



# ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## 2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*“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 town, whose people are oppressors, and give us from Thee a guardian and give us from Thee a helper’.”*

***Holy Qur'an: Chapter 4, Verse 75***



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



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# Chairman's foreword

Last year (2017-2018) was another very challenging year for all of us. We witnessed a staggering increase in the promotion of the environment of hate. Politicians of all persuasions and media have undoubtedly created this climate which has unleashed further hatred and Islamophobia against an innocent Muslim community where more men, women and children have become victims. Unfortunately, this phenomenon is a global one, and we have seen the results of it in the USA, UK, France, New Zealand, Myanmar, Kashmir, India and China, to name just a few places.

The so-called responsible government in the UK has continued to fail to address the safety and security of Muslim citizens with the same standards as they have other citizens of the UK, particularly in regard to places of worship. Muslim families have also been confronted by the new Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) proposals for schools which will prevent them, and other concerned communities, such as Christian and Jewish parents, from promoting their moral values within their own families. Rather, children as young as 5 and 6 years old are being forced to learn values that are totally alien to their families' moral standards and beliefs.

Although we have politicians with Muslim names, this has not had any positive impact on curtailng Islamophobia or protecting the Muslim community from blatant, open and visible institutional discrimination and bigotry. If anything, Muslim politicians seem to be trying to outdo each other to prove their loyalty by being more discriminatory to their own community than to others.

Our attempts to highlight the Palestine issue peacefully via the annual Al-Quds Day demonstration in London has faced an unprecedented and concerted onslaught from an alliance of the far right and Zionists. They have left no stone unturned in trying to demonise and delegitimise it with the aim of brushing the festering occupation and oppression of the Palestinians under the proverbial carpet. They have been supported by a hostile political class and media that

continues to apply one rule to the pro-Israel lobby and another to those who stand up for Palestinian rights.

In the international arena, there have been worrying developments with continuing barbaric and systematic abuses taking place in Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Kashmir, Yemen and Syria, to name just a few. We are seeing a further escalation of the systematic and organised abuse and torture of citizens in the Xinjiang region of China where the Uighur Muslims are being detained in concentration camp style centres. We have commenced an investigation and hope to produce a report shortly.

**This report gives just a snapshot of our work across the year. Many of our projects have been ongoing for several years**

In Nigeria, justice is yet to be seen for the victims of the 2015 Zaria Massacre. There is no adequate support for those members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria who are still being systematically targeted, very often with live bullets. IHRC produces weekly Nigeria Digests to which I urge you to sign up to receive regular updates on the situation in Nigeria. We have many campaigns covering international issues on Palestine, the Uighurs, Rohingya and more and have done for many years. Please contact the office or visit the website [www.ihrc.org.uk](http://www.ihrc.org.uk) to find out how you can get involved.

Our legal department continues to go from strength to strength. IHRC is proud to say that it has the only in-house legal department in any Muslim organisation in the UK dedicated to serving the community on issues arising out of employment discrimination and immigration.

**Massoud  
Shadjareh  
speaking at  
Al-Quds Day**



Finally, I would like to thank all campaigners, supporters and donors from all over the world who have made it possible to produce the work you see in this report. But the challenge at hand is much greater than ever.

This report gives just a snapshot of our work across the year. Many of our projects have been ongoing for several years e.g. Genocide Memorial Day marked its tenth anniversary year; the Experiences of anti-Muslim Hatred and Hostility project is even older. Our campaigning and research on the Uighurs and Rohingya have run for over a decade, and it is a tragedy that attention in the mainstream and Muslim communities has been this slow in coming. It is because of

supporters like yourself that these campaigns were able to have any impact and that these issues have been highlighted for this long.

Only with your valuable care, commitment, prayers and support (whether financial or other) can we continue to address this ever-increasing need to support victims of injustices all over the world. Please help spread the word about IHRC. Please help others join the struggle for justice just as you have.

**Massoud Shadjareh**

April 2019 / Shaban 1440



# Projects

IHRC's key projects can be found under that section on the website.

Amongst key developments in ongoing projects are:

## GMD Project

### Genocide Memorial Day event

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Islamic Human Rights Commission successfully commemorated its annual Genocide Memorial Day event for the 10<sup>th</sup> year running.

This year's Genocide Memorial Day theme was 'Genocide as a Tool for Colonialism' and examined the current genocide and ethnic cleansing in Palestine. Speakers for the event were Haim Bresheeth, a scholar, filmmaker and photographer and currently teaches at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Bresheeth, the son of two Nazi concentration camp victims,

made a fascinating and unique contribution, beginning his speech by showing pictures of his father emaciated in a concentration camp. He addressed the links between genocide, colonialism and racism, explaining in detail that these three connections are very important in order to understand genocides. He went through types of colonialism, highlighting the idea that there isn't colonialism without violence, with ethnic cleansing representing the last stage before genocide occurs.

Sandew Hira, director of the International Institute for Scientific Research (IISR) in The Hague, began his lecture defining colonialism as "a global system of economic, social, political and cultural institutions that organise the world into two main parts: the colonised part that is exploited and oppressed in order to serve the economic, social, political and cultural interests of the colonisers part". Using this definition, he clearly explained the role of genocide in colonialism being racism a key instrument of genocide. Hira also addressed why



Professor Haim Bresheeth  
speaking at Genocide  
Memorial Day 2019

## Types of genocide

- Genocide by starvation: Bangladesh, Ireland, Armenians in Turkey
- Genocide by disease: North America (Smallpox), General Amherst in Massachusetts)
- Genocide by extermination: Indigenous Americans, Tutsi, Armenians, Rohingya
- Genocide by industrial extermination: Jews, Roma, Soviet POWs

reparations are a crucial part of Genocide Memorial and restitution.

The final message from speakers and audience was clear: all people should come together to defend the rights of all against power, atrocities, discrimination and genocide.

### GMD in Brussels

GMD in Brussels took place on 18 January 2019. Brussels Panthers organised a conference on "What Belgium owes to Congo". Speakers for the event were Sandew Hira, Director of the International Institute for Scientific Research (IISR), Véronique Clette-Gakuba, researcher at ULB, Toma Muteba Luntumbue, art historian and Martin Vander Elst, researcher at the Laboratory of Prospective Anthropology (UCL) who spoke on how the slave trade and slavery remains alive today and how these crimes were perpetrated by the "civilized nations".

### GMD in Malaysia

GMD in Malaysia took place on 20 January 2019 at Selongor International Islamic University. This year's theme was 'Genocide in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' with the main goal being to

highlight the incessant plight, denial of right to life, ethnic cleansing and genocide of Kashmiri Muslims at the hands of Indian occupying forces. The High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria was invited as a guest speaker and said that the choice of theme reflected the deep concern and understanding among Malaysians over challenges confronted by the Muslim Ummah, particularly the Kashmiri people in Jammu and Kashmir under Indian occupation.

### Poetry Competition

Genocide Memorial Day (GMD) poetry competition was established in 2012 to raise awareness around issues like racism, otherisation, discrimination and dehumanisation. Our aim is to inspire students to express themselves through writing poetry and help teachers in subjects across the curriculum encourage students to learn about and discuss genocide, more particularly, how they come about and how they may be prevented. The winners of the annual poetry competition for children ages 11-18 were announced at the Genocide Memorial Day event on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Judges were genuinely impressed by the creativity, emotion and depth of the entries submitted. This year, the winners will be travelling to





Bosnia during the first week of July covering the date of the annual Srebrenica memorial. There, they will visit key sites in the war with a guide who will explain the events that took place.

## Lesson Plans and School Resources

IHRC provides a number of resources for use in planning lessons in schools and homework around issues relating to genocide, and genocide prevention. All the sections are periodically updated throughout the year and are available under the Genocide Memorial Day author account on the TES resources site as well as on our website. The resources are suited to the following subjects: History, English Language and Literature, Sociology, Politics and Government Studies, Religious Studies, Citizenship, Civics and Media Studies.

## Podcasts

IHRC began to produce podcasts for activists and university students on different issues relating to genocide prevention, restorative justice and ongoing crimes against humanity with relevance to the study of law, social sciences, philosophy, politics and more. You can listen to leading scholars such as Esther Stanford Xosei on the Four Genocides and Sandew Hira on

Reparatory Justice, Ramon Grosfoguel on Reparations and Decolonizing the Mind on our website, Soundcloud and iTunes.

## Muslim Experiences of Hostility & Discrimination

This project (now in its eleventh year) is preparing for publication its research on Germany and the USA (Chicagoland). Based on survey work undertaken in the two countries, it will provide statistics on the experiences of hatred and discrimination faced by Muslims in terms of physical and verbal assaults, discrimination at work and school and other public institutions and spaces, from the media as well as political discourse and law and policy.

This will be the first such report IHRC has undertaken in Germany although it has worked on different aspects of anti-Muslim experience in Germany most recently on the Counternarratives to Islamophobia project (see below), as well as historically its survey of civil society leaders in Germany and research into the discriminatory citizenship tests in various German states.

The USA (Chicagoland) report will be the second such report on the US. The 2013 publication *Once Upon a Hatred: Anti-Muslim Experiences in the USA* looked at the racist foundations of the USA, and charted how this manifested itself in anti-Muslim experiences on a day to day basis



for Muslims. In that research, IHRC surveyed almost 1500 Muslims in California.

The book looking at the situation in Germany and outlining the problems faced will be published at the end of 2019. The book on the USA (Chicagoland) will be published in 2020.

