

CONFERENCE ON ISLAMOPHOBIA AND ISLAMIC REVIVALISM

Jointly Organized by

MISG ABIM UK & EIRE



AND

**SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DURHAM UNIVERSITY**



In Collaboration with

**EDUCATION MALAYSIA
AND
MALAYSIAN POSTGRADUATE ASSOCIATION
AND
DURHAM UNIVERSITY ISLAMIC SOCIETY**

Date

21st June 2011

Venue

**SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DURHAM UNIVERSITY**

Theme

**"REALIGNMENT AND REBRANDING OF ISLAMIC REVIVALISM TO COUNTER
ISLAMOPHOBIA"**

Website:

<http://www.wix.com/zul361977/conference-on-islamophobia>

INTRODUCTION

A series of Islamophobia incidents that happened around the world, to some extent evidences the failure of Muslims community, institution and association including non-governmental organization to represent Islam. Numerous controversial issues such as 'ground zero mosque and *al Quran* burning in the United States', 'anti-Muslim film Fitna in Holland', 'Prophet Muhammad cartoon imbroglio in Denmark', 'minaret ban in Switzerland' and 'anti-Islamic finance movement' depict that there are serious misconceptions of Islam by public at large especially amongst the non-Muslim community. In view of this negative phenomenon, an initiative to organize a Conference on Islamophobia and Islamic Revivalism is considered as an essential effort undertaken by the MISG ABIM UK and Eire to promote a sense of better understanding about Islam and at the same time to be an ideal platform for exchanging of ideas to identify the best way to counter Islamophobia.

With the lack of understanding about Islam particularly Islamic revivalism by non-Muslims community and even Muslims themselves, it is extremely important to study and gain fresh insights into the origin of Islamic revivalism and its development, to examine the model and approach of revivalism, to explore the implication of Islamic revivalism on socio-politics and worldview and to discuss the thought of traditional and contemporary Muslims revivalist. Misconception of Islamic revivalism is contended to be one of the main factors of terrorism and extremism which lead to the greater issue of Islamophobia. As a result, in contradiction with its normative features of religion of peace as embedded in *al Quran* and *al Sunnah*, Islam on the other hand has been pictured as a religion of intolerant and violence. This serious misconception hence triggers the need for Muslims community and association to rectify and deconstruct the 'brand' of Islamic revivalism. Based on this motivation, the Conference aims to provide an ideal platform for exchange of ideas amongst the scholars, practitioners, individual or institution involved in *da'wah* movement, academic, students and any other person interested on the topic by promoting the effort and endeavor to rebranding and realigning the concept, model, approach and implementation of Islamic revivalism.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference is aimed at promoting a sense of understanding and awareness about the Islamophobia and Islamic Revivalism. The objectives of the Conference are:

- As a platform for intellectual discussions and dialogues in order to create a sense of understanding about issues pertaining to Islamic revivalism and Islamophobia;
- To identify the causes, effects and strategies to counter Islamophobia;
- To promote religious tolerance and community cohesion by realigning, rebranding and reconceptualizing Islamic revivalism;
- To provide opportunity for social networking and cooperation towards promoting better understanding of Islam.

HOSTING

The Conference will be organised by the MISG ABIM UK and Eire. It is suggested that the Conference to be jointly organised with the School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA), Durham University as well as to have in collaboration with the Education Malaysia (EM), Malaysian Postgraduate Association (MPA) and Durham University Islamic Society (DUIS). As a leading school in the international arena with enormous expertise in political and international relations studies including Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, any cooperation and effort between the MISG ABIM UK and Eire and the SGIA will surely lead to the success of the Conference. In fact, collaboration with the EM, the MPA and the DUIS will further support and ensure the success of the conference particularly in term of cooperation, workforce, participant, sponsor and resources.

BENEFITS OF THE CONFERENCE

This Conference provides a suitable platform where participants and speakers from diverse backgrounds may share and exchange their thoughts and ideas. Any input, ideas and information discussed are available for further attention by everyone involved within the fraternity, ranging from the Muslims and Non-Muslims association, NGOs, administrator, law and policy maker, academia and community at large. It is expected that the Conference will be a platform, directly or indirectly, in discussing issues on Islamophobia and Islamic revivalism from various perspectives and further proliferate better cooperation amongst the individuals and institutions involved in the Conference. Any media coverage about the Conference with numerous interesting and illuminating papers from multi-dimensional perspectives on the topic will further stimulate and enhance the awareness on the actual concept of Islam as a religion of peace and hence will be able, to some extent to rectify and remedy any of its misconception.

DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE

- Organizing Committee: See Appendix I
- Date: 21st June 2011
- Venue: SGIA, Durham University (Subject to change)
- Tentative: See Appendix 2
- Participation: The Conference is expecting about 70-80 participants. The main target of the audiences are non-governmental agencies; academia; politicians; representatives from governmental agencies and private sectors; undergraduate and post-graduate students; higher education institutions; research Centers; researchers and interested individuals.

- Call for Papers

Deadline for abstract	: 30 th April 2011
Notification of Acceptance of Abstract	: 15 th May 2011
Deadline for full paper	: 1 st June 2011
Final text (for insertion in proceedings)	: 10 th June 2011.

- Publication

Selected papers will be considered for publication by the MISG ABIM UK and Eire in a special edition book entitled '*Islamic Revivalism and Islamophobia: Issues and Challenges*'. This book will be a good reference on the topic as it offers numerous information and facts from multi-dimensional perspectives.

