamophobia

Challenging the rising tide of Islamophobia

ON DECEMBER 2016, shocking CCTV footage from the Berlin metro system emerged online in which a Muslim woman who was wearing a hijab was kicked down the stairs of a Berlin subway. The 26 year-old victim was walking down the stairs when a man, who appeared to be with his friends, approached her from behind and kicked her back. The video shows the woman flying down from midway to the bottom of the stairs. This attack took place on 27 October 2016.

Research Projects

Research underpins attempts to influence policy

THIS PAST year, IHRC has been collating data on Islamophobia and hate crime in the UK, France and Germany. With the recent changes in the political climate, IHRC is seeing a surge in hatred toward minorities, especially Muslims and refugees. Within the Muslim Experiences of Hostility and Discrimination framework, we have been distributing and collecting surveys online to measure the environments of hate in the respective countries whilst pursuing the distribution and collection of hard copies as well. Questionnaires have been somewhat modified to reflect the situations in Germany and France better and have been translated into not only German and French but also Arabic and Turkish.

IHRC was among a number of organisations recently chosen by the EU to carry out a large-scale project that aims to compare the operation of counter-narratives to Muslim hatred in eight EU member states in order to examine their use and effectiveness in terms of providing alternatives to prevailing narratives of hate and hostility

Two separate attacks took place on January 2017 inside mosques in Cape Town, South Africa. A pig's snout and blood were placed outside the door of the Simon's Town Mosque. Also blood was found spattered on the walls and pulpit of Masjidul Jamiah in Kalk Bay and items inside the mosque lay scattered after vandals struck overnight. These attacks echoed similar incidents in the UK, France, USA, Canada and other countries in the past few years.

In Canada, the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City fell victim to what Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, described as an "act of terror" on 29 January 2017. The shooting killed six Muslims and injured nineteen. The countless reports of hate crime and attacks on Muslims make it irrefutable to the public that anti-Muslim sentiment has been growing and spreading globally at an alarming rate.

Mohammad Choudhury

and reducing racism.

The year-long project will collate empirical information about the operation of counter-narratives in eight member states (the UK, Belgium, Portugal, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Greece, plus France and Germany) providing the first comprehensive comparative picture of the use of counter-narratives and will for the first time compare these data to explore what works in the use of counter-narratives utilising a range of indicators. The project is funded with support from the European Commission.

IHRC was selected alongside a number of other prestigious partners: University of Leeds, UK (Prof. Ian Law), University of Liege, Belgium, University of Coimbra, Portugal and the American College of Greece Charles University, Czech Republic.

The structure of the project is based on the IHRC Domination Hate Model of Intercultural Relations which conceptualizes Muslim hate crime within a context of interlocking hate environments. These are environments in which Islamophobic and racist acts "may be encouraged and legitimized" and they include "discriminatory legislation resulting in social inequality and negative media representation of Muslims".

For more information visit: www.ihrc.org.uk/activities/projects/11319-the-hate-crime-project-muslim-experiences

Ashiya Mendheria

UN representations seek to advance justice for Muslims

IHRC continues to advocate for better human rights at the United Nations with panels focusing on injustice in Nigeria, mistreatment of the Rohingya in Myanmar and more

Since last Ramadan, IHRC has submitted reports, including UPR reports, to the UN OHCHR regarding various countries and has organized several demonstrations in Geneva, Switzerland in conjunction with “La Fondation Islamique et Culturelle d’Ahl El Beit (S) (FICA)”.

Community events have also been held in collaboration with “La Fondation Islamique et Culturelle d’Ahl El Beit (S) (FICA)” outside the UN to make the public aware of IHRC’s work and to highlight various human rights issues. The last one took place in September 2015 in which Chair of IHRC, Massoud Shadjareh, was asked to talk about the migrant crisis in Europe and the intensifying climate of hate, racism and Islamophobia on the continent. Submissions in 2016 have addressed the Netherlands where the focus has been on the annual celebration of “Sinterklaas” featuring the racist figure of “Black Pete”.

IHRC also participated in a consultation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, “CERD” on 23rd November 2016. Back then IHRC had submitted a report to the CERD on the phenomena of Islamophobia in Europe and how it is linked with racism.

As well as submitting oral/written statements and reports, NGOs with consultative status can hold side events or parallel events during the Human Rights Council Session. The Human Rights Council Session is held in September, March and June of each year. It provides an opportunity for NGOs to



Festus Omwuma Okoye, Abed Choudhury and Massoud Shadjareh at a panel on the Zaria Massacres

highlight issues to other NGOs, staff working at the UN and to the member states. It provides a platform for NGOs to lobby and highlight their concerns and communicate the facts of what is happening on the ground in different countries. The Human Rights Council session also provides a platform for NGOs to work together on a particular issue, for NGOs with Consultative Status to bring NGOs without Consultative Status, experts, individual civil society members or victims of human rights violations to the UN and give them a platform on which they can make their voice heard.

IHRC has organized many side events. The majority of them since 2013 have been held in September and in

March. The most recent was on Islamophobia, Racism and Hate Crime in the UK. This was held in September 2016. Two events were held on Nigeria in the same month and then again on March 2017. Both focused on the subject of Sheikh Zakzaky and the Zaria Massacres. An event was also held to discuss the plight of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar with an eye-witness account courtesy of Mohid Azmi Abdul Hamid of the Malaysian Consultative Council Of Islamic Organizations. He spoke of the humanitarian flotilla that was sent to Myanmar to provide urgent assistance to the Rohingya muslims. These side events provide an opportunity to highlight issues to the media, civil society, member states and UN staff members. In March 2017, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) attended the event on the Rohingyas. We also saw a representative of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in our event on Sheikh Zakzaky.

IHRC will be continuing to advocate for better human rights in the corridors of the UN, not just Muslim causes but causes of all communities who are victims of human rights violations from nations who are acting with impunity or individuals and state authorities who have no regard for international human rights law.

Read more about our UN work here: www.ihrc.org.uk/activities/ihrc-at-un



IHRC's UN Side Panel on Counter Terrorism Policies in the UK

Jawad Husain

IHRC Advocacy

Fighting back against discrimination

AT IHRC'S Advocacy department, we continue to give advice and support to people who have been victims of Islamophobia and discrimination. We assist people in making complaints to local authorities, government bodies, police departments and other institutions.

We also support individuals who have been affected by the Schedule 7 stop and searches and the Prevent programme. These two areas are examples of institutional Islamophobia operating in the UK. Over the years we have been distributing Know Your Rights leaflets on both schedule 7 and Prevent and are in the process of developing a Know Your Rights Schedule 7 app that will be available on smartphones.

Read more about our Advocacy work here: www.ihrc.org.uk/advocacy

IHRC Legal

Helping those on the wrong end of "justice"

IHRC Legal has seen numerous successes over the last year

IHRC Legal has seen an unprecedented surge in demand for its services, providing high quality UK Immigration law (OISC Level 3) and Employment and Discrimination Law.

