



ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

2017 - 2018 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

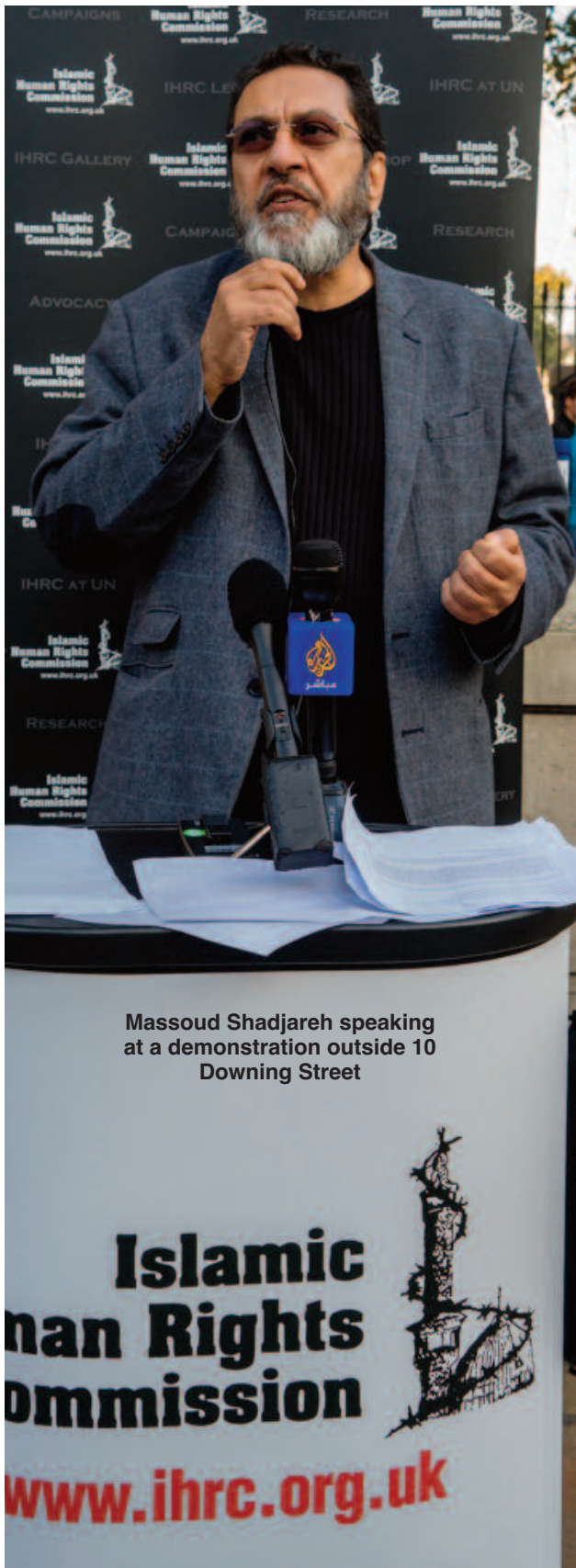


**The Islamic Human Rights Commission is an NGO
with Special Consultative Status at the Economic and
Social Council of the United Nations.**

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Chairman's foreword



Massoud Shadjareh speaking
at a demonstration outside 10
Downing Street

The last year has been another challenging year for those of us who stand against all forms of injustice and racism and want to work towards creating a better and more just society for all. It is also almost a year since Darren Osborne came to London filled with hatred and the intention to kill as many Muslims as possible. He first targeted Al Quds Day and when he failed he drove his killing machine to Seven Sisters and attacked other innocent Muslims. We know now that this kind of hatred does not happen in a vacuum. This is a case of hatred being promoted through associating a peaceful demonstration (Al Quds Day was identified as such by JUDGE ASK M.C who presided over the Osborne trial) with terrorism as was done by Zionists, Pro-Israelis and Tommy Robinson. The judge specifically highlighted the way this fuelled and radicalised Darren Osborne.

This is exactly what the report 'Environment of Hate: The New Normal for Muslims in the UK' showcases - that politicians and the media have created and strengthened this particular environment which results in people behaving so badly and so criminally. We have always highlighted that to bring change we have to deal with institutional Islamophobia which is unleashed and perpetuated by politicians, the media and those in power.

Internationally, we can see glimmers of hope of reduction in violence and moves towards a political solution in Syria and in many ways the end of Daesh in Iraq. However, we have seen no glimmers of hope in Yemen, Kashmir and Myanmar.

In the case of Palestine, the new US president outrageously tried to legitimise illegal occupied land - citing Jerusalem as not just part of the occupier but its capital. In some ways this has removed the hypocrisy from US policies. We all know the only way forward is the defeat of Zionism. In the case of South Africa, apartheid only came to an end through resistance and the result was a one state solution. It must be the same for Palestine. To that end, we would like to invite all of you to come to Al Quds Day on 10 June



Massoud Shadjareh speaking at 'The Future of Jerusalem' seminar

2018 to stand for justice; to stand for Palestine and to stand for the integrity of Al Quds.

My dear friends, we in Britain, are facing unprecedented demonisation and Islamophobia - all part of government policy to undermine our confidence as equal citizens. A process of social engineering is

We must not allow the deen of Allah to be negotiated away at any cost

taking place is taking place to undermine our beliefs and create a secular Islam. We are seeing who the government talks to when it wants to consult the so-called 'Muslim community': people who include secularists, those who are anti-Islam; the likes of Ex-British Muslims, etc. We have to resist this process and not allow the deen of Allah - which has come through the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) - to be

negotiated away at any cost. This plan of liberalising and modernising and westernising Islam has been going on for a long time. In this respect I remember a leaked government report around a decade ago which said they would bug certain Muslim schools in order to promote moderate Islam. The task was entrusted to secularists and ex-Muslims.

Asma Jahangir – UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief – said in her report on the UK in 2008:

“The Special Rapporteur would like to emphasize that it is not the Government's role to look for the “true voices of Islam” or of any other religion or belief. Since religions or communities of belief are not homogenous entities it seems advisable to acknowledge and take into account the diversity of voices. The Special Rapporteur reiterates that the contents of a religion or belief should be defined by the worshippers themselves ...”

My dear friends and supporters, we have to rise up against all of the challenges above and many others too. For that we need all of your support - especially financially. Without your participation and financial support, we would not be able to fulfil - and in the future increase - our current level of work. We can and must do it together. Let us unite for justice under the banner of la ilaha illallah.

Campaigns

Nigeria

With the continuing unlawful detention of Sheikh Ibrahim el-Zakzaky and his wife Zeenah and the persecution of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria which he heads, IHRC continued applying international pressure on the Nigerian government to release the pair and bring justice to the victims. The sheikh and his wife remain in custody without trial in defiance of a court ruling ordering their release. Since the massacre Nigerian authorities have waged a brutal campaign of repression against the IMN that has seen more lives lost, the movement banned in the state of Kaduna as an unlawful society and followers of the movement incarcerated.

The sheikh's deteriorating health towards the end of 2017 prompted an upsurge in campaigning. Following the submission of a complaint to the International Criminal Court in 2016 regarding the 2015 Zaria mas-

sacre in which over a thousand innocent people lost their lives, the ICC produced a report containing the findings of its preliminary examinations. IHRC responded with a strongly worded letter International Criminal Court seeking clarification for comments that seemed to apportion blame for the massacre on the victims.

In its Report on Preliminary Examination Activities 2017 the ICC states in reference to the attack by armed forces on supporters of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria: "It is alleged 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".

IHRC took objection to this and reminded the ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda that to repeat the government narrative is a grave mistake especially when the report "fails to present the victims' perspective, ignores all of the evidence except that presented by the government and unfairly presents the victims of the violence as the in-

Protestors in Nigeria face water cannons as they campaign for Sheikh Zakzaky's freedom



stigators of the violence that took place over those fateful three days.”