- General Guidelines For The Abstract

Title, names(s) of author(s), affiliation, institution(s), complete mailing and email address and contact number

The abstract should not exceed 250 words

Maximum length : 20 single-spaced typed pages

Font size : 12 points Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing

Paper in English and Bahasa Malaysia

- Contact Persons

For further information, please contact: Mr. Zulkifli Hasan/ Mr. Khairul Ariffin

Website : <http://www.wix.com/zul361977/conference-on-islamophobia>

Email : coiair2011@yahoo.com

- Theme and Sub themes of the Conference

The Conference will be held for 1 day. The program includes 2 plenary sessions for invited speakers and 2 parallel sessions for paper presentations in accordance with the sub themes of the Conference.

The theme of the Conference is "*Realignment and Rebranding of Islamic Revivalism to Counter Islamophobia*". The Conference cordially invites any interested persons in any area or field of study and this includes politics; economy, theology, law, *Shari'ah* and philosophy to submit their paper to the organizer. Abstracts shall address issues relevant to one of the following sub themes:

- (i) Islamic Revivalism;
- (ii) Origin and Development of Islamic Revivalism;
- (iii) Religious or Political Thought of Muslims Revivalism;
- (iv) Model and Approach of Islamic Revivalism;
- (v) Implications of Islamic Revivalism on socio-politic and worldview;
- (vi) Issues, Challenges and Future of Islamic Revivalism;
- (vii) Root causes of Islamophobia;
- (viii) Islamophobia in the World;
- (ix) Strategies to Counter Islamophobia;
- (x) Implications of Islamophobia; and
- (xi) Issues on Islamophobia;

* The list is non-exhaustive.

- Budget: See Appendix 3

CONCLUSION

As one of the Muslims Non-Governmental Organizations in the UK, the MISG ABIM UK and Eire take this initiative to organize a very important event of the Conference on Islamophobia and Islamic Revivalism. In parallel with a series of Islamophobia incidents worldwide and numerous misconceptions of Islam that getting media coverage in the mainstream media, the effort to rectify these negative perceptions is considered crucial and commendable and in fact should be supported strongly.

With this humble endeavor of the MISG ABIM UK and Eire, it is hoped that the Conference will be an ideal platform to foster healthy discourse and to promote a sense of understanding about the issue on Islamophobia and Islamic revivalism. The Conference also attempts to provide an appropriate avenue for exchange of ideas and thoughts towards generating strategies to counter Islamophobia by advocating the effort to realign and reconceptualize Islamic revivalism.

APPENDIX I

**CONFERENCE ON ISLAMOPHOBIA AND ISLAMIC REVIVALISM
ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

Director
Khairul Arifin Mohd Munir

Secretary
Asma Hakimah Abdul Halim

Treasurer
Razin Ahmad

Working Papers and Proceedings Secretariat
Zulkifli Hasan
Maheiz Sapawi

Publicity and Promotion
Norfadhilah Mohd Ali
Fauwaz Hasbullah

Sponsorship
Shafuddin Mohd Yatim
Ahmad Yunus Mohd Noor

Logistic and Transportation
Khashafiq
Ibrahim

APPENDIX 2
TENTATIVE

June 21, 2011

- 0800-0900 - **Registration**
- 0900-0945 - **Opening Session**
- **Recitation of *al Quran***
- **Opening Remarks**
President of MISG ABIM UK and Eire
President of ABIM, Malaysia
Head of School, SGIA, Durham University
- 0945-10.00 - **Break**
- 1000-1130 - **Plenary Session**
- **Theme: “(Issues, Challenges and Future of Islamic Revivalism to Counter Islamophobia)**
- **Chair: The President of ABIM, Malaysia**
- **Speakers**
Dr. Abdul Wahhab El Affendi (Centre for the study of Democracy, University of Westminster, UK);
Sheikh Rashid Ganoushi (Founding father of Al Nahda Movement in Tunisia); and
Dr. Azam Tamimi (Director of the Institute of Islamic Political Thought, London)
- 1130-1300 - **Parallel Session 1**
- **Theme**
Origin and Development of Islamic Revivalism;
Religious or Political Thought of Muslims Revivalism;
Model and Approach of Islamic Revivalism;
Implications of Islamic Revivalism on socio-politic, economic and worldview;
Issues, Challenges and Future of Islamic Revivalism
- 1300-1400 - **Lunch and Prayer**

- 1400-1600 - Parallel Session 2
- Theme
Root causes of Islamophobia;
Islamophobia in the World;
Strategies to Counter Islamophobia;
Implications of Islamophobia; and
Issues on Islamophobia
- 1600-1630 - Break
- 1630-1800 - Plenary Session
- Theme "Roles of Muslims *da'wah* movement to counter Islamophobia and to Rebranding and Realignment Islamic Revivalism"
- Chair: Head of School, SGIA, Durham University
- Speakers:
President of ABIM, Malaysia
Representative of the Muslim Association of Britain
Representative of the French Council of the Muslims Faith
- 1900-2100 - Dinner Reception and Social Networking

APPENDIX 3

BUDGET

NO.	ITEM	UNIT PRICE (GBP)	AMOUNT
			GBP
1.	Conference rooms rental (for 1 day)	GBP500.00	500.00
2.	Meals (1 lunch & 2 coffee breaks)	GBP 10.00 X 80 X 1 day	800.00
3.	Cost of Transportation	GBP 100	100.00
4.	Dinner	GBP10.00X80	800.00
5.	Other administrative	GBP200	200.00
6.	Souvenirs for key note speakers	GBP10X4	40.00
7.	Printing of proceeding, programme book etc.	GBP10 X 80	800.00
8.	Seminar kit etc	GBP5 X 80	400.00
9.	Other expenses (+/- 5% of total)	5%X GBP	182.00
TOTAL			3822