## Counternarratives to Islamophobia / Counter-Islamophobia Toolkit

IHRC's collaboration with the University of Leeds on this EU funded project continued this year. The second and third reports in the project looking at the UK, France, Germany, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Hungary and Czech Republic were published, and the project's overarching output, the Counter-Islamophobia Toolkit, was published. There were launch events or dissemination meetings for each country, as well as media coverage across the continent.

The whole project's findings were launched in Brussels, Belgium at the European Parliament, hosted by the Anti-Racist and Diversity Intergroup of MEPs (ARDI) led by Jean Lambert MEP who also hosted the event. As well as the authors of each country report and the heads of the project and authors of the toolkit presenting, the meeting was addressed by MEPs Sajjad Karim and Wajid

Khan, as well as Dermana Seta the Adviser on combating intolerance against Muslims from the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Also in attendance was Tommaso Chiamparino, the European Commission coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred.

IHRC was responsible for the UK, France and Germany reports in this project. The Toolkit was authored by the head of the project Professor Ian Law and Professor Salman Sayyid and Dr. Amina Esat-Daas.



## Counter-Islamophobia Kit





## Fact-finding missions

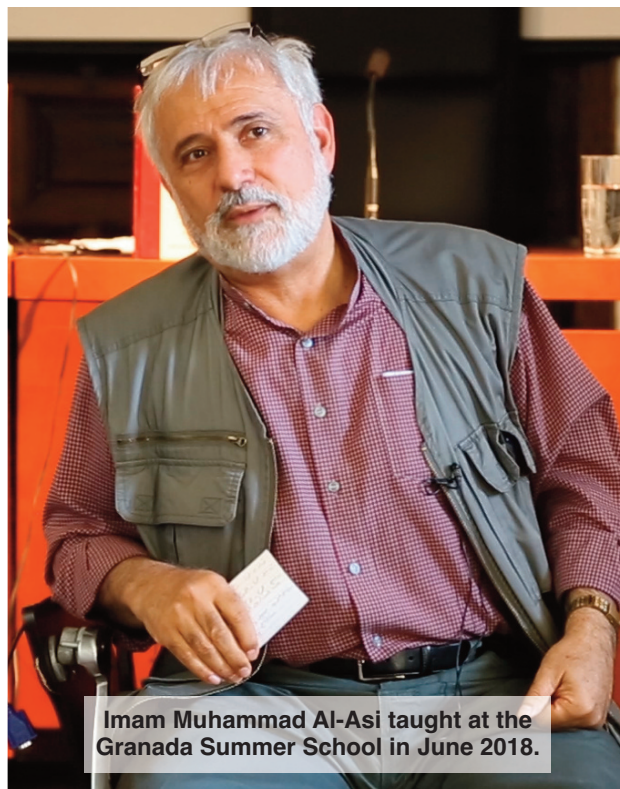
IHRC undertook several fact-finding missions this year. This included missions looking at the situation of the Uighurs in China by directly interviewing those who have suffered as well as organisations set up to represent them. An IHRC delegation visited Turkey on a fact-finding mission where it met refugee Uighur groups and families who described their experiences. People spoke of living under constant surveillance, arrest and harassment for religious views, torture and rape in detention centres, as well as family members being taken to camps. IHRC plans to release its report soon and will campaign for change in the region.

We also went to Germany to assess the levels of Islamophobia, in particular but not solely, attacks on pro-Palestinian activism by the media and political figures.

A team also went to Sicily to speak with refugee groups, state institutions and activists about the attacks on migrants, Muslims and minorities, particularly from Italian state institutions and policies of the current government. The visit resulted in



Arzu Merali taught at the Granada Summer School in June 2018.



Imam Muhammad Al-Asi taught at the Granada Summer School in June 2018.

credible first-hand reports and briefings, as well as campaigns based on verifiable facts and the demands and needs of those under attack.

## NETWORKS

### Universal Justice Network (UJN)

As one of the two secretariats of UJN (alongside Citizens International in Malaysia) we continued to support the Penang Declaration project focussing in particular on putting together a hub of resources on Islamic theories of economics.

We continued to follow up on our conflict resolution programme, Muslim World Priorities in Pakistan, getting more signatories from key political and religious figures for UJN's Bodrum Declaration against sectarianism as well as getting endorsements from signatories of the Amman Declaration.

### UJN on sanctions

(see Campaigns below)

UJN is deeply involved in pursuing an international campaign against the use and abuse of sanctions by some members of the international community.

# Campaigns

## UJN on the Rohingya

UJN is also instrumental in the campaign for the Rohingya with members such as MAPIM at the forefront of aid and support work for refugees.

## Decolonial International Network (DIN)

IHRC continued to work within the network. As usual we took part in the Critical Muslim Studies Summer School. We facilitated an ongoing blog from early 2019 on the situation in Venezuela with on the ground reports from Ramon Grosfoguel and Sandew Hira, as well as ongoing reports and analysis from the them.

We organised Decolonising the Mind training with Sandew Hira in London involving grassroots activists.

DIN continued to support and participate in the Genocide Memorial Day event (see Events below).

## Palestine - Challenging attempts to delegitimise Al-Quds Day rally

Pro-Zionist and far right campaigners continued their attempts to have the annual Al-Quds Day rally in London banned and/or curtail the range of expression of its participants. In recent years the run-up to the demonstration, which is a display of solidarity with the oppressed Palestinians, has been characterised by media demonisation and an increasingly aggressive posture adopted by opponents. The hatred and false propaganda directed against the rally in 2017 culminated in Darren Osborne selecting it as a target for a murderous, terroristic attack. Unable to reach the march, he decided to go to Finsbury Park instead where he murdered one worshipper and injured dozens of others leaving Muslim Welfare House. The bigots have been emboldened by comments by politicians not only failing to take adequate action against the threat they pose but equating the Al-Quds Day rally and its attendees with extremism. IHRC wrote several times to the



A huge Palestinian flag was raised at Al-Quds in London, UK in 2019



Mayor of London Sadiq Khan accusing him of maligning the event and supporting its demonisation and failing to address the legitimate concerns of those targeted by racist abuse and extreme racist violence. IHRC also wrote to the mayor ahead of the 2018 event in a joint letter signed by over two dozen organisations urging him to show his support for the lawful, peaceful and inclusive activism. We wrote to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and Home Secretary Javid expressing our concerns about the far right and Zionist counter protestors who have taken to harassing, abusing, threatening and intimidating the attendees.

### **Complaint against Campaign Against Anti-Semitism (CAA)**

IHRC wrote to the Charity Commission asking it once again to investigate a Zionist charity after the High Court threw out its vindictive litigation against a prominent pro-Palestine campaigner. After failing multiple times to persuade the CPS to prosecute Nazim Ali - a participant in the 2017 Al-Quds Day demonstration in London and an IHRC director - for anti-Zionist comments he made during the protest, the CAA embarked on a private prosecution. In September 2018, IHRC called on the charity regulator to investigate whether the CAA is in breach of charity law by using charitable funds to relentlessly pursue 'false, vindictive and patently flawed cases.'

### **Response to Home Secretary following ban on Hizbullah**

Unfortunately instead of tackling the problem of Zionist and far-right extremism Javid went on in February 2019 to announce he would proscribe as a terrorist organisation the political wing of the Lebanese political party Hizbullah whose support for the Palestinians has historically been acknowledged by the Al-Quds Day demonstrators. That prompted us to write to Javid, reminding him that Hizbullah is a legitimate and democratically elected party

of the Lebanese coalition government. The coalition government has broad support from all sections of their society and represents a national unity that seeks to build a peaceful and stable nation (an objective we would hope the British government agrees with). As a legitimate political party, Hizbullah also has support from across the world, including the UK. Our letter made it clear that we saw the ban on a democratically elected political organisation as an attack on peoples' civil and political rights and an act of appeasement that served to mollify those who support Israel rather than to keep the British public safe. We pointed out the hypocrisy in proscribing a legitimate political group with no presence in the UK, yet allowing extremist groups like the Jewish Defence League (JDL) to operate in the UK. JDL and its affiliates are proscribed in the US and Israel, and yet its members regularly join other Zionist groups in opposing pro-Palestinian events across the UK, using violence and threats against law abiding citizens.

### **Letter to PM after murder of Jamal Khashoggi**

In October 2018 we wrote to Prime Minister Theresa May following the murder of the Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi after he visited the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul on October 2. Our letter highlighted the muted government response in comparison to the much more forceful reaction to the suspected attempted poisoning by Russian secret service agents of Sergei and Yulia Kripal in the UK earlier in the year, an action that also led to the death of British citizen Dawn Sturgess and the poisoning of her boyfriend Charlie Rowley. We told the PM that Khashoggi's murder has huge ramifications for UK citizens as it endangers any British national, particularly those who have been critical of the Saudi regime, entering a Saudi diplomatic mission anywhere in the world. We also stated that the murder of Jamal Khashoggi presents a clear and present danger to UK residents, particularly critics of Saudi Arabia and dissidents who are in



Projections on BBC in London, UK in support of Marzieh Hashemi, February 2019



exile in Britain. Our letter demanded that the PM consider expelling diplomatic officials, especially those linked to the Saudi intelligence services, and review all military and security co-operation with Saudi Arabia as well as cancel all arms sales until Riyadh holds to account all those responsible.