In relation to its Immigration law work, IHRC Legal has had numerous successful cases helping minors, families, vulnerable and destitute people and those with complex health problems apply for 'leave' or permission to remain in the UK.

In particular, IHRC Legal has seen an increase in demand from EEA nationals and their families seeking advice as to their rights in the light of Brexit and its inevitable repercussions for freedom of movement. IHRC Legal was able to advise a number of EEA nationals and their family members on how best to protect their

legal status in the UK in this time of uncertainty, in many cases helping secure Permanent Residence.

IHRC Legal continues to advise on the full range of immigration applications to the Home Office, including but not limited to:

- Entry Clearance Applications
- Leave to Remain Applications
- Indefinite Leave to Remain / EEA permanent residency
- EEA Registration Certificates / EEA Residence cards
- Human Rights applications
- Citizenship Applications – Naturalisation & Registration
- Applications for Immigration Bail
- Applications for replacement status documents or biometric residence permits / removal of conditions on leave to remain

- Preparation of and representation at Appeal hearings

In addition, IHRC Legal provides advice regarding discrimination, unfair dismissal, breach of contract and wrongful dismissal claims, unlawful deduction of wages, grievances, support during disciplinary and investigatory proceedings and representation at the Employment Tribunal.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss any employment or immigration matter please contact us on 020 8904 4222 or legal@ihrc.org.

Read more about IHRC Legal here: www.ihrc.org.uk/advocacy/116-advocacy/11426-ihrc-legal

Musthak Ahmed

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IHRC
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Another busy year for IHRC

2016 was a year of book launches, demonstrations, film screenings, conferences and storytelling sessions as IHRC regularly welcomed diverse audiences



It has certainly been a busy year in IHRC's events calendar: the annual Islamophobia Conference in London and Scotland, Islamophobia Awards, Muslim Heritage Stories with Khayaal Theatre, book launches, author evenings, demonstrations, children's storytelling events with amazing authors and film screenings, to name a few!

The third annual Islamophobia conference was held on Saturday 10 December 2016 at the P21 Gallery. Entitled *The Environment of Hate and the Police State*, the conference was co-organised with Scotland against Criminalising Communities; a parallel conference was held in Edinburgh on Saturday 3 December. Both conferences refocused the energies of activists and academics on the workings of anti-Muslim racism at societal and institutional levels that have resulted in the UK becoming a police state. The panels explored how education, the legal system and the PREVENT / Counter-terrorism regime create an environment of hate that facilitates the operation of a de facto Police State. In this state, citizens are either living in fear and self-censorship, or full and knowing complicity, or exceptionalist complacency or a combination of some or all of the aforesaid. Whilst the primary targets and victims of hateful discourse, discrimination and state and street violence are Muslims, everyone lives in this Environment and in this State and many minority communities now feel a resurgence of hatred.

Our first and certainly not last event with the Khayaal Theatre Company was *Muslim Heritage Stories* – a compelling, laugh-out-loud storytelling performance, entertaining for all the family. It consisted of interactive and comedic tales about courage, life, happiness, fortitude and generosity which were recited by the talented performer Eleanor Martin.

On 7 December 2016, IHRC hosted the launch of Dr Hatem Bazian's book *'Palestine... It Is Something Colonial'* published by Amrit Publishers. The event was an auspicious one as Dr Bazian had travelled from California especially to discuss his book and take questions from an eager audience.

The evening was chaired by Press TV's Amina Taylor. IHRC's Arzu Merali spoke on behalf of Amrit Publishers.

The book launch was held at the P21 Gallery in London and for the

evening the space was transformed to host prints from Sara Russell's exhibition on Palestine, *'Another Day.'*

Dr Hatem Bazian started off by saying that often we think of Palestine in the context of the Nakbah or the 'Six Day War' or the protests and rallies that take place today. But the truth of the situation is that the colonial legacy of Palestine began on 9 December, 1917 when Palestine entered the colonial project through the issuing of the Balfour Declaration. *'Palestine... It Is Something Colonial'* focuses on the need to reframe the Palestine situation through the lens of settler colonialism.

IHRC also hosts children's events every school holidays with notable authors such as Hajera Memon, Elizabeth Lymer and Nazia Jalali. The authors read from their books and hold interactive arts and crafts activities which always receive positive feedback from parents and children alike.

Visit our website for news of upcoming events:
www.ihrc.org.uk/events

Ashiya Mendheria

A day for all victims

Commemorated in London and Brussels to challenge the narrative that some victims matter more than others



Neturei Karta rabbis in attendance on Genocide Memorial Day

On Sunday, 15 January 2017 IHRC held its annual Genocide Memorial Day for the 7th year running since its inception in 2010. This year's theme was "Lessons from the Cultural Genocide of Muslims and Jews in Europe" and was successfully commemorated in London and Brussels.

The event was held at the P21 Gallery and attended by activists and academics as well as those who were simply curious to learn more about the topic of genocide. The conference opened with a recitation from the Quran followed by a speech by Raza Kazim who emphasized the importance of challenging the narrative that some victims matter more than others dependant on their backgrounds.

The programme was chaired by Nazim Ali who introduced the first panel consisting of Dr Rebecca Masterton and Sheikh Azmi Hamid of Malaysia.

Rebecca Masterton is a British Islamic scholar, educator, public speaker, academic and author of several academic articles. She made a fascinating contribution as she discussed the history of the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain. Moreover, she highlighted how the education system teaches this period of history, and how this miseducation impacts the European culture we live in today. She also made it clear that Europe is blind to its history and needs to be decolonised.

Sheikh Mohammad Azmi bin Abdul Hamid of Malaysia spoke about what is currently happening to the minority Rohingya population in Myanmar, sug-

gesting that there is strong evidence to show it is genocide. He addressed the terrible situation in Myanmar emphasizing how massacres are being deliberately orchestrated and hidden from the international community and affirming that Rohingya refugees are not just being killed but everything relating to the community is being erased as well.

“
Genocide is not just killing humans but involves the destruction and appropriation of knowledge
”

This year spoken word artist Narjis Khan performed her piece "Red Blood Spills", conveying the horror of the various interventionist wars taking place across the globe on behalf of the likes of the USA and the UK. IHRC's Poetry Competition is held every year as part of GMD, and the winners of this year's competition for children ages 11-18 were announced the same day.

The final speaker was Dr Ramón Grosfoguel, a decolonial scholar in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr Grosfoguel spoke about the history of cultural genocide and how it is rooted in

the bias of the education system and structural knowledge history of Europe. He also tackled the links between the rise of Islamophobia and genocide arguing how genocide is not just killing humans but involves the destruction and appropriation of knowledge, i.e an epistemicide.

The attendees, as well as the speakers, ended with a one-minute silence to commemorate victims of genocides across the globe. Raza Kazim concluded the conference by thanking the attendees, volunteers and stating very clearly that it is necessary to have an event like GMD to remember those who have been forgotten and to continue working together to fight for justice all over the world.