The ICC comments are worrying especially in view of the fact that no evidence has been presented, either by the army or public, in support of the government narrative. In fact, all the photographic and video evidence of the attack shows 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 the unarmed IMN supporters. They attacked various IMN sites over three days, and at no point was the army attacked.

However there is a large body of evidence ranging from eyewitness accounts to victim statements and video evidence that shows that IMN supporters were unarmed and did not engage in any violent activity.

“If the ICC is to be an effective and impartial body that holds perpetrators of international crimes to account, it needs to avoid victim blaming,” said the letter.

We also wrote to the ICC separately

warning them of reports that Nigerian government was planning to exhume the mass graves of those killed during the 2015 massacre. There are a number of mass graves around Zaria, with up to 1000 victims buried in them by the Nigerian army. IHRC viewed the exhumation as a move to deliberately destroy evidence of the attack by dispersing the victims’ bodies to unknown locations. We told the ICC that it is imperative that any exhumation does not go ahead under the authority of the Nigerian government or army, as vital evidence will be removed or destroyed. The victims’ bodies should be exhumed under the supervision of an international organisation, like the ICC, so that evidence can be preserved and the victims’ bodies returned to their families.

Over the course of the year we also lobbied various Nigerian and international organisations for the release of Sheikh Zakzaky, including the African Union, the United Nations, Nigerian president and the Nigerian High Commissioner to the UK.

Numerous peaceful protests have been taking place to demand freedom for Sheikh Zakzaky



Rohingya

The renewed pogroms and ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya in Myanmar prompted us to organise a vigil outside the country's embassy in London on 10 September 2017. Hundreds of civilians were killed and tens of thousands forced to flee their homes in Rakhine State after the government launched a "scorched earth" policy in areas inhabited by the group. Fleeing Rohingya recounted stories of children being beheaded and women being dragged away by soldiers to be raped. While tens of thousands of victims managed to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh others had their escape cut off by Dhaka which has historically sought to confine the Rohingya to Myanmar despite sharing a common faith and language with the persecuted group.

We urged people to donate funds for those affected and to write protest letters to the Bangladesh embassy in their countries calling on the governments to immediately

admit the tens of thousands of people who were massing on the border attempting to flee violence in Myanmar.

IHRC called on the United Nations to intervene as a matter of urgency to pressurise the Myanmar regime into complying with its international human rights obligations and ending its persecution of the Rohingya.

We also reiterated our call for the UN to launch an immediate investigation into the latest reports of atrocities against the Rohingya and immediately refer the matter to the International Criminal Court.

**Hundreds of civilians
have been killed and
tens of thousands
have been forced to
flee their homes**



**Rohingya refugees camped out
in horrible conditions on Cox's
Bazar in Bangladesh**

Refugees fleeing Myanmar have little access to nutrition and medical supplies



Many fleeing persecution in Myanmar have lost loved ones along the way



Palestine

Our efforts continued to keep the issue of Palestinian rights in the spotlight while international attention was diverted to other conflicts in the region.

With the situation worsening in the summer of 2017 and Palestinians feeling abandoned IHRC organised a “Stand With Palestine” demonstration in London on 22 July.

On 2 November 2017, the centenary year of the Balfour Declaration, the promise made by Britain to Zionist leaders to help establish a national homeland for the Jewish people, IHRC wrote to PM Theresa May. In a letter endorsed by scores of prominent individuals and groups the letter asked the British PM to The British Government to apologise to the Palestinian people for their century-long suffering and humiliation, which is still continuing, as a result of the issuing of the Balfour Declaration and consequent actions. It also demanded that Britain pay full compensation for the direct and consequential losses to the Palestinian people.

In response to reports that PM May was to attend a joint British-Israeli dinner marking the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, IHRC asked her to cancel her appearance. We also demanded that Britain implement the recommendations of a report by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to help end the Apartheid regime in Israel.

Al-Quds Day

In the run-up to last year’s Al-Quds Day demonstration, we were forced to write to the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to protest against efforts by extremist Zionists to have the event called off. Al-Quds day is an annual global event to campaign for the rights of Palestinians. In London it has run as a peaceful family friendly event for some 30 years. The procession is always a diverse inclusive group, made up of Muslims, Jews, Christians, people of various faiths and none, from a wide range of ethnicities and walks of life.

The letter-writing campaign by the ‘North London Friends of Israel’ and ‘We Believe in Israel’ groups urged the mayor to cancel the event on the alleged grounds that it was giving voice to extremists. The letters particularly targeted the waving of Hezbollah flags by participants.

The procession is always a diverse inclusive group, made up of Muslims, Jews, Christians, people of various faiths and none

IHRC’s letter to Khan co-signed by a diverse range of pro-Palestine individual and groups, the mayor of London Sadiq Khan was reminded that Hizbullah’s political wing is not proscribed under British law, an interpretation which has been repeatedly confirmed by the Crown Prosecution Service, and the Metropolitan Police. Furthermore, said the letter, “removing, or restricting the right to protest and challenge injustice in the world is damaging to society, and in fact downright dangerous. There are clear, grave consequences of silencing the voices of the oppressed and their advocates.”

The letter urged Mr. Khan “to ignore the slurs from the pro-Israel lobby and protect the legitimate rights of demonstrators against Israeli war crimes.”

IHRC was forced to write to the mayor again several times in the following months after it emerged that after the Al-Quds Day demonstration he wrote to the Home Secretary Amber Rudd asking her to close a “loop-hole” that allows people to continue to show support for the political wing of the Lebanese organisation. In the letter Mr Khan appealed to the Home Secretary to proscribe the political arm of Hezbollah just as its military wing is proscribed under terrorism legislation.

The campaign against Mr. Khan’s stance on the Al-Quds Day demonstration continues with IHRC pressing him to ensure that the 2018 event is not marred by a racist and Islamophobic smear campaign and the incitement of violence against its participants.



EDL and Zionist demonstrators protesting the AI Quds Day march



Supporters of justice for Palestine peacefully marched through the streets of London on AI Quds Day

Continued campaigning on Saudi Arabia

To mark 800 days of Saudi's siege on Yemen, as part of a global campaign against 800 days of Saudi genocidal bombing of Yemen, IHRC along with Inminds successfully organised a guerilla projection on the Saudi embassy in London on 11 June. A projection condemning Saudi Arabian abuses was projected onto the embassy in the early hours of the day.