## Detention of Marzieh Hashemi

In January 2019 we jumped to the defence of Press TV journalist Marzieh Hashemi who was arrested as she travelled within the United States to visit her ill brother and other relatives. The use of “material witness” powers for her arrest again highlighted how law has been instrumentalised in the US to target minoritised communities. After the September 11 attacks against the US in 2001 government officials misused the material witness statute in scores of cases to lock up, harass and maltreat mostly Arab and Muslim men, many of whom - despite being arrested as “witnesses” - were never brought before any judicial body to testify.

For several days no reason was provided for Ms Hashemi’s arrest and she remained in jail without charge, at times handcuffed and shackled and treated like a criminal. IHRC wrote to the UN Chair-Rapporteur for the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to intervene and urged others to do likewise. Ms Hashemi, a Muslim convert and US citizen who has been living in Iran for many years, said that she had her hijab forcibly removed, and was photographed without her headscarf upon arrival at the prison. Ms. Hashemi was only allowed to wear a T-shirt, and used another one to cover her head. During her detention she was denied bread or other food permissible under Islamic law and offered only pork as a meal.

Inminds and IHRC held a projection campaign for her release.

## Myanmar

Following IHRC’s newly released report charging Myanmar with genocide against the Rohingya, based on first-hand accounts of the atrocities suffered by the Rohingya in and around 25 August 2017, we published a



Vigil for Sheikh Zakzaky in London, UK, April 2018

photo-diary containing photographs taken during our field trip. The photo diary offers a glimpse into the lives of those who are currently fleeing death and persecution and are stranded in makeshift camps across the border in Bangladesh. It documents the oppression and injustices the Rohingya have suffered at the hands of the Myanmar armed forces, the terrible conditions including insecurity, overcrowding and inadequate sanitation they currently endure and the perilous journeys many had to make to escape. Earlier in the year we also published a list of resources for those interested in learning more about the plight of the Rohingya.

IHRC is raising funds for refugees from Myanmar.

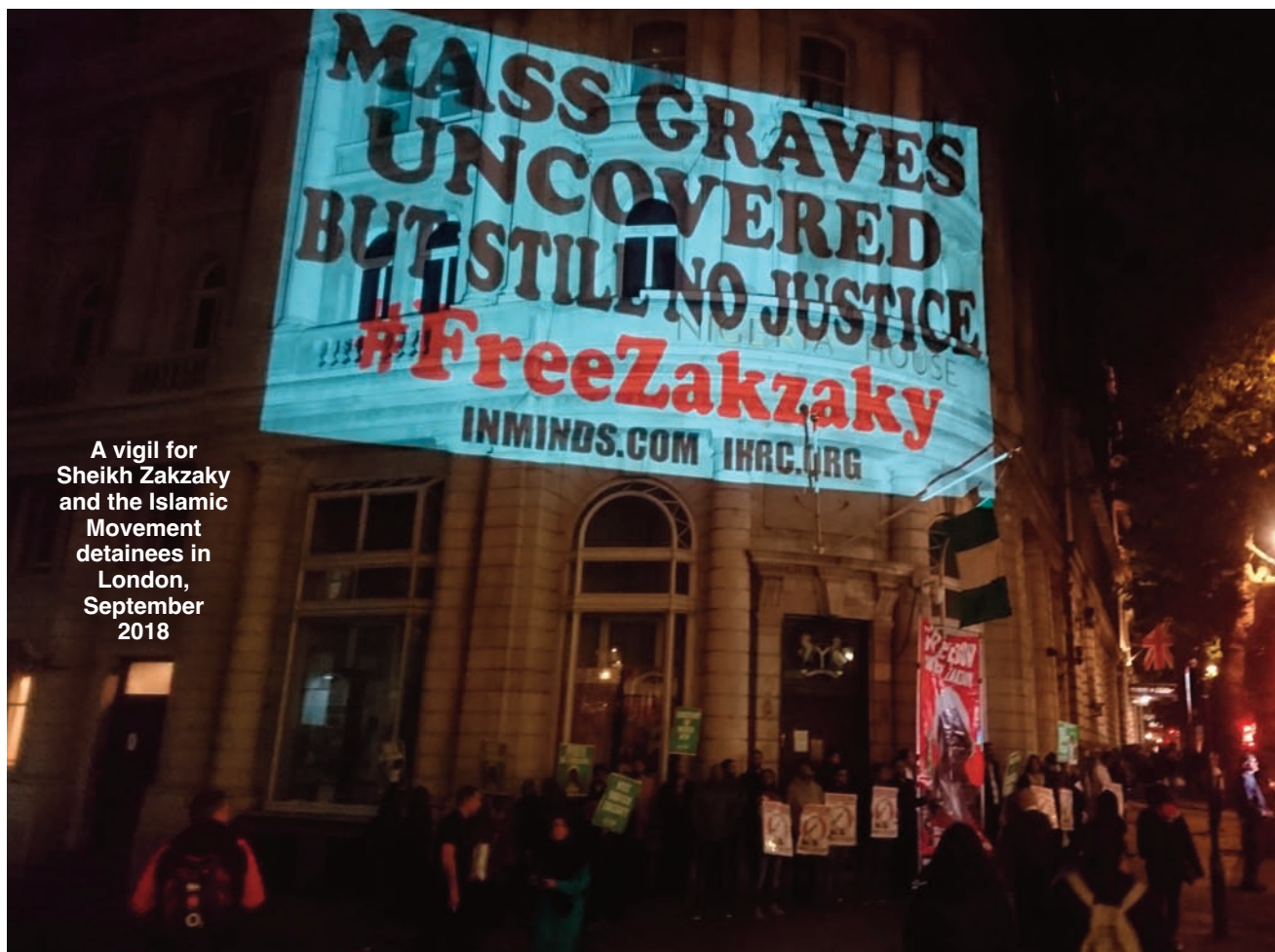
IHRC's five things to do for the Rohingya campaign can be found on the IHRC website.

## UK - LGBT instruction in schools

IHRC joined Muslim parents in campaigning against the teaching of LGBT issues to their children in schools. Parents at

several schools around the country have protested against the inclusion of teaching in the curriculum that seeks to present LGBT choices as morally acceptable. However, media coverage has been, by and large, antagonistic and hostile with the media taking what is a principled stand and presenting it as another alleged example of intolerance and backwardness. IHRC issued a statement by our chair condemning these media representations and reiterating that for Muslims the issue of LGBT instruction in schooling is simply about the right of parents to have their children educated in line with their own moral values. International conventions and of course domestic law give expression to and protect this right. Yet under proposals that are set to become law in 2020 (some of which have already been pre-empted by many schools and OFSTED), that power is being withdrawn from parents by an insistence on teaching about LGBT issues even if the morality underpinning these is starkly conflicting. Our new quarterly publication, *The Long View*, also contained an article on the issue.





A vigil for  
Sheikh Zakzaky  
and the Islamic  
Movement  
detainees in  
London,  
September  
2018

## Nigeria - Ibrahim el-Zakzaky

Our focus on Nigeria continued as authorities in the country intensified their efforts to prosecute the leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, Sheikh Ibrahim el-Zakzaky and his wife Mallimah Zeenah and other Islamic Movement detainees. IHRC issued regular updates and campaign materials on the legal machinations being undertaken against the pair and also the unceasing protests against their persecution that are often met with fatal violence by the security forces. Nigerian authorities have brought Sheikh Zakzaky to trial on trumped up charges relating to the 2015 massacre accusing him of abetting the commission of culpable homicide by blocking roads in the city of Zaria in December 2015. In reality, the charges are designed to deflect government responsibility for a planned and systematic attack by soldiers which left over 1000 people dead and which is now the subject of a preliminary investigation by the International Criminal Court.

In March 2018 we had cause to write to the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court where we have filed a complaint into the massacre committed by

the Nigerian army in Zaria, Nigeria, in December 2015. The letter took issue with the court's recording in its Report on Preliminary Examination Activities 2017 of allegations "that members of the IMN armed with batons, knives, and machetes stopped the convoy of the Chief of Army Staff on a principal road in Zaria on 12 December 2015". The characterisation of Islamic Movement of Nigeria's (IMN) supporters in this report is false and alarming. Despite numerous investigations and reports by various bodies in Nigeria, not a single shred of credible evidence has been presented showing members of IMN armed or preparing to attack soldiers. In fact, all the pictures and videos from the attack show soldiers walking around IMN buildings at a leisurely pace without any fear for their safety as they took up their positions before opening fire without any provocation on unarmed IMN supporters. They attacked various sites over three days. On the other hand there is a preponderance of evidence, from eyewitness accounts to victim statements and video evidence, that shows that IMN supporters were unarmed and did not engage in any violent activity.

Our efforts to help secure medical

treatment for the sheikh bore fruit when a judge ordered that he should be allowed to receive medical treatment from doctors of his own choosing. This is something for which campaigners had fought for a long time. Sheikh Zakzaky lost one eye and the use of one arm in the December 2015 massacre. He also suffered a stroke at the turn of 2018. The authorities have consistently prevented him from accessing adequate medical treatment and have refused requests for him to fly abroad.

A number of flash protests and vigils were held by campaigners world-wide as part of the campaign, including in the UK, Pakistan, Switzerland, India, Indonesia and Malaysia. InMinds and IHRC continued their projection campaigns for the Sheikh's release. See 'Events' below.