GMD in Brussels took place on 15th January with a group of activists and members of the local community. Dr Luis Martinez Andrade opened his talk by highlighting one of the ideas from Walter Benjamin, who maintained that "the colonial history of the European peoples begins with the monstrous process of the Conquest of America that turned the New World into a torture chamber". Martinez pointed out that reflecting on the idea of "genocide" implies thinking from the dark side of modernity, that is, from the first victims of modernity/coloniality.

Find Genocide Memorial Day resources here:
www.ihrc.org.uk/activities/projects/9928-introduction-to-gmd

Gara Almeida

TWO DECADES ON THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Establishing and upholding fundamental human rights in a hostile world is a challenging mission.

Whether it's campaigning for the release of political prisoners or trying to roll back unwarranted extensions of executive power, human rights groups all share the daunting task of facing down actors more powerful than themselves.

At the Islamic Human Rights Commission the very magnitude of this challenge is our most powerful driver. This year is the 20th anniversary of our birth and while we can look back at our achievements with a certain degree of pride this is tinged with the humbling realisation that the fight against injustice is an unending one that does not permit us to drop our guard for even a second.

IHRC was set up in 1997 by a group of activists whose vision was to translate their experience in human rights work into an effective organisation that would advocate and defend the rights of people worldwide. In a world where the vast

majority of human rights work was predicated on secular liberal values IHRC raised the standard of faith to present a faith-based discourse showing that Islam afforded every individual with fundamental rights, regardless of their background. Moreover in today's world, Muslims bear the brunt of human rights abuses but are often neglected by human rights organisations or treated in such a way that ignores or undermines their Islamic values.

Quranic inspiration

Our raison d'etre is informed and inspired by the Qur'anic exhortation (chapter 4, verse 75) for believers to rise up in defence of the oppressed:

"And what reason have you that you should not fight in the way of Allah and of the weak among the men and the women and the children, (and of) those who say: 'O Lord! Cause us to go forth from this



A reading of Talha Ahsan's poetry with Massoud Shadjareh and Bruce Kent, 2012



Michael Warschawski speaks at the Against Zionism: Jewish Perspectives Conference, 2006



Launch of Islamophobia Report at the House of Lords with Lord Ahmed and Home Office Minister Mike O'Brien, 2001



Launch of IHRC's first report on British Muslims' Expectations of the Government (BMEG) at the House of Lords, 2004



Turkish journalist Gul Aslan was jailed for over three years without charge. IHRC worked tirelessly to secure her eventual freedom. Read the important article that helped spread the word in 1999, 'Freedom is my Daughter's Name' by Arzu Merali, here: <http://www.ihr.org.uk/news/comment/9405-freedom-is-my-daughters-name>

town, whose people are oppressors, and give us from Thee a guardian and give us from Thee a helper'."

“
**One of the reasons
 IHRC has excelled
 in this field is because
 we have been forward-
 looking and proactive**”

It is a testament to how far we have come that today we are recognised as a leading and highly respected human rights organisation. Punching well above our weight from our humble headquarters in London we produce information that is widely utilised by governmental and other agencies. We also take pride in

partnering with other organisations around the world, particularly those engaged in decolonial research and activism, a field through which we aim to roll back the ongoing neo-colonial domination of peoples and countries.

Ground-breaking research

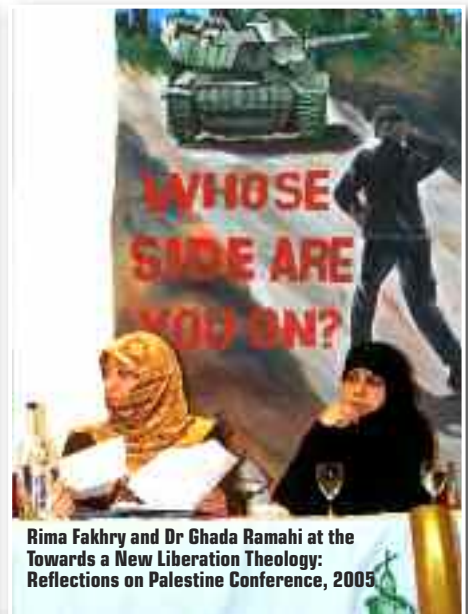
This year, our academically acclaimed hate crime research series covering several jurisdictions was instrumental in IHRC being chosen alongside other European universities to carry out a large-scale project that aims to compare the operation of counter-narratives to Muslim hatred in eight EU member states.

One of the reasons IHRC has excelled in this field is because we have been forward-looking and proactive instead of simply reacting to events. This approach has allowed us to define the agenda, plan

Continued on page 12



Huda Kaya and Intisaar Saatcioglu both faced the death penalty in Turkey, 1998. With IHRC's help and campaigning, they were eventually released



Rima Fakhry and Dr Ghada Ramahi at the Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine Conference, 2005

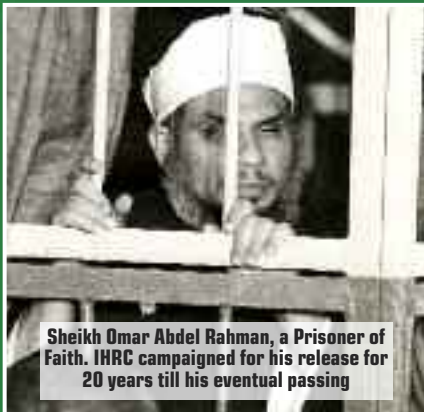
Commemorating 20 Years of IHRC



Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn with Dr Hatem Bazian at the launch of 'Palestine... It Is Something Colonial', 2016



The first IHRC conference. It focused on events post-9/11 and the panel includes Sheikh Bahmanpour, George Galloway, Massoud Shadjareh and Nazim Ali, 2001



Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, a Prisoner of Faith. IHRC campaigned for his release for 20 years till his eventual passing



Imam Jamil, a Prisoner of Faith who is yet to be released.



Demonstration against the imprisonment of Sheikh Zakzaky, 1998

Continued from page 11

ahead and put in place systems to deal with issues such as Islamophobia. Foreseeing that Islamophobia would rise and become just as important a social cleavage as race prompted us to carry out rigorous research in the form of our hate crime projects, and organise conferences and campaigns with the aim of raising awareness at public and policy-making levels. It also allowed us to set up advocacy and legal departments in order to help those who have become its victims.