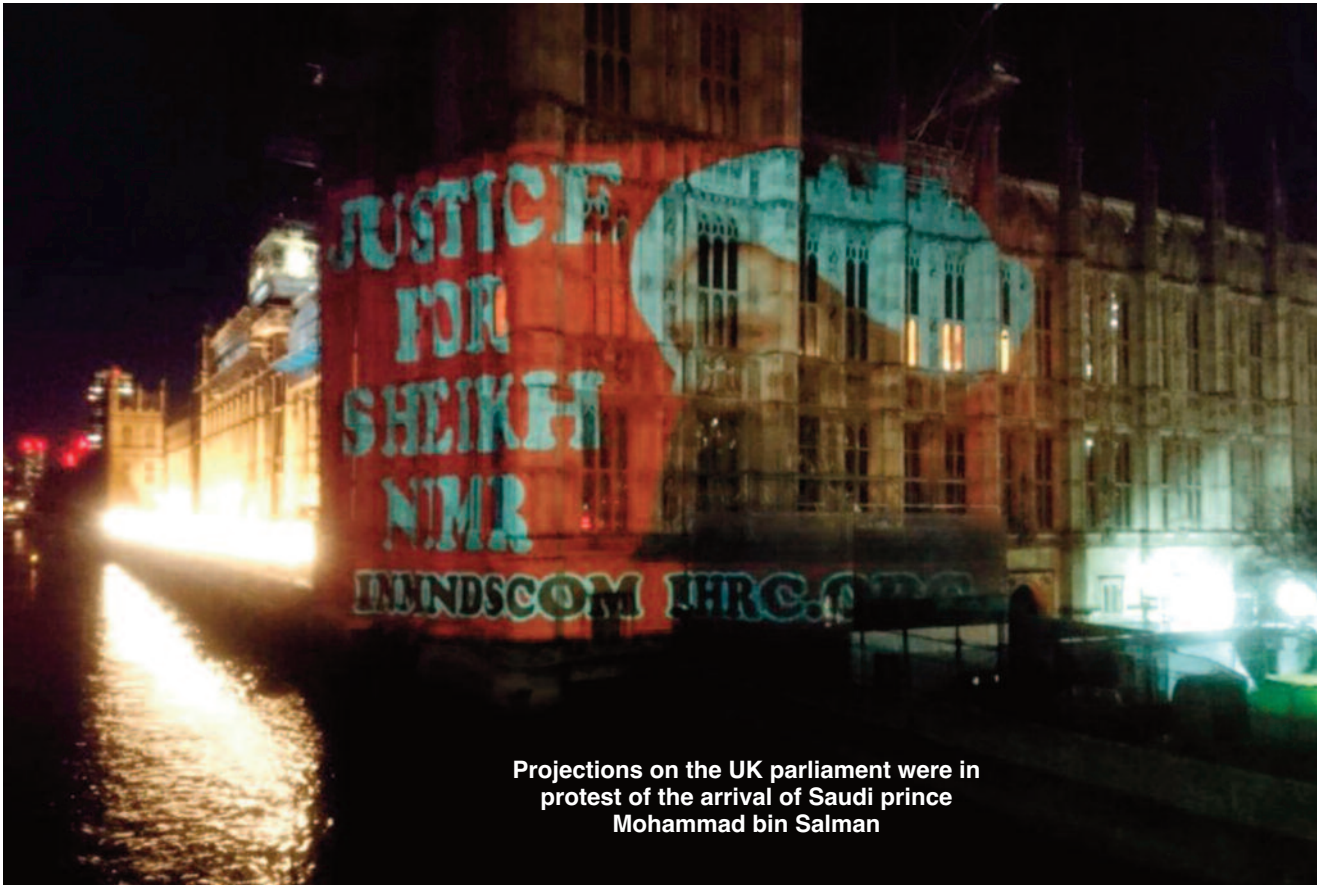
The campaign drew attention to the Saudi-led military coalition's war crimes in Yemen which have predominantly been directed at civilians in schools, mosques, hos-

pitals, and funeral gatherings. Thousands of innocent people have been killed. Yemen imports 90% of its food and a land/air/sea siege by Saudi Arabia has resulted in mass starvation with the UN reporting that three million (largely children) are suffering from malnutrition.

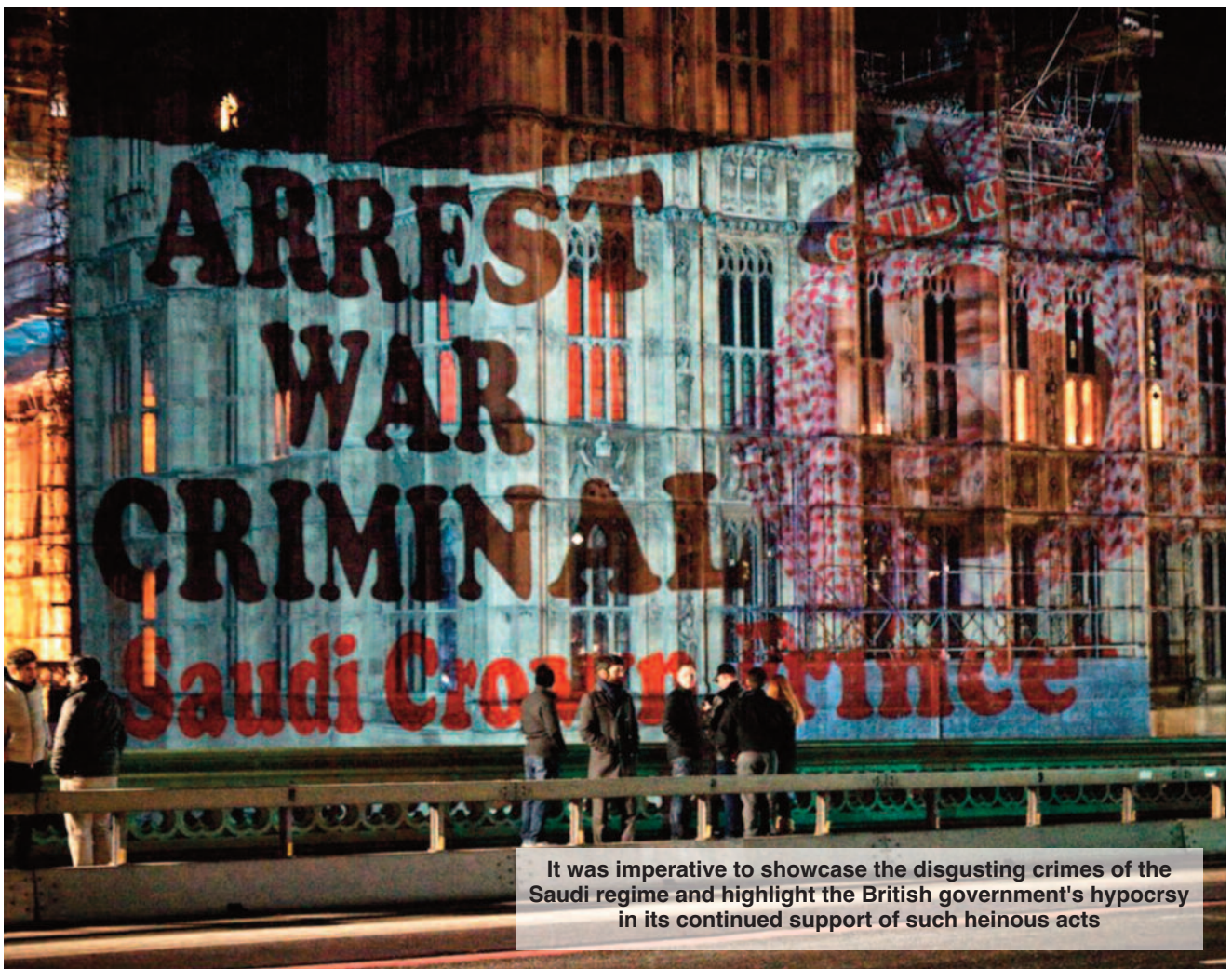
In March 2017 we also co-organised a protest in the capital against the kingdom's new ruler, Prince Mohammad bin Salman who was visiting the UK. IHRC joined a coalition of organisations to protest against the visit. Apart from involvement in Yemen, the Saudi regime has also supported repression in Bahrain, imposed a blockade on Qatar, and briefly detained the Lebanese Prime Minister.



IHRC took to parliament in London to protest Saudi injustice



Projections on the UK parliament were in protest of the arrival of Saudi prince Mohammad bin Salman



It was imperative to showcase the disgusting crimes of the Saudi regime and highlight the British government's hypocrisy in its continued support of such heinous acts

OFSTED

Following reports in the media that the head of the official schools inspectorate in England had requested inspectors to interrogate young Muslim girls wearing the hijab on the grounds that it “could be interpreted as sexualisation” of girls as young as four or five, when most Islamic teaching requires headdress for girls only at the onset of puberty,” IHRC wrote to Amanda Spielman reminding her of her Britain’s obligations under international law to ensure freedom of thought, conscience and religion.



The letter drew particular attention to the novelty of this argument. Until recently Muslim women were berated for wearing the hijab as it erased and denied their sexuality while in public. For Spielman to invert this argument and still manage to use it as an effective tool to demonise Muslim women marks a new low. It seems now the Muslim women are oppressed by the hijab because it denies the sexuality of grown women but that they also we need protection from it as it overly sexualises prepubescent girls.

The letter attacked OFSTED for denying Muslim parents the right to raise their children their religious values and practices. The socialisation process in all communities involves the young learning the values and ethics of their parents by copying them. Whether that is a young girl wearing makeup, dressing up in her mother’s clothing or wearing the hijab. A critical part of this socialisation process is that parents should be free to teach their religious (or non-religious) values and practices without state interference.