The weekly Nigeria Digest provides regularly updated information, campaign activities (letter writing, protests and fundraising). IHRC is raising funds for those injured in peaceful protests at the hands of the police and army, as well as those injured in the Zaria massacre to get the medical treatment they need. It is also fundraising to support the families of those killed. Details of some of those helped can be found on <https://donations.ihrc.org/Nigeria>

## **Bosnia genocide**

In commemoration of the anniversary of the genocide that took place in Bosnia in July 1995 where countless innocent lives were lost, we compiled a selection of resources to help people remember the tragedy. They include briefings, articles, a documentary film and a blog. The inaugural issue of "The Long View" published in March 2019 also contained a poignant article about the war and how it should always serve as a warning that another genocide against Muslims in Europe cannot be discounted.

## **Guantanamo Bay Resources**

IHRC published a list of resources on Guantanamo Bay to mark the 17th anniversary of the confinement of the first detainees on 11 January 2001 at the notorious

detention facility in the US. The internment camp was established by President George W. Bush shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States as part of his country's "War on Terror". Since then Guantanamo has become a byword for torture, rendition and indefinite detention without charge or trial. Guantanamo once held more than 650 Muslim men; today, some 40 still remain, nicknamed "forever prisoners". Nine detainees have died at Guantanamo, including seven from apparent suicide. Despite a pledge by President Obama to close the facility it remains open. In January 2018 President Trump signed an executive order to keep the camp open indefinitely.

## **China – the Struggle for the Uighurs**

IHRC will be launching a campaign to charge key Muslim countries and nonaligned states to bring pressure to bear on China to desist its discriminatory, violent and in part genocidal policies against Uighurs in Xinjiang and other parts of China. Details can be found on the IHRC website from late April 2019.

Three videos on the situation based on the IHRC ground breaking exhibition Uighurs: The Forgotten Muslims of China in 2009 will also be available. IHRC also reprinted its photo essay / eyewitness report from an undercover activist in Xinjiang in 2009 – 2010.

## **Boycott Israeli Dates**

In the run-up to Ramadan 2018 IHRC and InMinds launched their campaign to boycott Israeli dates asking Muslims not to break their fasts with food from the Israeli occupier's table. Most Medjool type dates exported to Britain are grown in the illegally Occupied West Bank and the occupied Palestinians exploited to produce and harvest them. Our annual campaign reminded people to boycott these dates in line with the wider Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) campaign that seeks to apply pressure on Israel to give up occupied land.





Image from IHRC's republished photo essay on the  
crackdown by China on Uighur Muslims



# Events

## Global Free Zakzaky Protests

On 15 April 2018, the Islamic Human Rights Commission, in coordination with Universal Justice Network and Global FreeZakzaky campaigners, organised worldwide protests to mark 100 continuous days of demonstrations in Nigeria demanding medical treatment for Sheikh Zakzaky's life-threatening condition. To show support and solidarity simultaneous protests and programmes were organised globally in London, Geneva, Jakarta, Toronto, Turkey and various sites in Pakistan.

The original protests erupted after Sheikh Zakzaky suffered a stroke, aggravating an already poor condition caused when he was shot during a military attack on the Islamic Movement of Nigeria two years ago in the city of Zaria.

Demonstrations involving tens of thousands of the sheikh's supporters have been staged daily in the capital Abuja as well as other towns and cities across northern Nigeria. Despite their totally peaceful nature the protests have been subject to sabotage and

violent, often fatal, attacks by security forces intent on bringing the Islamic Movement of Nigeria into disrepute.

IHRC organised more protests around the world between 7-9 September to mark 1000 days since the sheikh and his wife were detained.

## Al-Quds Day Rally, London, UK

In July up to 8,000 demonstrators from many ethnic and religious backgrounds assembled outside the Saudi Arabian embassy in London at the end of Ramadan for the 2018 demonstration. The embassy was selected as the rallying point because of Riyadh's growing support for the Zionist regime, isolating the Palestinians and giving Israel the green light to accelerate its injustices. This year's protest was met with an aggressive Zionist counter-demonstration as well as far-right groups. The pro-Israeli counter-protest was organised by the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. They played Israeli music blasted whilst pro-







Palestine demonstrators prayed. Their speakers also featured Maajid Nawaz. Highlighting our observation in recent years that Zionists are finding common cause with the far right, Zionist Federation demonstrators were seen mingling with the anti-Semitic EDL and Britain First supporters. Al-Quds Day has been marked globally since being inaugurated in 1979 by Ayatollah Khomeini who asked for the last Friday in the Islamic holy month of Ramadan to be set aside as a day for uniting against Israel and showing support for the dispossessed and oppressed Palestinians.

The record number who attended was not only an unprecedented show of support for the Palestinians, at a time when such solidarity is being demonised, but was a defiant show of bravery and strength a year after the rally was initially targeted by far right extremist Darren Osborne.

## Islamophobia Awards

IHRC again successfully hosted its fundraiser the annual Islamophobia Awards on Sunday, 11 November, 2018. The event is a chance to raise awareness of Islamophobia and use satire and comedy to subvert it.

Those deemed by the public to have been the most Islamophobic over the past year are lampooned and 'awarded' the status of Islamophobes of the year. Featuring a satirical awards ceremony, a comedian and live music; the event was again well attended and well received. Unsurprisingly Donald Trump reigned triumphant once again making it the second year in succession he has been voted "Islamophobe of the year". His 'Muslim Ban', violence towards immigrants, relationship with Saudi Arabia and Israel are just a few reasons why he was this year's ultimate Islamophobe. Comedian Zafar Iqbal gave a highly entertaining performance mocking the racists and Islamophobes often found on Twitter and other social media platforms. Revelry aside, the event was another opportunity to fundraise for IHRC's varied work. Specific attention was paid to campaigns to raise money for work on Yemen, Nigeria and Myanmar as well as the day-to-day work provided in the form of IHRC Legal and Advocacy services for those who have suffered discrimination.





The hall was packed for the UK Genocide Memorial Day event

## Islamophobia Conference

IHRC's annual Islamophobia Conference took place for the fifth time on 8 December 2018 at the P21 Gallery in London. The location was particularly fitting as this year's theme was 'Islamophobia and Silencing Criticism of Israel.' The event was co-organised by Scotland Against Criminalising Communities and their corresponding event was held in Scotland on 15 December. This year's theme focused on the racist nature of Zionism and the inevitable marriage between the far right and Zionist activists. Pro-Israel advocates see an overlap between their hatred of the Arabs whom they wish to displace in Palestine with the far-right's hatred of Muslims. It is why you see EDL members attend pro-Israel events to deny the right of Palestinian self-determination and why you see Zionist Federation placards flown at events where far right racists shout 'Allah is a Peado' and 'Muslims rape our children'. The event was well attended by numerous activists, academics and professionals who all came together to highlight their concern for the way those who want to support Palestine are being silenced and restricted.

## Genocide Memorial Day 2019

Genocide Memorial Day (GMD) is a day focused on remembering man's inhumanity to man. It takes place on the third Sunday of January each year. It was started by IHRC in 2010 to commemorate past and ongoing

genocides, and to raise awareness around genocide prevention. Since then events have taken place all over the world. The theme this year was 'Genocide as a tool for colonialism', chosen to spotlight how colonial powers are continuing their colonial genocidal policies but covering up their involvement. IHRC's London conference opened with a message from Raza Kazim, head of the GMD project, who explained that Genocide Memorial Day was initiated to eradicate genocide and genocidal acts and the culture that led up to genocides. Kazim also spoke about avoiding the creation of a hierarchy of victims when we discuss the act of public commemoration of genocide, which is the underlying philosophy behind GMD. He emphasized why Genocide Memorial Day is an important day to remember the deaths of the many victims of genocides across the world and throughout history who are not widely known.

Professor Haim Bresheeth the son of Holocaust survivors and Sandew Hira from the Decolonial International Network both addressed the event, speaking about Genocide, Racism and Colonialism and Genocide and Reparations respectively. Narjis Khan performed her poem, 'Fascism', and some of the winners of the children's GMD Poetry competition attended and received their certificates.

More information on the Genocide Memorial Day project – focusing on schools and universities, can be found under Projects.

Corresponding events also took place in Belgium and Malaysia.



# IHRC at the United Nations

**I**HRC is recognised globally as an experienced and highly respected human rights organisation. For many years we have enjoyed consultancy status at the United Nations, a platform that allows governmental and other organisations all over the world to utilise the research and analysis we produce. IHRC continued its work in the United Nations with reports and oral statements highlighting human rights abuses in various countries.