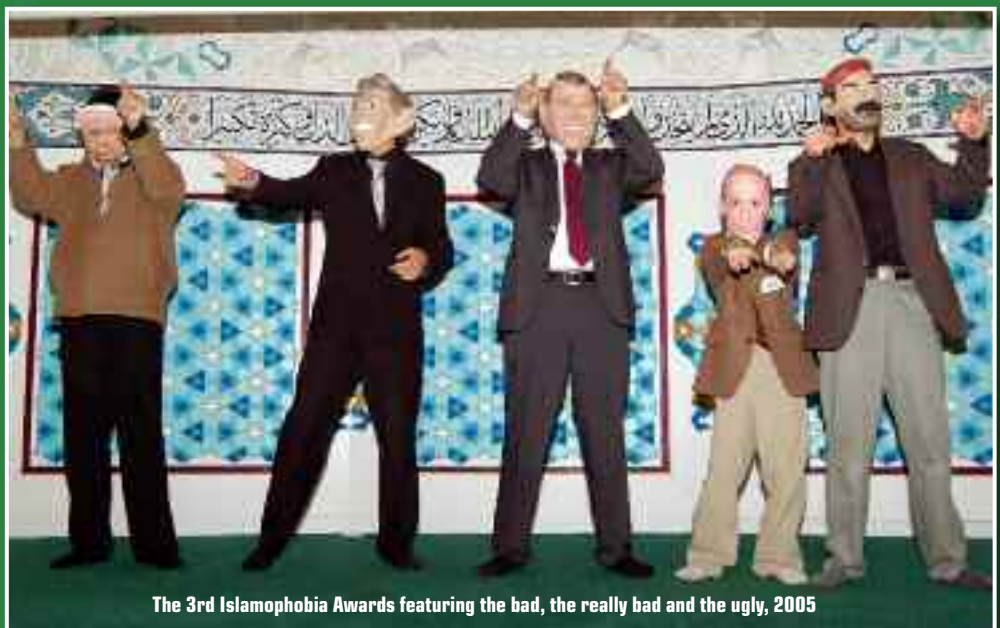
Many successes

IHRC's expertise in the field of Islamic human rights earned it accreditation with the United Nations in 2007, a status which allows us to make representations to various UN departments and hold or participate in UN events. Our work on the international level has seen many successes. Indeed we estimate that it has been instrumental in the release of approximately 3000 prisoners including many of those interned in the

notorious Guantanamo Bay detention facility after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US.

We campaigned for them and others without fear or favour regardless of the fact that our position would often place us in opposition to popular opinion. When the late Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman was framed by the US government and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1995 under sedition laws that had not been used since the American Civil War era we designated him a "prisoner of faith" and maintained a lifelong campaign to protest his innocence.

In 2006, we succeeded in saving dual British-Pakistani national Mirza Tahir Hussain from the gallows. Mirza was convicted and sentenced to death for accidentally killing a taxi driver who had tried to sexually assault him during a visit to Pakistan. IHRC campaigned intensely at national and international levels against what we considered a gross miscarriage of justice with the eventual outcome being a presidential commutation of the death sentence and Mirza's release from prison after 18 years' incarceration.



The 3rd Islamophobia Awards featuring the bad, the really bad and the ugly, 2005



IHRC-led delegation meets with Erdogan to stop Israel's admission to the OECD, 2010



Sheikh Zakzaky, Imam Achmad Cassiem and Massoud Shadjareh at a UJN meeting in London, 2009

One of our first campaigns was for the release of Sheikh Ibrahim el-Zakzaky, then an emerging Nigerian Muslim leader imprisoned by the junta

“
By standing up to
injustice ourselves we
hope to inspire others
to do likewise
”

of Sani Abacha between 1996-1998 for declaring that there was no sovereignty above that of Allah and campaigning for a free Palestine. Sheikh Zakzaky was imprisoned along with his wife and children and hundreds of his supporters, many of whom were beaten and raped. As with the case of Sheikh Omar, mainstream human rights groups failed to take up the fight and indeed even acquiesced in the injustice by presenting these figures as part of a wider 'Islamic threat'. Two decades on from his arrest by Abacha, history is repeating itself.

Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife are in prison again, thousands of his followers have been shot, arrested and abused, this time under a democratically elected regime, and we find ourselves again campaigning for his release.

At a time when Muslims are under pressure from all directions whether it is through military force, punitive legislation, political and media hatemongering or everyday discrimination our work seeks to try and maintain the confidence and dignity of the community and enable it to attain its divinely appointed status as the "best community (raised up as an example) for mankind". By standing up to injustice ourselves we hope to inspire others to do likewise and furnish them with the tools to do so effectively.

Twenty years on the battlefield has neither blunted our resolve or exhausted our energy. In fact it has only steeled us and honed our skills, enabling us to exert more influence in the struggle against those who seek to misuse power and authority.

Faisal Bodi



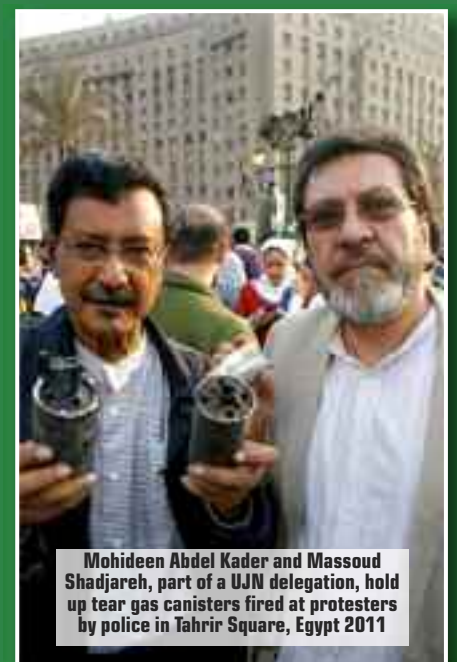
Volunteers at Al Quds Day, 2008



Arzu Merali at a UN Panel on Hijab bans across Europe, 2010



Muslim World Priority Meeting in Pakistan. Members of different Muslim groups pledged to end sectarian conflict, 2013



Mohideen Abdel Kader and Massoud Shadjareh, part of a UJN delegation, hold up tear gas canisters fired at protesters by police in Tahrir Square, Egypt 2011

A hive of activity

With an ever burgeoning array of new books and artwork and the continuation of stellar events, the IHRC Bookshop continues to go from strength to strength

The IHRC Bookshop & Gallery has enjoyed another eventful year. Once again we have hosted memorable events such as Author Evenings, Book Launches and of course the continuation of our Children's Events.

Perhaps most exciting of all is that the Bookshop is now the prime outlet for the IHRC's newest publication; *'The Life and Marriage of Fatimah al-Zahra'*, written by Luqman Al-Andalusi as the second volume in his series; *'The Jewels of Ahlul-Bayt'*. IHRC is grateful to be able to be involved in the creation of this title and pleased to be able to offer it in our shop.

This and our other publications in many ways represent an objective we strive to fulfil at the bookshop which is to help uncover forms of useful of knowledge and disseminate information that is both informative and rewarding not just to the Muslim community, but for the community as a whole.

Staying with the theme of community, IHRC Bookshop is happy to report our events this past year have been well-received by the local residents in Wembley. In Spring last year we welcomed back academic Habeeb Akande for the launch of his long-awaited new book *'Illuminating the Blackness'*, which talks about Islam in Brazil's past and present. Our second book launch of the year came in June when we welcomed back children's author Aisha Muhammad for a joint storytelling Session and re-launch of her book *'Jaariya Jar'*.