California State University

Following the decision by CSU to cancel the search for a candidate for the Edward Said Professorship, a move which prompted the resignation of the Director of the Middle East Studies Program, Vida Samiian on the grounds of racial discrimination and academic interference, IHRC wrote to the university protesting its decision.

We found the cancellation after strong lobbying from the American pro-Zionist lobby unacceptable. The lobby has made it a strategy in recent years to target academic institutions in order to silence narratives that do not conform to their own agenda. Their aim is to prevent a critical discussion of Israeli policies or Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine by harassing or intimidating university lecturers and administrators.

There is no doubt that the university had caved in to the lobbyists’ objections that the all four candidates are of Middle Eastern and Palestinian ethnicity.

The letter said this was a disturbing turn of events which has serious repercussions for the University’s reputation as an institution that cherishes academic freedom and supposedly operates a non-discrimination policy. We urged CSU to reverse its decision.



Events

Prophet Isa: A Storytelling Performance for Children

IHRC hosted Khayaal Theatre Company on 3 April 2017 for an inspiring storytelling performance for children about the Prophet Jesus by Khayaal Theatre Company.

This was a reverent and atmospherically rich performance of the story of the prophet known as the Spirit of God, from his miraculous birth to his glorious ascension. Khayaal's Easter storytelling offering presented an episodic account of the life of Prophet Isa (as) interspersed with his teachings from the Qur'an and the Bible based on traditional Islamic and Christian sources.

Al-Quds Day demonstration

The annual al-Quds day demonstration in support of Palestinians took place on Sunday 18 June in London in the face of attempts by

pro-Zionist groups to disrupt it and even have it called off.

Between two to three thousand people from all over the UK turned out to commemorate al-Quds Day, a day that 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.

Film screening: Generation Revolution and conversation with Usayd Younis and Cassie Quarless – 19 September

IHRC was proud to screen Generation Revolution, the powerful story of a new generation of black and brown activists who are changing the social and political landscape in London and beyond. This feature-length documentary film follows an exciting new



Al Quds Day marchers were treated to an array of speakers from a variety of backgrounds



Nargess Moballeghi in conversation with 'Generation Revolution' creators Cassie Quarless and Usayd Younis



The Al Quds Day march was also a chance for protestors to show their support for the victims of Grenfell



Lauren Booth, Yasser Louati, Maz Saleem and Malia Bouattia pose at the 2017 Islamophobia Awards. Maz Saleem was one of the recipients of a 'Positive Award' on the night in recognition of her work in combatting Islamophobia

breed of organisations as well as the young Londoners that are part of them.

The London Black Revolutionaries, or 'Black Revs', have a predilection for dramatic, raucous, direct action. R Movement challenge the idea of the 'Staid and Serious' political activist and The Black Dissidents are a new organisation intent on furthering the fight against oppression along the lines of race, class and gender.

The film vividly chronicles the evolution of characters as they experience personal and political awakenings, breakthroughs and, at times, disillusionment. Generation Revolution offers a unique and original glimpse into the rewarding but difficult path that must be trodden in the struggle for personal, social and political liberation.

Islamophobia Awards 2017

IHRC successfully hosted the 2017 Islamophobia Awards on Sunday, 27 November. The event was also a chance to commemorate 20 years since Islamic Human Rights Commission was founded and raise money for IHRC Trust's charitable works. Foremost, the event is a satirical awards ceremony where we can poke fun at those who

have been Islamophobic and hateful towards Muslims.

The 'Islamophobe of the Year' award went to Donald Trump, who had previously won it in 2016. Other 'category' winners included OFSTED, Fox News, Aung San Suu Kyi.

It was a successful evening that allowed for light hearted laughter and comedy – enjoyed by all. It is of course important to also remember the seriousness of the Islamophobia phenomenon and that we must always be working towards dismantling structural inequalities. But even Muslims are allowed a night off for a bit of satirical fun!

Islamophobia Conference 2017 – 10 December

On Sunday 10th of December, the 2017 Islamophobia conference began with a swarm of snowflakes, an exciting start to IHRC's fourth annual conference entitled The Rise of Nativism. Co-organised with Scotland Against Criminalising Communities, the London event was held at the wonderful P21 Gallery whilst the Scottish conference was held in Edinburgh on Friday 9th December.



Arzu Merali, Luis Manuel Hernandez Aguilar, Amrit Wilson, Salman Sayyid, Hatem Bazian and Ramon Grosfoguel at the 2017 Islamophobia Conference



2017 Islamophobia Conference panelists discuss 'The Rise of Nativism'

araRussellPhotography



Nazim Ali, Ramon Grosfoguel and Narjis Khan speak at Genocide Memorial Day 2018

In London first panel of speakers discussed minority rights in the age of nativism. Arzu Merali, the Head of Research at IHRC and co-author of *Environment of Hate: The new Normal for Muslims in the UK* discussed the rise of nativism in the nation state. Merali emphasised the inter-relatedness of Islamophobia, anti-blackness and austerity saying they should be campaigned against all at once rather than internalising the issues inside separate communities. Other speakers included Dr Luis Hernandez Manuel Aguilar, a research officer for IHRC based in Germany, Martijn de Koning, a teacher at the Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands, Professor Hatem Bazian, co-founder of Zaytuna College and lecturer at the University of California, Ramon Grosfoguel, a professor at the University of California, Amrit Wilson, a writer and activist and member of South Asia Solidarity Group and Professor Salman Sayyid from the University of Leeds.

The focus of the conference in Edinburgh was education. It came on the heels of a recent survey by Samena Dean which found that more than half of Muslim school students interviewed in Edinburgh had experienced Islamophobia. Islamophobia is reflected in hate crime, unlawful discrimina-

tion, discriminatory and hostile social attitudes and institutional racism. Schools, colleges and universities in Scotland are not immune to this trend. The event consisted of a workshop mainly for young Muslims, a round-table discussion on how to move towards radically anti-racist education and a panel with speakers including Arzu Merali (co-founder and head of research, IHRC, and leading member of DIN), Tasneem Ali (MWAE), Richard Haley (SACC), Sofiah MacLeod (Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign) and Yahya Barry. The panel was chaired by Zahid Ali.

Genocide Memorial Day 2018

On Sunday 21 January 2018, Islamic Human Rights Commission held its 9th annual Genocide Memorial Day event. The theme of this year's GMD was Failures of International Institutions in preventing genocide: Myanmar's Rohingya and Bosnian genocides. The conference featured two panel discussions, the first featuring Dr Maung Zarni, a genocide scholar and Burmese human rights activist. He has written extensively on democratization, Islamophobia, and Rohingya genocide in his native

Rajeesh Kumar speaks at 'The New Colonialism: The American Model of Human Rights' conference



country of Burma. He started his lecture talking about how genocide and civilization are a paradox. He pointed out how we have created these taxonomies of humans, cultures and societies and how white men have come at the very top. In Maung's words, this is the ideological framework that has been used and continues to be used to justify atrocities and crimes anywhere in the world.

Following Dr Zarni, Demir Mahmutcehajic, a human rights activist and one of the founder members of IHRC, spoke about his own personal experience as a survivor of the Bosnian genocide and why after the genocide in Bosnia was committed, perpetrators systematically hid the remains of the dead. Further, he discussed the dehumanisation of the Bosnians as in doing so it became acceptable to kill, rape and assault them.

The second panel featured Michel Warschawski who spoke via Skype from the occupied Palestine. Warschawski is an Israeli anti-Zionist activist and co-founder of the Alternative Information Center (AIC). He discussed the problem and limitations of "one

state" as a solution to the colonial conflict in Palestine and the future of Palestine in the Trump era.

The final speaker was Ramon Grosfoguel, a professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Grosfoguel examined how the nation state provides us with the question of the human versus non-human and highlighted the idea of one nation with one identity and one population simply does not exist. In his own words, "Nations states are fictions. They don't exist".