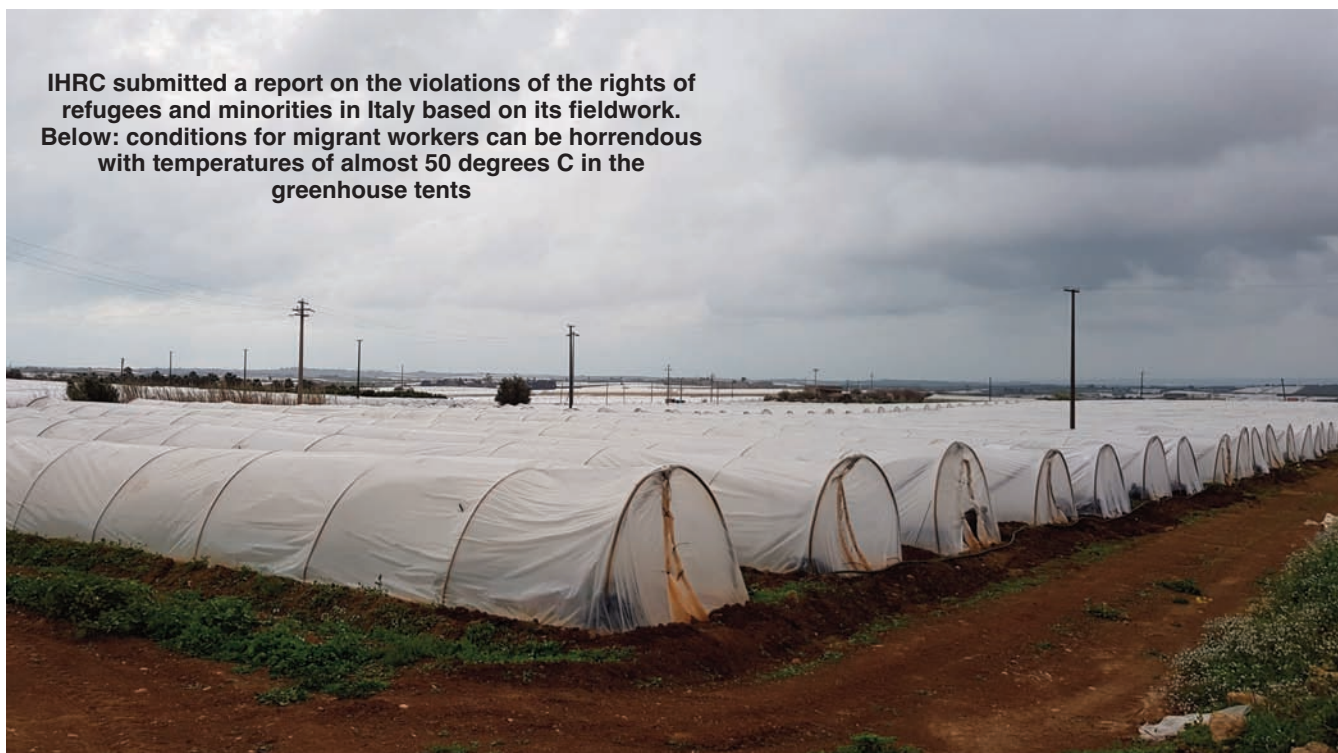
In 2018 we submitted a report for the Universal Periodic Review of Nigeria. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States every 4-5 years. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. Our report concerned the status and treatment of supporters and leaders of the Nigerian Islamic Movement by the government of Nigeria since the last UPR in 2013. The movement has been subject to a government crackdown that has seen

hundreds of its supporters killed, wounded and arrested and its leader incarcerated on trumped-up charges.

We also produced a report for the UPR of Saudi Arabia highlighting our concerns about ongoing human rights abuses in the kingdom. Political freedom remains elusive in Saudi Arabia with political parties still outlawed. As a consequence there is no organised political opposition inside the kingdom. Political dissent to the ruling regime is subject to criminal prosecution. There are tens of thousands of political prisoners in Saudi Arabia's jails, incarcerated for nothing other than criticising the regime or advocating political reforms. The practice of arbitrary arrest and detention continues without trial for extended periods. Torture and the death penalty continue to be used as a tool of political repression and the regime continues to repress and systematically discriminate against the country's minority Twelver Shia population.

In March this year we prepared a report for the UPR of Italy. It focused on issues relating to migration, the treatment of migrants, in particular those seeking asylum. These include penalising those who seek asylum in Italy, the designation of Libya as a safe state and the forcible return / refusal to

**IHRC submitted a report on the violations of the rights of refugees and minorities in Italy based on its fieldwork. Below: conditions for migrant workers can be horrendous with temperatures of almost 50 degrees C in the greenhouse tents**



physically accept refugees from or travelling via Libya; the running down of the reception system; the stoking of anti-migrant sentiment; the failure to protect migrants from exploitative and illicit labour practices including but not solely sexual exploitation; failing to provide status for migrants that allows them to integrate; racial and religious discrimination against migrants and settled minority communities. Our report also homed in on the problems of political harassment and abuse, particularly against human rights defenders, including using the law in a perverse manner contrary to the spirit of the law to prosecute them.

In September 2018 IHRC convened a side panel meeting highlighting the case of Sheikh Ibrahim el-Zakzaky at the 39th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The aim of the event was to raise public and NGO awareness of the ongoing persecution of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria. Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife continue to be held in violation of a court order demanding their release from detention by the state security services. They have been held largely incommunicado since the Zaria Massacre of December 2015 in which the Sheikh was shot along with his wife, Zeenah, and arrested during an orgy of violence

against the Islamic Movement of Nigeria which resulted in the massacre of 1000 supporters of the movement. The 2015 attack is the subject of a complaint by the Islamic Human Rights Commission to the International Criminal Court in the Hague. Panellists included Suheila Zakzaky, daughter of Sheikh Zakzaky and Muallima Zeena Zakzaky, Massoud Shadjareh, Chair, IHRC, Abed Choudhury, Head of Advocacy at IHRC and Dr. Amirbahram Arabahmadi, Head of Southern African Studies Department and International Advisor of Faculty of World Studies.

IHRC also convened a side panel at the same session of the Human Rights Council to discuss the use of international sanctions as punitive measures against entire populations. The meeting came ahead of the publication of our report, 'Subverting Sanctions: How Human Rights and International Law have been Violated'. The purpose of this publication is to demonstrate the human rights dimensions of sanctions in the sample countries and to argue for the creation of a legal framework to bring a lawsuit against the US on the basis of flagrant violation of human rights. Mass human rights violations resulting from past sanctions includes denial of access to health and medical services.



IHRC sent a team to the WOCMES meeting in Seville, Spain in July 2018



# IHRC at the EU

**I**HRC continued to participate in activities at the EU level. In addition to the main launch of our own project on Counternarratives to Islamophobia (see Projects above), we held closed door sessions on Islamophobia including one on France which brought together activists and some EU figures to discuss the impasse between anti-racism activists and the state in the context of France.

IHRC continued to participate in the Coalition Against Islamophobia based in Brussels, and continued its collaboration with networks such as ENAR and S-Com. The IHRC EU Office facilitated IHRC's participation in the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies in July 2018 which was held in Seville, Spain. IHRC held two events there focusing on Islam and Human Rights, as well as the situation in Nigeria bringing together various scholars and activists. The meetings were attended by a number of political, diplomatic and academic figures, as well as media.

In December 2018, the right-wing Daily Telegraph attacked the EU for selecting IHRC as a partner in the CIK project citing its support of the Al-Quds Day rally as

evidence of anti-Semitism. The article should be viewed in the context of a wider campaign of demonisation and delegitimisation against the al-Quds rally spearheaded by right wing and pro-Israel groups. In support of IHRC, dozens of organisations signed a joint letter to the European Union demanding that it retract the statement. Confirming that they did not believe IHRC to be anti-Semitic, the signatories also demanded that the Commission supports the rights of people to political expression and to protection from racist violence with regards to the al-Quds Day event.

## REPORTS

### **"The most persecuted minority in the world: The genocide of the Rohingya"**

In June 2018 we published a report on the Rohingya focusing on the way in which the international crime of genocide is being committed against the Muslim minority with impunity by the state of Myanmar. Titled



Attendees from the European Parliament, European Commission and NGOs at the IHRC EU event to launch the Counter-Islamophobia Toolkit

**'THE MOST PERSECUTED  
MINORITY IN THE WORLD'**

## **THE GENOCIDE OF THE ROHINGYA**

“The most persecuted minority in the world: The genocide of the Rohingya”, the report details how crimes against humanity are being perpetrated. The report is based in evidence collected by the Islamic Human Rights Commission from Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh regarding atrocities committed on and around 25 August 2017. The report also considers the history of persecution of the Rohingya, contextualising the international crimes that have and are currently being committed. It shows that the three elements of the international crime of genocide are present in violence committed against the Rohingya. They are a group, there have been genocidal acts committed against them, and these acts have the intent to destroy them in whole or in part. The crimes committed against the Rohingya also amount to crimes against humanity. Our report shows how the violence meets the legal threshold for crimes against humanity. We show that there have been widespread and systematic attacks against civilian populations, the acts committed fall within the definition contained in Article 7 of the Rome Statute, and there is a state or organisational policy to commit the attacks.

**Subverting Sanctions: How Human Rights and International Law have been Violated**

In this publication, Saied Reza Ameli and Mohsen Ahoei look at the devastating effects of sanctions, used not for the promotion of human rights but as a tool of war. Published in January 2019 it looks at the use by the

United States of sanctions as an instrument to effect regime change and coerce nations arguing that they should be challenged more robustly by the international community and those countries they target. The report highlights the crippling effect of such sanctions which puts them squarely in violation of international law and the United Nations Charter which enshrines the protection of human rights and national sovereignty. Ameli and Ahoei argue that after successfully bringing Iraq's economy to its knees with the imposition of sanctions to punish Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, a policy which led to the deaths of at least half a million Iraqi children, the US has turned its attention to neighbouring Iran where it has made no secret of wishing to remove the Islamic republican system of government.