Last year proved to be a memorable year for our children's events as we held



a slew of fun and entertaining afternoons. In July the bookshop became an arts and crafts workshop with *Shade7 Publications* and Hajera Memon. In October we hosted another children's author, Nazia Jalali as she read from her book *'The House of Ibn Kathir'*, which proved popular with both young and older children. Already this year we have had a successful children's event that marked World Book Day in March, with author Elizabeth Lymer returning for a storytelling.

In addition to book events, this past year we have hosted three film screenings. In August we showed *Insight to Riot* directed by Sukant Chandan. Then in November we showcased *'Sell-Off-The Abolition of the NHS'*. The final screening this February was a screening of IHRC's own production *'The Zone of Non-Being'*, a film about Guantanamo Bay.

2017 got off to a great start as we hosted discussions with esteemed academics. In February we were proud to host an evening with the eminent Malaysian activist Sheikh Azmi, in which he discussed the plight of the Rohingya in Myanmar. And in March we welcomed back our long-term supporters Ramon Grosfoguel and Sandew Hira in a riveting discussion and Q&A titled *'Decolonising the Mind'*.

With an ever burgeoning array of new books and artwork and the continuation of stellar events, we hope that the IHRC Bookshop can only continue to go from strength to strength.

**All books mentioned are available at shop.ihrc.org. If you would like to host an event at our gallery or have us bring a book-stall to your event please call 02089044222 or email shop@ihrc.org*

Kamal Khan

Publications

More new titles hit the shelves

IHRC Press was pleased to announce the publication of *'The Life and Marriage of Fatimah al-Zahra'* by Luqman al-Andalusi in February 2017. The book sets out the virtues and qualities of a woman described as one of the most esteemed in Islam.

The daughter of the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Sayyidah Fatimah lived a virtuous and exemplary life. Her role encompassed every facet of Islam and her devotion to Allah was absolute. She was a pillar of strength for her father and her family in the face of oppression and tribulation. She sacrificed her own worldly comforts to serve the poor and needy. In a materialistic and celebrity-

obsessed world, her example is a stark and impressive contrast.

Detailing her relationships with her family, there is focus on the impressive bond she shared with her father and her enduring marriage to Sayyiduna Ali ibn Abi Talib. Beautifully told, the narrative fits that of an explorer on a new journey. Sayyidah Fatimah's life is rich with knowledge and joy and her decisions are choices that we in the 21st century can continue to make for our own betterment. Luqman al-Andalusi's work is certainly one that can be enjoyed by all.

Also due to be published within the year is a series of lectures by A J Shari'ati entitled *'On the Sociology of Islam'*

translated from the Persian by Hamid Algar. The work puts forward 'a number of fresh concepts on the sociology of Islam' in a style that is courageous and erudite. In the future, also make sure to look out for a series of Imam Khomeini's lectures – also translated by Hamid Algar. IHRC's hate crime project that looks at the hatred suffered by Muslims will also be bulked up as we release studies based in France, Germany and Chicago.

Find out about previous IHRC publications here: www.ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports

Nadia Rasheed

Seeking justice for victims of state violence

IHRC is leading the campaign to hold the authorities to account for multiple massacres against supporters and leaders of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria

In late 2015 we reported the Nigerian Army's attack against the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN). The attack took place over two days in Kaduna, Nigeria in December 2015 and resulted in at least 1000 fatalities, all of them civilians including women and children. The majority of deaths were caused by gunshots fired by soldiers. Cases of people being burnt alive have also emerged along with evidence of injuries caused by machetes or other knife wounds thought to be the work of the criminal groups that perpetrated acts of looting and mutilation alongside the military. Signs of torture and electrocution have been evidenced on the bodies of victims including the IMN leader Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky. The army even admitted to burying the dead in a mass grave, while there are at least two other known mass graves that the army is refusing to acknowledge.

Since then the Nigerian army has tried to launch an attack on IMN members in Potiskum and attacked a peaceful procession by IMN members in Abuja. In Muharram the army attacked various Ashura processions led by the IMN, across Nigeria. In Funtua in Katsina state, nine people were killed when security forces opened fire with live rounds on followers of the IMN taking part in a procession. Another fatality was reported in the north western state of Sokoto. In Kano some 200 IMN followers, many of them women, were arrested. Troops also used tear gas and live ammunition to attack the IMN centre in the city of Jos in Plateau state. In October there was an announcement by the Kaduna state government in Nigeria to ban the IMN. According to the decision membership of the organisation is illegal and carries a prison term of seven years and/or an unspecified fine.

Shaykh Zakzaky himself has been detained without trial or any charges being brought against him. The high court in Abuja ordered that the State Security Services free Shaykh Zakzaky and his wife Zeenah and the deadline for doing so was 15 January 2017. The State Security Services failed to do so, and continue to detain both without any legal justification. Shaykh Zakzaky continues to suffer from the injuries sustained in the 2015 attack. He has lost his sight in one eye, and doctors have said he will lose his sight in his other eye if he is not seen by a specialist doctor soon. The Nigerian government has refused him access to a specialist eye doctor.

IHRC has spoken out against these atrocities and has been involved in a multi-faceted campaign. We raised a complaint with the International Criminal Court which is currently looking into the issue. They even questioned Nigerian officials about the atrocities in November 2016. IHRC has provided support to Nigerian activists as attacks were about to happen. This allowed the activists to bring to international attention impending attacks by the Nigerian army. On a number of occasions this publicity, provided by IHRC, helped avoid further violence as the authorities knew their actions were under scrutiny. We have also raised the issues with members of the European

Parliament. Our work has meant the EU institutions have raised these issues with relevant Nigerian government ministers.

All of this has allowed us to maintain constant pressure on the Nigerian government. But we need your support to continue this work. Please visit our Nigeria timeline page where you will find updates and action alerts. Your support in putting pressure on the Nigerian government is essential if we are to bring those responsible to task. Donate to help victims of the Zaria massacre here: <https://donations.ihr.org/>

Abed Choudhury

Visit the IHRC Bookshop & Gallery In-store and on-line




The IHRC Bookshop hosts an array of titles; from political exposes to fictional works for children. We pride ourselves on carrying books that are not easy to find and source. Our own publications can be found online and in-store. Do you want to be more informed on Islam – pick a biography or a translation of the Qu'ran – or perhaps you'd like to engage with some critical thinking and are interested in dissecting issues of race, civil rights and economics? We will have you covered!



Make the IHRC Bookshop your destination for toms on current politics, decolonial theory and contemporary struggles – and know that we have a little bit of everything else too!





All profits from the sales go to IHRCT and help fund the work that we do.

If you live in or near London, UK you can always pop in to our store.

We are open from 10am – 6pm Monday to Saturday.

Our address is 202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA (nearest tube Preston Road, Metropolitan Line).

See you soon in-store or on-line, insha Allah.

SHOP.IHRC.ORG






Flying the flag for Palestine

“Al Quds Day is a universal day. It is not an exclusive day for Quds itself. It is a day for the oppressed to rise and stand up against the arrogant.”