Conference: "The Future of Jerusalem" – 28 January (co-organised with Ahlulbayt Islamic Mission)

This event which brought together a distinguished panel of speakers in London examined the following themes:

- The implications of 100 years of Balfour

Saeid Reza Ameli speaks at 'The New Colonialism: The American Model of Human Rights' conference



Declaration.

- Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions - BDS movement.
- Narratives of Zionism: Demonization of Palestine activism.
- Challenges of a one state-solution.

Speakers included:

- Ken Livingston - Former Mayor of London
- Malia Bouattia - Former President of National Union of Students
- Massoud Shadjareh - Chairman of Islamic Human Rights Commission
- Father Frank Gelli - Reverend of Anglican Church
- Shaykh MS Bahmanpour - Islamic Centre of England
- Rabbi Aaron Cohen - Neturei Karta
- Nargess Moballegghi - Freelance Journalist
- Roshan M Salih - Chief Editor of 5Pillars
- Abir Safa - Spoken Word Artist
- George Galloway - Politician and Activist
- Les Levidow - Jews for Boycotting Israeli Goods

Conference: The New Colonialism: The American Model of Human Rights – 10 February

Held at the prestigious Friends House in London this conference saw the gathering of speakers from all over the world to discuss American exceptionalism and human rights for the first time ever. The objective of The New Colonialism: The American Model of Human Rights was to unmask the more systemic problems that undergird US Exceptionalism. In particular, the focus was on the Americanisation of Human Rights, and the praxis of human rights, arguing that they have become a tool of US led foreign policy rather than a transformative discourse that seeks to liberate individuals, groups and large sections of society who are oppressed by unjust systems.

IHRC at the United Nations

IHRC is recognised as an experienced and highly respected human rights organisation. For many years now 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 relation to the Netherlands we condemned the “Black Pete” celebrations and the rise of Islamophobia in the country. In our statement we backed a 2015 call by the United Nations committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urging The Netherlands to get rid of Black Pete because it has racist elements. “Black Pete is sometimes portrayed in a manner that reflects negative stereotypes of people of African descent and is experienced by many people of African descent as a vestige of slavery,” its

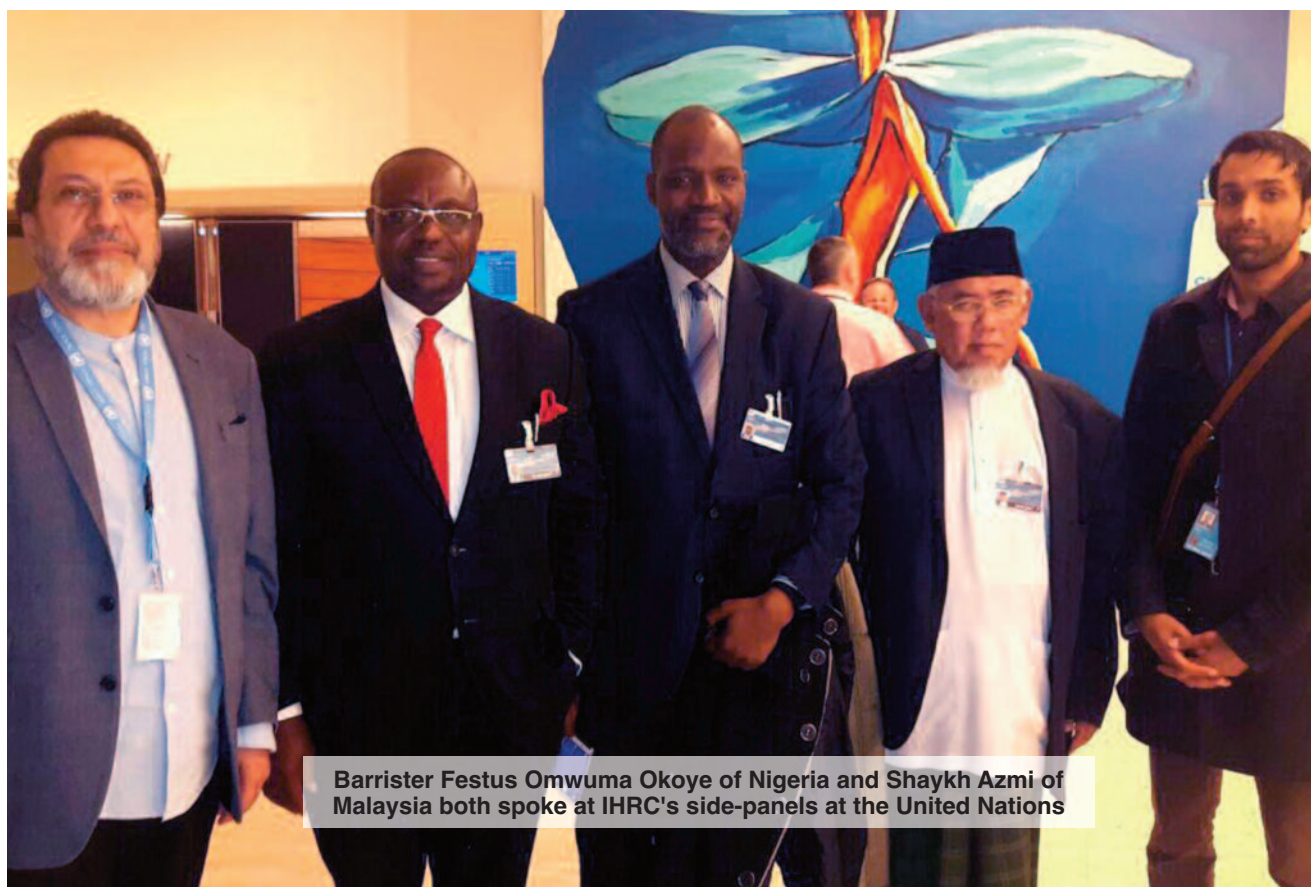
report stated.

IHRC called on the Human Rights Council of the UN to put pressure on the Netherlands to implement the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommendation immediately and to take measures to stop xenophobic verbal, physical attacks against Muslims and protect mosques.

In another oral statement IHRC drew attention to United Kingdom and Northern Ireland’s PREVENT Programme.

Prevent, an acronym for Preventing Violent Extremism, is one of four pillars of the government’s anti-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, which emerged as a response to the July 2005 terrorist bombings in the capital. Its stated aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. However PREVENT has become an aggressive social engineering and spying exercise to transform attitudes in the community and gather intelligence on its members.

There is little doubt that Prevent is proving to be counter-productive in the fight



IHRC called on the Human Rights Council of the UN to put pressure on the Netherlands to take measures to stop xenophobic verbal and physical attacks against Muslims and to protect mosques

against terrorism. The authorities seem so concerned with remoulding British Muslims that their energies and resources are taken up pursuing this latter day “mission civilisatrice” rather than seeking out real terrorists. Prevent has also alienated the Muslim community instead of making it a partner in the fight against terrorism; it has become a byword for indoctrination and intrusion. The Prevent strategy is an attack on the rights and liberties of Muslims and the wider population and as such will never make Britain more secure from the threat of terrorism. Our recommendation was that it be abolished.

Our oral statement on Bahrain drew attention to the mistreatment and torture of detainees, continuing stripping of citizenship, travel bans against civil society actors and restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Bahrain remained a member of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition that has launched countless air strikes in Yemen, causing thousands of civilian deaths. We also convened two side panel meetings on the issue during the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council.

This panel at the United Nations focused on the Zaria Massacre that took place in Nigeria in 2015



IHRC at the EU

Located in Brussels since 2016, the EU Office coordinates IHRC advocacy activities with the EU institutions playing a leading role in shaping policies to fight Islamophobia, including the European External Action Services, European Parliament, EU Delegations and the EU Commission.