## **BRIEFINGS**

### **“The shrinking political space for civil society organisations in the UK”**

For there to be effective political debate and actual functioning democracy, there

**Islamic Human Rights  
Commission Briefing:**

## **THE SHRINKING POLITICAL SPACE FOR CSOs IN THE UK**

needs to be effective and protected spaces to challenge political ideas and functions, and to hold the political class to account. An independent media is one facet of this, and civil society, its institutions, members, leaders and constituencies another. Both are under extreme stress in across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This briefing, published in January 2019, discusses the impact on Muslim civil society of this stress, not just for Muslims but as an example of the serious deterioration of the current political culture, which must be urgently addressed. Whilst there are still sections of civil society attempting to fulfil their functions and potential, they are increasingly under attack and this bodes extremely ill for the future. We are living in a moment described as an environment of hate against Muslims. This environment is the product of the cross fertilising and mutual reinforcing of anti-Muslim racism political, media and policy discourse. Attacks on Muslim civil society must be understood as part of this climate which is part of the deeper crisis of the political and social culture we live in.

## **Briefing on “Narratives of Division”**

In January this year the Tony Blair Institute published a report ‘Narratives of Division’ that sought to ‘name and shame’ Muslim organisations that it claimed fell into the (problematic) category of ‘non-violent extremism’. Its publication could not have been more timely since just weeks earlier IHRC published a briefing analysing how the label ‘extremism’ was being used to elbow Muslim organisations out of policymaking.

The report sets out with the aim of ‘establishing’ the extremism of prominent British Muslim organisations involved in campaigning, lobbying and policy-making. IHRC was among the organisations targeted. The trend towards branding Muslim groups ‘extremist’ because they espouse anti-government positions is dangerous. In recent years, largely via the Prevent anti-extremism strategy, Muslims have been increasingly required to actively promote ‘core British values’. Accordingly, the definition of extremism has grown to cover non-violent

extremism. The definition stretches the scope of extremist activity to draconian proportions, making it so wide that it is capable of ensnaring people who oppose government policies or hold ‘conservative’ religious views such as disapproval of abortion, music or same-sex marriage. It aims to establish a benchmark for extremism which is well below the threshold required to be able to legitimately express one’s views and which sets the bar differentially for Muslims. Our briefing picked apart the report calling it tendentious and Islamophobic and trying to set up a binary of good Muslim/bad Muslim.

## **Zionist prosecution attempts against IHRC director**

In February 2019, IHRC published a case summary, *Balancing Freedom of Expression with Public Disorder*, explaining the failed attempt by the pro-Zionist Campaign Against Anti-Semitism to judicially review a decision not to prosecute a pro-Palestine campaigner for anti-Zionist remarks he made during the 2017 Al-Quds Day march in London. The High Court dismissed the judicial review brought by the Campaign Against Anti-Semitism (CAA) against a decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions not to take action against Nazim Ali on the grounds that that comments he made during the protest in June 2017 were not abusive and had not caused alarm or distress to Zionists who were taking part in a counter-demonstration. The case summary sets out the legal arguments by which the judges arrived at their decision. The High Court decision marked an important victory for pro-Palestine campaigners by guaranteeing freedom of expression and implicitly rejecting the association of anti-Semitism with Zionism.

## **Far right extremism**

In the wake of the massacre of 50 Muslims in New Zealand by a far right terrorist in March 2019, authorities in the UK warned of the dangers of the mainstream media contributing to a climate of hate that allows anti-Muslim extremism to flourish. Among



them was the country's leading anti-terrorism officer Neil Basu who accused the media of being responsible for helping to radicalise far right extremists. Basu criticised outlets such as Mail Online which uploaded the 'manifesto' of the gunman in the terrorist attack in Christchurch and the Sun and Mirror which rushed to upload clips of footage filmed by the gunman as he attacked two mosques in Christchurch.

In response IHRC prepared a briefing criticising Basu's as being too little too late. Attention should have turned to the problem many years ago when organisations such as IHRC were warning that hate speech in the mainstream and online media was creating a toxic environment that in turn was inciting people to anti-Muslim hatred. For decades, western mainstream media and politicians have both consciously and unconsciously painted Muslims as uniquely prone to 'extremism' and 'terrorism'. Hardly a day passes without a headline, column inches or talk show pointing to a problem or dispute created by the failure of Muslims to conform to so-called western liberal values. The result is that Muslims have become ingrained in the popular psyche as the 'other', a 'problem' and the enemy within. This in turn has legitimised and normalised attacking Muslims in the name of anti-Islamic extremism whilst simultaneously reinforcing the thought process which automatically deems Muslims to be guilty of things they did not do. Media misrepresentation has created and normalised a widespread casual racism/Islamophobia that further nourishes the false narrative and inspires violent attacks against Muslims.

## Magazine

In March IHRC published the inaugural issue of The Long View, a quarterly magazine that aims to look in depth and look forward vis a vis contemporary issues. The type of work that occupies IHRC and other human rights and social justice organisations, is often by necessity a response to ongoing events. Whether it is limits on funds and human resources, or just the scale of immediate problems that need immediate solutions, reactive work and analyses are the norm of



Muslim and indeed wider civil society particularly in Westernised settings. The Long View attempts to provide a space for thinkers to analyse in the long term and (kick)start or continue conversations on the same. Our first issue contained articles on government attempts in the UK to foist LGBT tuition on children, changing the narrative on Palestine, the future of Islam in Britain and the lessons of the Bosnia genocide for Muslims in Europe.

## Upcoming publications

Our three publishing arms are busy as always. Islamic Human Rights Commission will be publishing the Germany and USA Hate crime books which have already been mentioned in the Projects section above. They are due for publication at the end of 2019 and mid 2020 respectively.

We will also be publishing the papers of the conference The New Colonialism: the American Model of Human Rights in October 2019.

IHRC Press is venturing into children's publications with the Mini Maryam series authored by Kosser Shaikh. We will also be publishing the winners and runners-up of the GMD project from its inception in 2012 with specially commissioned illustrations.

Our third imprint, Algorithm is also currently working towards publishing a biography of the 12 Imams by Hamid Algar and republication of the lectures of Imam Khomeini by Hamid Algar.

# IHRC Legal and Advocacy

Since 1997 IHRC has been at the forefront of tackling anti-Muslim discrimination and prejudice. Since we started, we have helped many people and have expanded the support we provide. IHRC Legal helps people with employment, discrimination and immigration matters. We advise on the full range of immigration applications to the Home Office and also any matters relating to discrimination. IHRC Legal is regulated by the UK government regulator, Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) at Level 3.

The IHRC Advocacy team supports people who have been the victims of racial or religious discrimination. We support people to identify relevant issues / who to complain to, draft the complaint itself, and give representation, where this is necessary.

Since it was formed in 2015 as a standalone department IHRC Legal has taken on 224 cases in total (employment/immigration and a few miscellaneous), but the total number of people we have supported is much greater as many of the cases involved families.

Twenty of our cases involved supporting individuals and families remove the no

recourse to public funds condition (NRPF). NRPF is a condition that is placed on peoples' leave to remain (immigration status) which means they cannot access public funds like benefits. This means that although permitted to work, many individuals and families end up destitute

**IHRC Legal  
helps people with  
employment,  
discrimination and  
immigration  
matters.**

reliant on foodbanks or charities for support when they lose their jobs, unable to find work, disadvantaged due to illness/disability or are single parents unable to afford expensive childcare. By removing the NRPF condition they can have access to homelessness assistance, benefits including tax credits which top up poorly paid work, allowing them to live with dignity.

**IHRC**  
Legal



[www.ihrc.org.uk](http://www.ihrc.org.uk)

**Our legal team specialises in  
employment and immigration  
matters.**

We also make Home Office fee waiver applications. Where parents / families are applying for leave to remain they have to pay home office fees for every applicant as well as immigration health surcharge (HIS) for each applicant. The current fee for HO application is £1033 per person and the HIS is £1000 per person. So each person pays £2033, a family of 4 would owe £8132. The sums are clearly unaffordable for the majority of our applicants. The most we ever saved a family was £9198. This was a family of six. The fees were less at the time. If that same family made an application today they would pay £12198.

In terms of fee waiver applications that have been decided, we have requested a total of £151,938 in fee waivers of which £134,593 has been accepted, but in terms of the number of fee waiver cases our success rate is 83%. This is a great success rate given that the Home Office refuses 70% of all applications based on the latest statistics available.

Securing permission to stay in the UK for those with irregular or no status is a major objective of IHRC Legal. To date, we have helped 120 people who did not have secure leave to remain in the UK or British Nationality.

One notable success this year was the case of a destitute pensioner who arrived at the time of the Windrush Generation. Theresa May's 'hostile environment' policy has been ruining the lives of people in the Windrush generation and other immigrants for many years now. Those who were invited to travel from the commonwealth countries to help rebuild post-war Britain are today treated as illegal immigrants by the Home Office.

Despite living in the UK for 45 years continuously, the 78-year-old client who was unable to get his immigration status regularised. Destitute and struggling, our client was not allowed to rent or claim benefits.

Born in 1939, the client arrived in the UK as a commonwealth citizen in 1970 from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Since arriving in the UK, and over the succeeding years, the client worked hard to support himself. He was employed in various factories and railway stations before working as a tailor. During his years in employment the client always made tax contributions.

Due to his employment in previous years, he was granted a small state pension, but this was insufficient to live on. His case was taken up by IHRC Legal and his Home Office application was funded by the IHRC Legal Fund and National Zakat Foundation (NZF). The legal arguments raised by our team were successful and our client was granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK - allowing him access to benefits and a more adequate state pension.