On Sunday 3 July 2016, just a couple of days before Eid-ul-Fitr, families, students, activists, Muslim and non-Muslim, from toddlers to respected elders, all united on a cool summer's day to peacefully rally through the busy streets of London in commemoration of Al Quds Day. In support of the Palestinian struggle and other worldwide oppressions, 4000 people gathered for Al Quds Day – an annual day of action and mobilization inaugurated by Imam Khomeini, which he characterised thus: “Al Quds Day is a universal day. It is not an exclusive day for Quds itself. It is a day for the oppressed to rise and stand up against the arrogant.”

Coaches brought masses of people from all over the UK, including Luton, Watford, Newport, East London, Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, Woking, Crawley, Nottingham and Leicester. Chairman of the rally, Nazim Ali led with speakers, drums and chants of solidarity. The march took off from Duchess Street, behind BBC Broadcasting House, and continued through some of the busiest roads in London - Regent Street and Oxford Street - to the US Embassy outside Grosvenor Square Garden. A few stops were made on the way to name and shame the unethical companies complicit in supporting Israel's illegal occupations.

At Grosvenor Square, pro-Palestine supporters met fewer than a hundred

pro-Israeli supporters waving their Israeli flags behind fences and a row of the Metropolitan Police force. Pro-Zionist MP, Matthew Offord also attended their rally with what appears to be members of JDL-UK wearing Kahane Chai t-shirts. Kahane Chai is officially listed as a terrorist organisation in the US, Canada and Israel.

“
A few stops were made on the way to name and shame the unethical companies complicit in supporting Israel's illegal occupations
”

Our pro-Palestine, pro-justice, pro-peace demonstrators are never provocative or incendiary, unlike Zionist supporters who attempt to infiltrate Al Quds Day protests when they are not allowed to.

The first speaker was Michel Warschawski, an Israeli anti-Zionist peace activist and journalist. He led the “Matzpen” (Compass) Israeli Socialist organisation until the 1990s, and co-founded the Alternative Information Centre. In 1982 he was among a group of

reserve soldiers and officers who refused to serve in Lebanon. In 1987 he was arrested and charged for supporting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), labelled a ‘terrorist’ organisation in Israel, and jailed for 10 months. His books include *On the Border and Towards an Open Tomb - the Crisis of Israeli Society*. Warschawski stated the Palestinian struggle is beyond Palestine or the region and that people of all backgrounds do care about Jerusalem.

Next to speak was Aadam Muuse, the newly elected Black Students' officer for NUS UK. Aadam has been involved in student activism for a number of years now and is heavily involved in the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign. Other speakers included Mick Napier from Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Sandra Wafta from InMinds, Sheikh Mohammed Bahmanpour, Amir Hossein Noori from the Islamic Students Association and Rabbi Weiss. There were also speeches by Les Levidow from CAMPACC and Palestinian artist and blogger, Shahd Abusalama. Closing remarks were delivered by IHRC chairman, Massoud Shadjareh.

Learn more about Al Quds Day here:
www.ihrc.org.uk/activities/projects/9428-al-quds-day

Ashiya Mendheria



Sunday 18th June 2017

ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION & RALLY IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE

AL QUDS DAY

ORGANISED BY JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE COMMITTEE

END
APARTHEID
NOW!

Sunday 18 June 2017

Assemble at Duchess Street, W1 at 3pm, to march to the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square

Speakers: TBC

Nearest tube stations: Regent's Park (Bakerloo Line), Great Portland Street (Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan lines)

For more information please contact ashiya@ihrc.org or 020 8904 4222

“THOSE WHO ARE SILENT WHEN OTHERS ARE OPPRESSED ARE GUILTY OF OPPRESSION THEMSELVES” HUSSAIN IBN ALI (AS)

When you see the suffering of the
Palestinians, do you feel helpless?



You already boycott the companies
that support Israel, but feel there
must be something more you can do?



Are you an armchair activist, time to
go beyond online petitions & social
media posts to your friends?



Then its time you joined Inminds
human rights group..



ABOUT US

We are a small friendly London based group, all our work is
grassroots, on the streets, peaceful action. We hold protests every
two weeks, sometimes more often if there is an emergency.

If you are interested, please contact us at volunteer@inminds.co.uk
Don't worry, we don't require any commitment from you, we will just
send you information of our next action and if you are free, just come
along and check it out.. if you like what you see then come again
whenever you have the time. Videos of our previous actions:
youtube.com/inminds



Temporary protest in a parkland in case of being asked to leave

PALESTINIAN PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

Whilst we run several different campaigns on Palestine, our core campaign,
launched five years ago on Al Qatib Day is the Palestinian Prisoners Campaign.
Israel's illegal occupation is enforced by mass slavery, torture and
impoverishment of the Palestinian population.

Children are especially targeted. Last year between
Oct 2015 and Aug 2016 Israel abducted and raped
2,322 Palestinian children, some as young as 11
years old - that's more than one child taken from
their parents every 4 hours. Figures for Jerusalem
show that 40% of the children were sexually abused
by Israeli soldiers during arrest or interrogation.
During interrogation 75% of Palestinian children
detained by Israel are physically tortured. The
United Nations 'Rights of the Child' report 4th July
2015 documents the brutal torture of Palestinian
children as standard practice during interrogations
in order to coerce confessions, usually to store
knowing which carries a sentence of up to 20 years'
imprisonment.

The Palestinian Prisoners Campaign aims to raise
awareness for the plight of Palestinian prisoners and
help solidarity for their struggle and work towards
their freedom. We work closely with the families of
the prisoners, campaigning on their behalf, targeting
the press and points in the UK that might help secure
their release in Palestine. Over the years, dozens of
prisoners we have campaigned for have been
released, some have unfortunately been re-arrested
and the campaign continues. As part of this
campaign we target UK based companies that are
complicit in Israel's prison system.

G4S

The British security company G4S secured Israel's
prisons and interrogations centre where
Palestinians, including young children, are caged and
tortured. For over 4 years, we held protests
regularly outside the global headquarters of G4S,
and at all its AGMs; and outside its key clients like
the Labour Party Conference and UNICEF; and its
major shareholders like the Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation. It was a long drawn out campaign which
finally bore fruit last December 2018 when G4S
announced it had sold most of its Israeli facilities
including all its contracts with the Israeli prison
service. The Financial Times reported the reason
behind the G4S exit was to "extract itself from
reputationally damaging work". Israel's Security
Minister Gila Erdan also admitted "G4S was a
factor in the decision of security company G4S to
sell their operations in Israel."

HEWLETT PACKARD HP/HPE

The technology company HP implements and
manages the server farm for the entire Israeli army
and Ministry of Defence and provides Israeli prisons
and interrogation centres the systems and servers
needed to keep them operational. For nearly 5
years Inminds has been campaigning against HP,
picketing their London HQ, their annual 'World
Tour' and 'Discover' events, conferences which
they have sponsored like the sustainable brands,
and stores where their PCs are stocking like
ASDA. This is an ongoing campaign which
has/Will, with your help, can also bear fruit.