Despite EU and national legislation providing legal remedies for racist crime and discrimination, evidence demonstrate that Muslims still suffer from violence, prejudice and exclusion. On the basis of existing EU and international human rights standards, evidence-based, proactive and specific policies are still needed at national and European level, to address Islamophobia, including its structural dimensions and impact on economic and social outcomes for Muslims.

The first official statement of the Vice-President of the European Commission

Frans Timmermans on Anti-Muslim hatred on 21st September 2017 represented an important step towards more recognition at EU level.

IHRC plays a fundamental role in this third year of fighting against Islamophobia in Europe. Our objectives look increasingly challenging and the IHRC-EU team works to influence all the key decision and policy-makers to ensure that EU policies have a far reaching, positive impact on the lives of those most affected. IHRC advocacy work in the EU currently focuses on:

- Following policy developments on a number of issues that relate to anti-Muslim hatred, anti-discrimination law, counter-terrorism law in numerous policy areas including employment, hate crime, hate speech, institutional islamophobia, islamophobia in the media.



Proactive and specific policies are still needed at national and European level to address Islamophobia

- Liaising with the Members of the European Parliament (especially UK MEPs), other EU Institution officials, allied NGOs and civil society networks in Brussels and across Europe.

- Presenting IHRC and its positions on a number of policy areas to European stakeholders at an institutional and civil level.

- Writing position papers, briefing documents, press releases, research, and newsletters

Our main stakeholders are: the European Parliament's Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI), UK MEPs, Member States, the EU High Level Group, the FRA-led Subgroup on improving methodologies for recording and collecting data on hate crime, the European Commission coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred.



Research and Publications

Throughout the course of the year IHRC was engaged in a major research project funded by the European Union looking at how Islamophobia can be combated with the use of counter-narratives. The research is more or less completed at the time of writing.

The overall aim of the research was to compare the operation of counter-narratives to Muslim hatred in eight EU member states in order to examine their use and effectiveness in terms of providing alternatives to prevailing narratives of hate and hostility and reducing racism.

This has involved assessing prevailing narratives of Muslim hatred and the local, national and international environments in which they operate, identifying the content, utilisation and impact of counter-narratives in each member state context and comparing their operation and outcomes in order to identify best practice in the form of a Toolkit of Counter-Narratives.

IHRC empirical information about the operation of counter-narratives in eight member states (the UK, Belgium, Portugal, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Greece, plus France and Germany) providing the first comprehensive comparative picture of the use of counter-narratives and will for the first time compare these data to explore what works in the use of counter-narratives utilising a range of indicators.

Along with several partners, IHRC was given the task of researching the UK section of the project. Our report overviews narratives of Islamophobia in the United Kingdom using the Domination Hate Model of Intercultural Relations (DHMIR) (Ameli, 2010) to map the overlapping and interlocking prevalence and impact of such narratives on social and political discourse. This report overviews existing work in the field that measures and narrates the impact of Islamophobia, a background to the Muslim community/ies in the UK, the discussion around definitions of Islamophobia, historical and current events that impact the relationship between the understanding of Muslims in society and their experiences, before outlining the key anti-Muslim narratives operating in British political, media and other discourses.

Our report overviews narratives of Islamophobia in the United Kingdom using the Domination Hate Model of Intercultural Relations to map the overlapping and interlocking prevalence and impact of such narratives on social and political discourse.

Publications

We published/republished three titles throughout the course of the year.

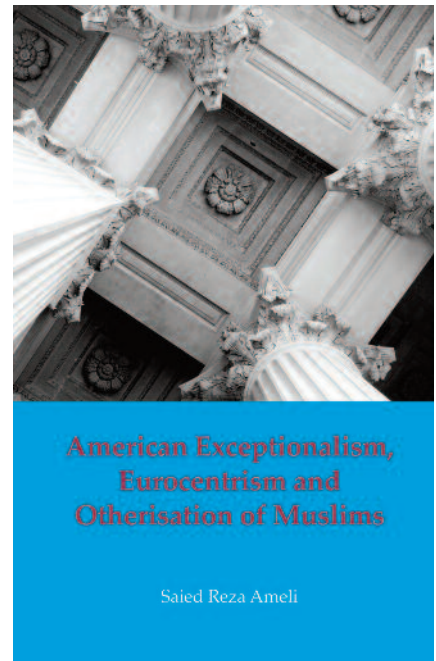
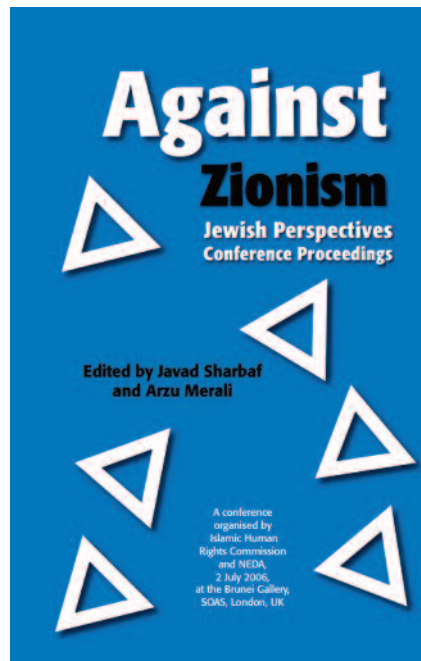
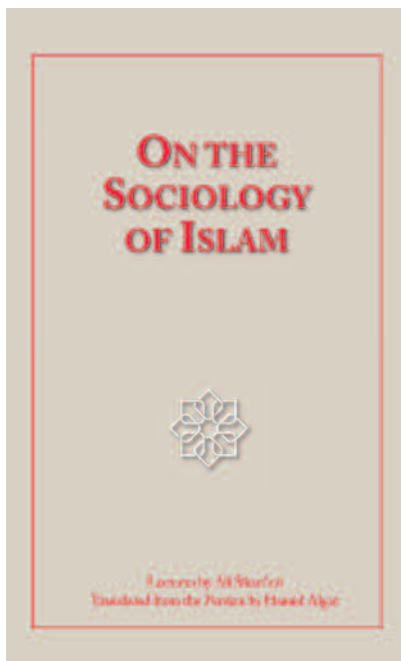
On the Sociology of Islam - Dr. Ali Shariati

Publication date: 30 October 2017

Dr. Ali Shari'ati (1933-1977) was a teacher, scholar and writer, who had a dynamic influence on the young people of Iran with his classes, discussions, free lectures and articles during the 1960s and 1970's. Shari'ati was a sociologist, educated in Mashhad and Paris, as well as a student of history and philosophy.

He subjected contemporary society to careful examination, using the terms, experiences and concepts found in Islamic philosophy and culture for his analysis. He formulated and presented to his students and readers a coherent Islamic world-view and an ideology of social, political and economic change. His views contributed much to the Iranian Islamic revolution. Shari'ati's works are constantly reprinted and eagerly studied throughout Iran.

This anthology – translated by the esteemed Professor Hamid Algar - presents his



major ideas. In it the reader is introduced to several of his favourite themes: the unity of the universe, the confusion of terms in Marxism and the man of faith as rebel.

“Shari’ati was an independent thinker who dared to raise his voice against obeying the despotic shah of his time. Shari’ati dared to think differently and strove hard to provide an alternative islamic view on various issues. In this collection of lectures, aptly titled *On the Sociology of Islam*, Shari’ati brings his knowledge of history, faith, belief and struggle to produce a narrative that can be characterized as decolonial in today’s standards”

Against Zionism: Jewish Perspectives Conference Proceedings (2nd ed) - Edited by Arzu Merali and Javad Sharbaf

First published in 2008 / Second edition publication date: 7 February 2018

The conference ‘Against Zionism: Jewish Perspectives’ at the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies in 2008 marked a turning point in solidarity and activism for Palestine in civil society. Following on one year after the multi-faith conference ‘Towards A New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine’ this event marked the continued and deep collaboration between diverse Jewish and Muslim voices.

The papers in this collection come from brave intellectuals, academics, activists, and Rabbis. All of them continue to challenge the

injustices and outright oppression caused by racist, supremacist discourses. Their work remains pertinent at a time when advocacy for justice, especially in support of the Palestinian people, their rights and their aspirations, is being demonised.