IHRC Legal then applied for citizenship for him, under the Windrush Scheme,

**Securing permission to stay in the UK for those with irregular or no status is a major objective of IHRC Legal. To date, we have helped 120 people who did not have secure leave to remain in the UK or British Nationality.**

which has now been granted. The Home Office did not apply any fees nor require him to undergo the Life in the UK test, meet the English language requirement or attend a citizenship ceremony. IHRC Legal did this work free of charge.

Our main priority for IHRC Legal is getting more cases - we are not looking for funds from the public. We are looking for more employment cases and more immigration cases, but especially employment. The more paying customers we get, the more we can reinvest into IHRC (including IHRC Legal). This is not a directly publicly funded service, nor is it a profitmaking endeavour, as all funds go back into the organisation. Our focus is more on getting more people to come and use our services rather than donating money.



# IHRC Productions and Social Media



## Documentaries

We are currently in post-production for a documentary filmed in Bosnia with the winner of the GMD poetry competition where she meets survivors of the genocide and attends the Srebrenica memorial day.

IHRC is also currently producing two documentaries about Islamophobia.

We are mid-way through producing a TV series analysing how we arrived at this point on a host of socio-political issues from Grenfell to Trump. We are also piloting our author evenings as a TV series.

## Podcasts

IHRC has branched out into podcasts this year, with three pilot recordings available on our Soundcloud site focusing on Genocide



Memorial. These will also be available via iTunes and other platforms soon, as will many of our author evenings.

## Video, Film and social media.

Almost all IHRC events are recorded and added to our Youtube (IHRCTv), Facebook and Vimeo (IHRCTv) pages for posterity, alongside our weekly video messages. Our previous documentaries can also be found on our Youtube and Vimeo channels.

IHRC continues to live broadcast most of our events on [www.ihrc.tv](http://www.ihrc.tv).

Our Instagram, Twitter and Facebook channels are going from strength to strength. Our Flickr account is undergoing revision with previously unseen archived material being added in this upcoming year.



# Gallery and Bookshop

**O**ur gallery and bookshop continued to act as a hub for exhibitions, author evenings and children's storytelling throughout the year.

## The Trojan Horse Affair

On 19 April 2018 we hosted author and Professor, John Holmwood to discuss his book on the so-called Trojan Horse affair. In 2014 an investigation into an alleged plot to 'Islamify' several state schools in Birmingham began. This caused previously highly successful schools to be vilified. Holmwood, an expert witness in the professional misconduct cases brought against the teachers, and Therese O'Toole, who researches the government's counter-extremism agenda, challenge the accepted narrative and draw on the potential parallel with the Hillsborough disaster to suggest a similar false narrative has taken hold of public debate. This important book highlights the major injustice inflicted on the teachers and governors and shows how this affair was used to criticise multiculturalism, and justify the expansion of a broad and intrusive counter extremism agenda.

## The Rohingya Crisis - A People Facing Extinction

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari joined us in June 2018 to discuss his book, 'The Rohingya Crisis - A People Facing Extinction' and the larger crisis that is facing the persecuted community. In this concise but powerfully argued book, he brings to light the scale and barbarity of the Rohingyas' suffering and argues that the international community, through the UN, must ensure their full repatriation with full citizen rights to their homeland.

## Notion of Freedom

Palestinian artist and photojournalist Haitham Khatib exhibited his work at the Gallery in July 2018. Raised in the West Bank,

he has lived his life under illegal Israeli occupation. Drones, military checkpoints and security zones are an everyday reality for him. The exhibition, titled "Notion of Freedom" was an exploration of Haitham's life - the beauty he finds in the everyday and the mundane. But it also showcased the horrors of the occupation using mixed media including photographs, slides and videos.

## How To Survive Homeschooling: A Selfcare Guide For Moms Who Lovingly Do Way Too Much

IHRC hosted author and magazine editor Brooke Benoit in August 2018. Dissatisfied with her own education, Brooke originally unschooled herself in the 1980's. She currently unschools her seven children, preferring the radical democratic or Sudsbury-style of home educating. Brooke discussed her book "How To Survive Homeschooling: A Selfcare Guide For Moms Who Lovingly Do Way Too Much", a unique homeschooling book that puts the parent first. While homeschooling continues to become increasingly popular, the focus remains on the children, with little attention given to the all-sacrificing parent(s) who often struggle to find balance and support in their uniquely challenging role. How To Survive Homeschooling offers holistic strategies for taking care of self, dealing with external pressures and building a support system to manage the daunting tasks of homeschooling.

## "Finding Peace in the Holy Land"

In September 2018 Lauren Booth joined us to discuss her book 'Finding Peace in the Holy Land' - a timely memoir told with brisk honesty and sharp humour. Sweeping from the suburbs of North London to the olive groves of Palestine, it explores a life of excess-to-spirituality impacted by the struggle of a distant people. Paddling the celebrity shallows of the 1990's as 'Tony Blair's sister-in-law', Lauren Booth explored everything



**Author Evening with Lauren Booth**

*Finding Peace in the Holy Land*  
A British Muslim Memoir

Thursday 4 October 2018 - 6.30pm

IHRC Bookshop and Gallery,  
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA

**Author evening - No Sects Please, I'm British - an exploration of Lauren Booth's memoir 'Finding Peace In the Holy Land'**

Join IHRC for a book signing and Q&A with Lauren Booth

Islamic Human Rights Commission  
www.ihr.org.uk

Live on **IHRC TV**  
www.ihrc.tv and facebook

**FREE EVENT**  
RSVP by emailing [events@ihrc.org](mailto:events@ihrc.org) or calling 0208 904 4222

For more info: [www.ihrc.org/events](http://www.ihrc.org/events)

**The Safar Curriculum for Home-schooling: An Introduction**

Thursday 20 December 2018  
11am onward

Join IHRC and Safar Publications for an introduction on the history of Safar Publications and Safar Academy, and an exploration and discussion of the Safar syllabus and how to implement it effectively in a home and formal setting.

**Tickets: £2 per person**  
Teens and children 18 and under attend for free.  
**Limited spaces** - please visit [shop.ihrc.org](http://shop.ihrc.org) to book your ticket or email [events@ihrc.org](mailto:events@ihrc.org) for more info

The books will be available to purchase in-store. Waala and prayer facilities are available. Refreshments will be provided.

This is a not-for-profit event. All registration fees are to cover the logistics of the event.

**Venue:**  
**IHRC Bookshop**  
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA  
Tel: 020 8904 4222

Islamic Human Rights Commission  
www.ihrc.org.uk

Safar Publications  
www.ihrc.org/events

**AUTHOR EVENING**

**'A Virtue of Disobedience' with Asim Qureshi**

Join IHRC for discussion and Q&A with Asim Qureshi for his latest book 'A Virtue of Disobedience', on Monday 8 October 2018

**About the author:**  
Asim Qureshi is currently completing his PhD in International Conflict Analysis. He is the Research Director at the advocacy group CAGE, and since 2003 has specialised in investigating the impact of counterterrorism practices worldwide. In 2009, he authored the book 'Rules of the Game: Detention, Deportation, and Disappearance' and the 2018 book, 'A Virtue of Disobedience'. In 2010, he began advising the legal teams involved in defending terrorism trials in the US and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

**III CAGE**

**FREE EVENT**  
RSVP by emailing [events@ihrc.org](mailto:events@ihrc.org) or calling 0208 904 4222  
The book will be available to purchase on the day

**AUTHOR EVENING WITH ASIM QURESHI**

Date: Monday 8 October 2018  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre  
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA  
Tel: 020 8904 4222

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city life had on offer. Yet, as a cautious Christian, she was drawn to the Holy Land too. Given the chance to visit Palestine, instead of finding the faith of her Catholic heritage, she became embroiled in the people's struggle, accidentally breaking a deadly siege by land and sea, playing handball with Hamas and witnessing daily acts of patience and courage which would change her forever.

## A Virtue of Disobedience

In October 2018 it was the turn of Asim Qureshi to discuss his new work of political philosophy. In 'A Virtue of Disobedience' Qureshi reflects on injustice in the world he sees around him. Covering issues from torture and extrajudicial killings, to racism and discrimination, 'A Virtue of Disobedience' takes the reader on a journey through the history of oppression and begins a conversation about how previous acts of resistance and disobedience, through faith and virtue, can be liberating in the range of contemporary issues communities face today.

## Eurocentrism in the Westernized University

Ramon Grosfoguel, a regular visitor to the bookshop, returned in December 2018 to discuss his new book "Eurocentrism in the Westernized University" along with co-author Julie Cupples. This book draws on decolonial theory to explore the ways in which Eurocentrism in the westernized

university is both reproduced and unsettled. The westernized university is a site where the production of knowledge is embedded in Eurocentric epistemologies that are posited as objective, disembodied and universal and in which non-Eurocentric knowledges, such as black and indigenous ones, are largely marginalized or dismissed. Consequently, it is an institution that produces racism, sexism and epistemic violence. The book outlines some of the challenges that accompany the decolonization of teaching, learning, research and policy, as well as providing examples of successful decolonial moments and processes. It draws on examples from universities in Europe, New Zealand and the Americas.

## 'Du'as of the Superstars' and 'Taqdeer Life Journal'

The next author evening in January 2019 was more concerned with matters of a more spiritual nature. Alima Ashfaq (author of Du'as of the Superstars) and Samia Quddus (creator of Taqdeer Life Journal) joined IHRC to discuss how and why their books are transformational, exciting and inspiring tools to help everyday Muslims to connect and gain closeness to our real purpose, and to our Creator.