Free Palestine Day on the 1st of August in a public square



Labour Party Conference - solidarity with G4S (left) and G4S



Protesting G4S at the annual Labour Party Conference



Protest outside HP headquarters in London



On the 1st of August - solidarity public show of HP - protest on street



INMINDS.COM

info@inminds.co.uk
[inmindoc.com](https://www.inmindoc.com)
www.inminds.com
[youtube.com/inminds](https://www.youtube.com/inminds)

IHRC plays crucial role in EU's efforts to tackle Islamophobia

IHRC's role has never been more important than in this second year of fighting against Islamophobia in Europe. Our objectives look increasingly challenging and there is a demand for a stronger response by the EU. In this regard, IHRC believes that the fight against Islamophobia is a strong political signal from the European institutions, especially considering its increasingly structural dimension, and they must reinforce their efforts to tackle Islamophobia and promote full equality and inclusion in Europe.

Globally, 2016 was a year that witnessed worsening conditions in what IHRC calls a 'hate environment' that has been deliberately whipped up by the media, politicians, with the purpose of 'otherising' Muslims and legitimising discriminatory treatment of them through official policy. In this regard, IHRC looks at the past year positively in terms of the collaboration with the EU partners, which became more entrenched through permanent high-level meetings and seminars aimed at bringing the anti-Islamophobic discourse to the core of EU's work. During these public and private meetings, held throughout the year

with the ENAR-led network of European NGOs committed to combating Islamophobia, Amnesty and the EU Coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred David Friggieri, IHRC had the opportunity to consolidate its contribution and have its say in the EU. The genuine results from the endeavours and contribution by IHRC are encouraging and visible, although much more work needs to be done, especially in relation to the disproportionate impact of recent counter-terrorism measures on Muslim communities and the harmonization of data collection on Islamophobic hate crimes.

Furthermore, IHRC is already preparing for future initiatives, aimed at promoting best practice guidance for national authorities on how to better implement hate crime legislation, achieve a better understanding of the needs of hate crime victims and address the need to also look into intersectional forms of hate crime. These issues are and will be all given prominence in the sessions of the High-Level Group and the FRA-led Subgroup, and brought to the attention of Member States, international organisations and other civil society

organisations in the dedicated panel on anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination.

Last but not least, thanks to the valued support of the UK MEPs Jean Lambert and Afzal Khan, and the Anti-Racism and Diversity Parliamentary Intergroup, in September last year IHRC launched its report 'Environment of Hate: the New Normal for Muslims in the UK' for the first time in the European Parliament, featuring experts, academics, civil society organisations, EU institutions and European Muslim human rights activists. IHRC reported its findings on the rise of Islamophobia, predominantly in the UK, but also in other EU member states. The report highlighted embedded stereotypes and coded discriminatory language and found that government policy and media influence actually propagate attitudes of hatred, hostility and violence towards Muslims, and indeed other minorities. Special attention was given also to the UK government's PREVENT anti-extremism strategy and the relevance of intersectionality in encountering anti-discrimination law.

Caterina Aiena

Universal Justice Network

Conference sees signing of 'Penang Declaration'

SET up in 2008, the Universal Justice Network (UJN) is an umbrella organisation for 50 different Muslim-led NGOs with two secretariats headed by IHRC in London and Citizens International (CI) in Penang, Malaysia. Addressing sectarianism at an intra-Muslim level is at the core of the UJN agenda, and the focal point of the conflict resolution projects implemented by UJN.

In October 2016 a report was produced entitled 'Whose Hajj is it anyway?' examining the mismanagement of Hajj by Saudi Arabia. Based on historical examples of more collective forms of Hajj administration, the report proposed establishing a framework allowing all Muslim countries to come together to manage this pilgrimage.

Following this, another report analysed the inadequacy of the international response to international 'terror-

ism' in terms of protecting human rights in a publication entitled 'The Hollowing of Human Rights in the Post 9/11 World'. This examined human rights abuses by states in their 'counter-terrorism' policies, and also argued that the concept of human rights has been severely undermined by rendering it as a rhetorical device, devoid of substantive meaning.

Continuing with the theme of international institutions, UJN produced a report on 'The Colonial Face of International Law' which examined how the history and sources of international law perpetuate certain power structures and hierarchies rooted in European colonial history. This was followed by a report on war crimes committed by Saudi Arabia in the Yemen conflict.

Aside from report writing, a conference was organised in Malaysia on 'Muslim Challenges, Priorities and Solutions' in October 2016. It provided an opportu-

nity for activists, scholars and practitioners passionate about Islamic human rights to meet and discuss the issues of the day. The conference resulted in the signing of the Penang Declaration which codified the themes of the conference and provided a framework within which to move forward.

The Declaration starts by recognising a wide range of challenges facing Muslims today, including the destruction and devaluing of human life through the creation of a culture of death, wars, acts of aggression and unrestrained economic exploitation of resources by a wealthy minority; the colonisation of Muslim educational and institutional space; the scourge of sectarianism dividing the Ummah; the decline in morality in Muslim societies and the social engineering of Islam to serve western interests.

Narjis Khan

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If so please help ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TRUST

The Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust is a charity registered in the UK (number 1106120) that raises money to fund purely charitable work. This includes e.g. work to raise awareness about human rights or to ensure that existing human rights laws are being properly enforced. It could also provide relief to victims of human rights abuses and

their families.

If you wish to donate money that will be used for purely charitable purposes as defined by the Charities Commission you can send donations to the Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust. Please make cheques payable to the Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust or pay by credit or debit card by

filling in your details below and send it with the completed form below. UK tax payers are able to utilise Gift Aid when donating to Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust, by ticking the relevant box(es) below. This means that every £10 given using gift aid is worth £12.50 to IHRCT. You can also call the

office and donate with your credit or debit card on 020 8904 4222 (if you are outside the UK please call +44 20 8904 4222. Please make sure you state that you want it to be a GIFT AID donation.

May Allah s.w.t. reward all your efforts. Ameen.

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NOTES: You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the charity. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity claims, you can cancel your declaration. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief ask your local tax office for leaflet IR 65. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address. Please note the charity cannot fund any political work or lobbying for a change in existing law (please see page 16 if you are interested in donating to all of IHRCT's work including its noncharitable work).

SUPPORT JUSTICE, HELP IHRC

IHRC has grown and developed through the generous donations of its supporters without whom, we could not have survived. Please remember us this year with your du'a and your financial assistance.

Please help us in whatever way you can – a small monthly contribution is as valuable as a generous one-off donation.

If you wish to donate solely to IHRC's charitable work, please complete

the IHRC Trust form (page 20). Otherwise please fill in this form (page 21).

There are many worthy causes, and we request that you remember IHRC's work when donating, in the best way that you can.



May Allah s.w.t.
reward all your efforts
in this world and the
next. Ameen.

Supporters of IHRC get free copies of IHRC reports (those paying concessionary rates get a selection) and reduced rates on other items. Concessionary supporters are encouraged to donate £5 a month. Without this type of regular support – however small, IHRC would not be able to operate.