American Exceptionalism, Eurocentrism and Otherisation of Muslims - Saied Reza Ameli
Publication date: 2 October 2017

‘American Exceptionalism, Eurocentrism and Otherization of Muslims’ is an important contribution to understand the rise of global islamophobia and the difficult moment humanity faces today. Dr. Ameli brings us a profound analysis on the roots of the problem.

He takes a long durée perspective to deconstruct major myths of Western modernity by going back to the history of Al-Andalus and the Crusades, to the conquest of the Americas in 1492, the invention of the myth of European origin in Greek civilization in the 18th century, the eurocentric structures of knowledge of the modern world, all the way to the orientalist narratives of the recent “war on terror”. But this book is not just about the deconstruction of Western Modernity myths. Dr. Ameli provides a fascinating reconstruction from Islamic sources of concepts of Justice and Ethics as well as Islam’s comprehensive contributions to different aspects of human life as solutions to the different problems humanity faces today.

Gallery and Bookshop

Our gallery and bookshop continued to act as a hub for storytelling and exhibitions throughout the year.

Author Evening: 'Shy Radicals' with Hamja Ahsan 24 July 2017

Hamja Ahsan is a campaigner for prisoners, human rights and civil liberties under the War on Terror, and was shortlisted for the Liberty Human Rights awards for the Free Talha Ahsan campaign. *Shy Radicals* is a satire that uses anti-colonial theory to build a critique of dominant culture and the rising tide of Islamophobia.

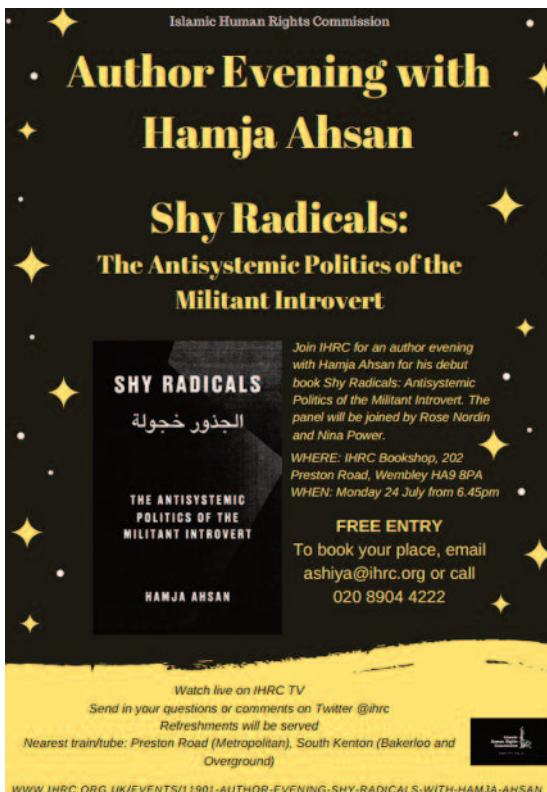
Radicalised against the imperial domination of globalised PR projectionism, extrovert poise and loudness, the *Shy Radicals* and their guerrilla wing the *Shy Underground* are a vanguard movement intent on disrupting consensus extrovert-supremacist politics and assertiveness culture of the

twenty first century. The movement aims to establish an independent homeland – Aspergistan, a utopian state for introverted people, run according to Shyria Law and underpinned by Pan-Shyist ideology, protecting the rights of the oppressed quiet and shy people.

Author Evening: 'Balfour's Shadow' with David Cronin 27 July 2017

In November 1917, Britain caused one of the great fault lines in the Middle East. A declaration signed by Arthur James Balfour, then foreign secretary, favoured the establishment of a 'Jewish national home' in Palestine, a predominantly Arab land.

David Cronin presented his new book, *Balfour's Shadow*, which provides a trenchant critique of Britain's 100-year-old support for the Zionist colonisation project. Unearthing facts neglected by many historians. In a well-attended event Cronin discussed



Islamic Human Rights Commission

Author Evening with Hamja Ahsan

Shy Radicals: The Antisystemic Politics of the Militant Introvert

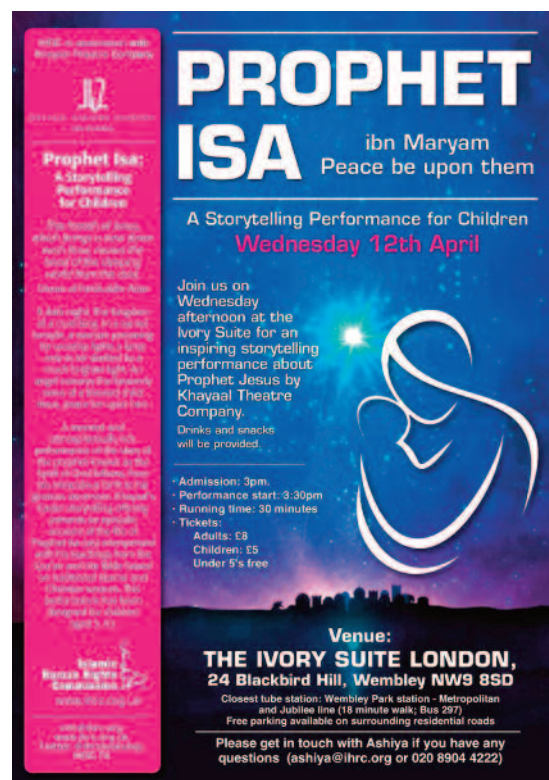
Join IHRC for an author evening with Hamja Ahsan for his debut book *Shy Radicals: Antisystemic Politics of the Militant Introvert*. The panel will be joined by Rose Nordin and Nina Power.

WHERE: IHRC Bookshop, 202 Preston Road, Wembley HA9 8PA
WHEN: Monday 24 July from 6.45pm

FREE ENTRY
To book your place, email ashiya@ihrc.org or call 020 8904 4222

Watch live on IHRC TV
Send in your questions or comments on Twitter @ihrc
Refreshments will be served
Nearest train/tube: Preston Road (Metropolitan), South Kenton (Bakerloo and Overground)

WWW.IHRC.ORG.UK/EVENTS/11901-AUTHOR-EVENING-SHY-RADICALS-WITH-HAMJA-AHSAN



PROPHET ISA

ibn Maryam
Peace be upon them

A Storytelling Performance for Children
Wednesday 12th April

Join us on Wednesday afternoon at the Ivory Suite for an inspiring storytelling performance about Prophet Jesus by Khayal Theatre Company. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Admission: 3pm
Performance start: 3:30pm
Running time: 30 minutes
Tickets:
Adults: £8
Children: £5
Under 5's free

Venue:
THE IVORY SUITE LONDON,
24 Blackbird Hill, Wembley NW9 8SD

Closest tube station: Wembley Park station - Metropolitan and Jubilee line (18 minute walk; Bus 297)
Free parking available on surrounding residential roads

Please get in touch with Ashiya if you have any questions (ashiya@ihrc.org or 020 8904 4222)



Moriam Grillo in conversation with Hamja Ahsan and Nina Power

his book which document Britain's frequently brutal conduct when it ruled Palestine between the two world wars. Such brutality facilitated the dispossession of Palestinians and spawned injustices that have been allowed to fester. Britain's relationship with the Zionist movement has proven resilient, despite periods of hostility.

**Children's Workshop:
Islamic Signs in British Sign
Language with Amin & Yasmin
24 August 2017**

IHRC was proud to host this exciting and innovative workshop empowering deaf children & adults and other visual/kinesthetic learners.



Helping children learn Islamic Signs in British Sign Language



Arzu Merali in conversation with David Cronin



AUTHOR EVENING with David Cronin

Join IHRC for an author evening with **DAVID CRONIN** for his latest book *'Balfour's Shadow: A Century of British Support for Zionism and Israel'*

David Cronin is a contributing editor with *The Electronic Intifada*, a website focused on Palestine. His previous books are *Europe's Alliance With Israel: Aiding the Occupation* (Pluto, 2011) and *Corporate Europe: How Big Business Sets Policies on Food, Climate and War* (Pluto, 2013).