## Finding a Voice

Forty years after its first publication, "Finding A Voice", the seminal publication looking at the struggles of Asian women in the UK, was republished. The 2018 edition

Join IHRC for an inspiring

# AUTHOR EVENING

with **Ramon Grosfoguel** and **Julie Cupples** for their latest book

## UNSETTLING EUROCENTRISM IN THE WESTERNIZED UNIVERSITY

Tuesday 11 December 2018

Time: 6.45 pm  
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, 202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA  
Tel: 020 8904 4222

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This book draws on decolonial theory to explore the ways in which Eurocentrism in the westernized university is both reproduced and unsettled. It outlines some of the challenges that accompany the decolonization of teaching, learning, research and policy, as well as providing examples of successful decolonial moments and processes.

For more information about the book and the authors, please visit [www.ihrc.org.uk/activities/events/](http://www.ihrc.org.uk/activities/events/)



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# AUTHOR EVENING

with **Khuram Malik**

## BILLION DOLLAR MUSLIM

We will be exploring the meaning Muslim entrepreneurship and financial success from a spiritual perspective.

Thursday, 14 March 2019

Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, 202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA  
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The book is available to purchase online and in-store.



Join IHRC for an inspiring

# AUTHOR EVENING

with **Amrit Wilson**

to discuss the new and expanded edition of her book on

## FINDING A VOICE

Thursday, 21 February 2019

Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, 202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA  
Tel: 020 8904 4222

For more information about the book and the authors, please visit [www.ihrc.org.uk/events](http://www.ihrc.org.uk/events)


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Signet copies will be sold on the day.



includes a new introduction by the author Amrit Wilson, a preface by Meena Kandasamy, and a remarkable new chapter in which younger South Asian women write about their own lives and struggles weaving them around those portrayed in the book. It also contains a series of historic photographs. Through discussions, interviews and intimate one-to-one conversations with South Asian women, in Urdu, Hindi, Bengali and English, it explored family relationships, the violence of immigration policies, deeply colonial mental health services, growing militancy at work and also friendship and love. Amrit Wilson joined IHRC to discuss the book in February 2019.

## Jabir and Nadia's Strength

Storytelling for children during school holidays has been a constant theme of the bookshop. In the Spring half term holiday we were delighted to host a storytelling session with Sukaina Amirali Mukhtar. Sukaina read from her latest book, *Jabir and Nadia's Strength*, a story about children who must overcome challenges using various mindful methods that help them get back up again. Positive Pete and Mindful Molly represent the human conscience, who help the different characters along their journey. Nadia

is a young and cheerful girl who becomes sick. Her illness affects her brother Jabir's behaviour, who experiences a range of emotions, as his sister is in hospital. Jabir tries to overcome problems in school and still stay positive.

## Billion Dollar Muslim: Why We Need Spiritually Inspired Entrepreneurs

In March 2019 Khuram Malik presented his book, "Billion Dollar Muslim: Why We Need Spiritually Inspired Entrepreneurs". The author evening discussed the meaning and manifestation of Muslim entrepreneurship, success from a spiritual perspective and the impact of success on wider society. Born out of Malik's aspirations

to sow the seeds of a flourishing generation of successful Muslim entrepreneurs, *Billion Dollar Muslim* is a book which opens our eyes to the great possibilities that can be achieved when the entrepreneurial mindset is embraced. Khuram speaks from personal experience, and he does an amazing job of sharing his conviction that the advantages of entrepreneurship can wield great benefit not only to the individual but also to the Muslim Ummah and society as a whole.

**Children's Storytelling Session**  
with **Sukaina Amirali Mukhtar**

**FREE EVENT**

• LIMITED SPACES - please RSVP by emailing [events@ihrc.org](mailto:events@ihrc.org)  
• Free event is suitable for children aged between 6 and 10  
• Music and Prayer facilities available

Date: Monday, 18 February 2019  
Time: 3.30pm - 5.00 pm  
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, 202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA  
Tel: 020 8904 4222

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Islamic Human Rights Commission  
[www.ihrc.org.uk](http://www.ihrc.org.uk)

The book can be bought at [shop.ihrc.org](http://shop.ihrc.org)





# IHRC in the media

**I**HRC representatives took part in dozens of interviews for news, radio and TV discussion programmes and new shows across the year, had their articles published in newspapers and journals. Below are some of the highlights.

## David Davis brands use of child spies 'morally repugnant'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jul/20/child-spies-used-only-when-very-necessary-says-downing-street>

Massoud Shadjareh, chair of the Islamic Human Rights Council (sic), linked the practice to the government's Prevent strategy – 'a community-wide spying programme that sees mothers spying on their own children.' 'While it is shocking to even consider the abuse of children in this manner, it is not far removed from the spirit of Prevent and the ever-increasing criminalisation of innocent communities in the name of security,' Shadjareh said. 'What only remains is the question of when we will wake from this nightmare and realise that we are destroying the safety and sanity of our society as a whole.'

## Organisers of Al-Quds march urge London mayor to support 'free expression'

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/organisers-al-quds-march-urge-london-mayor-support-free-expression>

Organisers of next month's Al-Quds Day march in London have called on city mayor Sadiq Khan to "support the right of free expression" and to ensure the event is safe from racist attacks. In a letter sent on Thursday to the mayor's office, seen by Middle East Eye, organisers urged Khan to show a commitment to the "safety and security" of the protest and to protect it from "racist hatred and violence". "The police have praised the peaceful nature of this event

and have had to increase their presence only in response to violent threats against it," organisers, who include the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), wrote in the letter.

## Muslims in Europe facing 'hostility in everyday life', Islamophobia study finds

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/muslims-europe-facing-hostility-everyday-life-islamophobia-study-finds>

'The UK used to pride itself in its diversity, but that discourse is no longer there,' said Arzu Merali, the head researcher for the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) in the UK, during Wednesday's conference, describing how a generalised discourse targeting Muslims in schools or streets also culminates in 'targeted legislation' which solidifies 'the idea of Muslims as non-citizens.'

### News | Islamophobia

## Muslims in Europe facing 'hostility in everyday life', Islamophobia study finds

Islamophobia 'poisoning EU societies', warn members of European Parliament at launch of 'toolkit' to tackle anti-Muslim prejudice



Protesters take part in a march against Islamophobia in Brussels in 2014 (AFP)

By Chloé Benoist

Published date: 26 September 2018 06:03 UTC

Last update: 7 months ago

Panel 1 at the Islamophobia Conference



### **Islamophobia to be tackled by new project in Scotland**

<https://www.ihrc.org.uk/news/21617-islamophobia-to-be-tackled-by-new-project-in-scotland/>

Arzu Merali, co-founder and IHRC head of research, who will attend the meeting, said: "The impact of Islamophobic narratives has been only too painfully felt this last 10 days after the mass murder Muslim worshippers at prayer in New Zealand.

"There are many actors in civil society, academic and other settings tackling these narratives, however institutional support for such initiatives is woefully lacking.

"Worse still, governments in European settings appear to be appeasing anti-Muslim discourse in order to benefit from the rise in populism.

### **Light-hearted fun or targeting Muslim women?**

<https://www.ihrc.org.uk/news/ihrc-in-media/21444-21444/>

Andre Walker and Raza Kazim, spokesperson for Islamic Human Rights Commission, debate after Ultimate Airsoft Range LTD uses Shamima Begum's photo as a target on their shooting range.

### **The Moral Maze – Shamima Begum**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0002mlm>

IHRC Chair Massoud Shadjareh and Dr. Myriam Francois of SOAS are among several panellists on Radio 4 discussing the controversial decision to strip Shamima Begum of her British citizenship.

### **High Court case over UK's refusal to seek death penalty assurances**

<https://www.ihrc.org.uk/news/ihrc-in-media/19263-high-court-case-over-uks-refusal-to-seek-death-penalty-assurances/>

"Justice should not be prejudice by the crime, no matter how horrible they were" says Massoud Shadjareh who debates former head of National Counter Terrorism Security Office Chris Phillips on Russia Today about the High Court case over UK's refusal to seek death penalty assurances.

### **EU failing to tackle growing Islamophobia**

<https://www.ihrc.org.uk/news/ihrc-in-media/19182-eu-failing-to-tackle-growing-islamophobia/>

A campaign aimed at stemming the rise of Islamophobia has been launched in Brussels. Experts in the campaign say the European Union is not doing enough to



## Islamophobia to be tackled by new project in Scotland

March 26, 2019



A new resource tackling anti-Muslim hate is to be launched in Scotland.

tackle growing levels of Islamophobia in the bloc. Our correspondent Jerome Hughes reports from Brussels - Press TV

### It is not in the interest of Britain or the European countries to support the dictatorial regime in Bahrain

<https://www.ihrc.org.uk/news/ihrc-in-media/18140-it-is-not-in-the-interest-of-britain-or-the-european-countries-to-support-the-dictatorial-regime-in-bahrain/>

In a special interview with the UN News Agency, IHRC chair Massoud Shadjareh said that the demands of the Bahraini people are just and that all human rights organizations in the world have the right to demand them.

He said that it is not in the interest of Britain or the European community to

support the Bahraini regime, which abuses power against the people, pointing out that our main interest is to stand up to human rights standards and justice and support the Bahraini people against the dictatorial regime.

## It is not in the interest of Britain or the European countries to support the dictatorial regime in Bahrain

May 24, 2018



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

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reward all your efforts  
in this world and the  
next. Ameen.**

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