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PO Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH,
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 I would like a receipt

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Please make all cheques payable to
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Social Media

Stay informed and involved wherever you are

IHRC's presence on an array of social media platforms – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Soundcloud and Vimeo - has only continued to grow over the past year. We've interacted with our wider community in a number of ways and increased our capacity to livestream events too.

Previously events would be streamed live across the world via the IHRC website (www.IHRC.TV), but IHRC now streams via Facebook and Youtube too! This has helped to diversify our audience who can now tune in live, wherever they are, in a number of different ways. Youtube and Facebook users can also leave comments as the event is taking place and this has certainly made for interesting author evenings and panel discussions.

We have seen an increase in video content on the IHRC Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Islamic->

[Human-Rights-Commission-109724959498/](https://www.facebook.com/Islamic-Human-Rights-Commission-109724959498/)) and the IHRC Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ihrcc>) where users have been happily sharing a series of short videos produced from



larger events. Videos featuring Ramon Grosfoguel discussing epistemicide and Narjis Khan reciting poetry have received plaudits and been shared widely on both websites. While these platforms allow for us to share soundbites of longer messages, full-length presentations and discussions can be found on Youtube (www.youtube.com/user/IHRCTV/) and Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/user2933030>).

IHRC Instagram has also grown

over the past year and has proven to be especially popular with attendees of our storytelling sessions. Parents get clear glimpses of the fun activities their children are experiencing alongside the educational lessons that are being taught too.

IHRC also offers its supporters a number of different mailing lists to subscribe to for weekly information. The Alerts list has general updates, event information, invitations and more (<http://eepurl.com/OnJE9>); the IHRC Bookshop list for new titles and discount codes (<http://eepurl.com/WDZE1>) and the Islamophobia list for a carefully curated monthly newsletter (<http://eepurl.com/bWDnML>). Other general updates can also be found on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter which users can like/follow for regular and immediate content.

Nadia Rasheed

Volunteer with IHRC

Join us for a mutually rewarding experience

It is the individuals who willingly give up their free time that deserve true commendation

Islamic Human Rights Commission's most valued contribution comes from its volunteers and interns. Whether it is someone who has spent a few hours at a late night demonstration in support of Palestine, an intern who has worked to build our databases over the course of a few months or a volunteer who has devoted years in service to IHRC – what they have contributed is certainly recognised and appreciated.

Here at IHRC we are deeply reliant on our volunteers. We want to make clear that any form of help you can provide is worthwhile and important. Many of the campaigns run by IHRC involve letter-writing, informing local politicians and international organisations of important and relevant issues and demanding to have our voices heard. Without the combined fervour that you provide, we would make substantially less of an impact.

Flagship events like Al Quds Day and the Islamophobia Awards are only ever able to go ahead thanks to the help of our determined volunteers. Though the role played may seem minuscule when framing it in the context of the longer and wider struggle for justice, its value can-

not be understated. It is the individuals who willingly give up their free time to help usher guests and steward demonstrators that deserve true commendation.

There are many ways that you too can offer your help at IHRC. You could help in admin (if you are based near the IHRC offices), research, demonstrations, campaigning, distributing IHRC materials, manning stalls and helping out at events. Volunteering is helpful to us but also helps you to develop your own personal skills and broadens your mind. It is an excellent way to become familiar with what practical action you can take to pursue justice and preserve human rights. If you want to volunteer in this way please email nadia@ihrc.org for more information.

Find out how to volunteer here: www.ihrc.org.uk/about-ihrc/volunteering-for-ihrc

Nadia Rasheed





EMPLOYMENT & IMMIGRATION LAW

Please contact us on:
legal@ihrc.org
020 8904 4222

IHRC
Legal

202 Preston Road,
Wembley HA9 8PA
www.ihrc.org.uk

Free Advice Surgeries

Islamic Human Rights Commission offers free weekly Information and Advice surgeries every Wednesdays. Our professional caseworkers can provide people with information and advice on a whole range of issues.

What issues will the surgeries cover?

The advice surgeries will provide advice on:

- Employment
- Benefits
- Discrimination
- Complaints against the Police

When are the surgeries?

Every Wednesdays 5pm-7pm

Appointments can be made and will be available in 20 minute sessions.

Where are the surgeries?

The surgeries will be held at Islamic Human Rights Commissions office in Wembley: 202 Preston Road, Wembley HA9 8PA.

Closest tube station is Preston Road station on the Metropolitan line.

How much will it cost?

All advice given at the advice surgery is free of charge.

If you are interested and would like to book an appointment, then please call Islamic Human Rights Commission on 0208 904 4222.

Please note, as there are limited sessions on offer, they will be available on a first come, first served basis but we will try and offer you the next available date if they are fully booked.

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Testimonies



"In order to, defend the rights of the oppressed people of Palestine, I involved myself in the preparation of a Quds Day program in Ankara, in 1997. Subsequently, I was arrested and after a brief trial I was sentenced, unlawfully, to 17 and half years in prison... Due to [IHRC's] campaigns, many people contacted me from abroad to extend their support. Further, IHRC constantly pressured the Turkish government and raised the case of my unlawful imprisonment via international platforms. This was a massive moral boost for me. IHRC campaigned for my freedom and their support has not only helped result in my freedom but also became a model for the other prisoners of faith in Turkey. IHRC took my case to the European Courts of Human Rights which overturned the decision of the courts in Turkey. I was subsequently released from prison... I take this opportunity to thank Massoud Shadjareh, Arzu Merali and everyone else at IHRC and congratulate them earnestly for their hard and rewarding work... It is my firm conviction that so long as IHRC remains to exist, oppressed and imprisoned Muslims won't be left alone and unsupported."

Nurettin Şirin



"IHRC were very supportive during the campaign that me and my daughters carried out against the Headscarf ban in Turkey. During those difficult times, we were persecuted and prosecuted unfairly, and IHRC provided unwavering support for us. Their persistent international campaign against the headscarf ban contributed to the eventual removal of the ban. Also, the IHRC sent a legal team to support our case in the Turkish courts which drew international attention to our case. Consequently, due to the pressure the prosecutors dropped the death penalty charges against us."

Hüda Kaya



"May Allah (Ta'Ala) Reward you for your kind words and thoughts. May Allah make me worthy of, and ever grateful for all that He gives me. Please keep me in your dua'as. Give my salaams to the Ummah"

Imam Jamil Al-Amin



"I was imprisoned for 18 years, and on death row following a miscarriage of justice. IHRC... was instrumental in my eventual release in 2007. I can never thank you enough. May God bless you all, reward you amply in this life and the life hereafter. Keep up the vital work that you do."

Mirza Tahir Hussain



"I will never forget the solidarity and support given to my family and me by Massoud Shadjareh and the indefatigable IHRC and all they did in the fight against the evils of Guantanamo"

Moazzam Begg

Join the struggle for justice
Join IHRC
Islamic Human Rights Commission www.ihrc.org



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