Summary of book:
In November 1917, Britain caused one of the great fault lines in the Middle East. A

declaration signed by Arthur James Balfour, then foreign secretary, favoured the establishment of a 'Jewish national home' in Palestine, a predominantly Arab land. David Cronin's new book, *Balfour's Shadow*, provides a trenchant critique of Britain's 100-year-old support for the Zionist colonisation project. Unearthing facts neglected by many historians, Cronin documents Britain's frequently brutal conduct when it ruled Palestine between the two world wars. Such brutality

facilitated the dispossession of Palestinians and spawned injustices that have been allowed to fester. Britain's relationship with the Zionist movement has proven resilient, despite periods of hostility. A century ago Britain was the chief imperial sponsor of the Zionist project; today some of Britain's key policies on 'defence' rely on Israeli-designed weapons. *Balfour's Shadow* traces the evolution of an intriguing alliance with lethal consequences.



ENTRY IS FREE

Join in the discussion by sending us your questions and comments via Twitter @ihrc or post them on our IHRC facebook page.

To book a place please call 020 8904 4222 or email ashya@ihrc.org or leave your name and details in store.

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

AUTHOR EVENING WITH DAVID CRONIN

Date: Thursday 27th July 2017
Time: 6.45 pm
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA
Tel: 020 8904 4222

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www.ihrc.org.uk

Nearest train/stube: Preston Road (Metropolitan), South Kenton (Bakerloo and Overground)
www.ihrc.org.uk Twitter @ihrc Twitter @ihrcbookshop @IHRC-TV



AUTHOR EVENING with Roshan M Salih

Join IHRC for an author evening with **ROSHAN M SALIH** for his first publication *Confessions of a Muslim Journalist: My life in the mainstream and alternative media.*

Roshan M Salih has been a journalist over 18 years and has covered the Muslim 'news beat' in the UK and abroad more comprehensively than any other journalist, and he now runs Britain's number one independent Muslim news website, SPiLars. Roshan has had a front seat on much of recent Muslim history, from the rise in Islamophobia to wars and natural disasters

abroad. He has also interviewed countless extraordinary people, many of whom ended up dead or in prison. In this look back at his career working for news organisations as diverse as ITV, Channel 4, Discovery Channel, Al Jazeera, Islam Channel and Press TV, Roshan focuses specifically on the evolution of Islam in Britain from the 1990s onwards as well as how the mainstream media has

lamentably failed to report on it fairly. This book is one of the few written by a British Muslim who is genuinely embedded within the Muslim community rather than a government tool whose voice has been artificially amplified by the Establishment. Ultimately, it's about struggling to fit into mainstream British society and even into a divided Muslim community itself.



ENTRY IS FREE

To book a place please call 020 8904 4222 or email events@ihrc.org or leave your name and details in store.

The book will be available to purchase on the day. Refreshments will be provided

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

Join in the discussion by sending us your questions and comments via Twitter @ihrc or post them on our IHRC Facebook page.

AUTHOR EVENING WITH ROSHAN M SALIH

Date: Monday 30 October 2017
Time: 6.45 pm
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA
Tel: 020 8904 4222

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Arzu Merali in conversation with Roshan M Salih

**Author Evening:
‘Confessions of a Muslim
Journalist’ with Roshan M Salih
30 October 2017**

All prominent media is propaganda and the only difference between them is the sophistication of that propaganda. And Roshan Muhammed Salih should know, having worked for British mainstream media as well as Saudi, Qatari and Iranian funded media for the last 18 years. During that time Roshan has covered the Muslim “news beat” in the UK and abroad more comprehensively than any other journalist, and he now runs Britain’s number one independent Muslim news website, 5Pillars.

Having had a front seat on much of recent Muslim history, from the rise in Islamophobia and state oppression at home to wars, revolutions and natural disasters abroad, Roshan discussed his book which focuses specifically on the evolution of Islam in Britain from the 1990s onwards as well as how the mainstream media has lamentably





Ahmed Uddin in conversation with Dr Ang Swee Chai

failed to report on it fairly. By telling his personal career story he takes aim at the British state and media for scapegoating and otherising Muslims in the War on Terror years. But he also reflects on the divisions and inadequacies within the Muslim community itself. This was a lively author evening which benefited from an equally passionate audience.

**A Journey of Love:
An Intifada Street Exhibition
September 2017 – February 2018**

Featuring artist Mohammad Hamza, the Intifada Street Exhibition illuminated the message and journey of Imam Hussain (AS) to Karbala in 680. Exploring many themes such as the Imam’s stance against oppression, injustice and tyranny and how the Imam’s ultimate sacrifice in the 7th century

continues to inspire millions today. ‘A Journey of Love’ crystallises the human and aspirational traits of Imam Hussain – love, beauty, truth and freedom. Hamza’s understanding of Imam Hussain was as a result of his journey back to his faith. His interaction with the figure was at a time when he questioned his theological background and the historical imprint he was born into. His own context informs the art produced and his depiction of Imam Hussain.

**Author evening:
‘Sound System: The Political
Power of Music’
with Dave Randall
1 November 2017**

This author evening with musician and activist Dave Randall showcased the au-



AUTHOR EVENING

with Dave Randall

Join IHRC for an inspiring author evening with musician and activist Dave Randall. Dave has toured the world playing guitar with Faithless, Dido, Sinéad O'Connor and many others.

Sound System is the story of Dave's journey to discover what makes music so powerful. He uses his insider knowledge of the industry to shed light on the secrets of celebrity, commodification and culture. He finds political inspiration across the musical spectrum and poses the question: how can we make music serve the interests of many, rather than the few?

Dave is also an activist and has campaigned for Palestine - he recently wrote this piece for the Guardian about why Radiohead were wrong to play Tel Aviv a few weeks ago (Faithless were asked to play Israel while Dave was in the band, and he refused). He also wrote and produced Freedom for Palestine by OneWorld in 2011, a Band Aid-esque campaign song featuring Jarvis Catto and Maxi Jazz.

from Faithless, Andrea Britton and musicians from around the world. The book Sound System itself contains a chapter called 'Music of the Arab Revolutions', which covers music in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria at the time of the Arab Spring, and Dave himself has played with a number of Palestinian musicians and written about Palestinian music before.



ENTRY IS FREE

To book a place please call 020 8904 4222 or email events@ihrc.org or leave your name and details in store.

The book will be available to purchase on the day

Refreshments will be provided

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www.ihrc.tv

Join in the discussion by sending us your questions and comments via Twitter @ihrc or post them on our IHRC Facebook page.

AUTHOR EVENING WITH DAVE RANDALL

Islamic Human Rights Commission
www.ihrc.org.uk

Date: Wednesday 1 November 2017
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA
Tel: 020 8904 4222

Nearest train/tube: Preston Road (Metropolitan), South Kenton (Bakerloo and Overground)
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thor's book in which he relates his journey to discover what makes music so powerful. Randall finds political inspiration across the musical spectrum and poses the question: how can we make music serve the interests of many, rather than the few? The author is also an activist and has campaigned for Palestine. The book contains a chapter called 'Music of the Arab Revolutions', which covers music in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria at the time of the Arab Spring.

Children's Storytelling: Treasures of Jannah with Tiny Mu'mins 18 December 2017

This storytelling session featured Yasmin Egala and Samira Dramani from Tiny Mu'mins who presided over an exciting and interactive storytelling session to teach children about the "Treasures of Jannah." Written by Yasmin Egala, it is the story of twins Adam and Hana who love to visit their Grandma. Grandma gives the best cuddles and tells the best stories, but today, she shares another tale. Instead of a story, Grandma tells them of a place of wonder and delight - Jannah. Jannah is a land of milk and dreams, woven together by Grandma's

AUTHOR EVENING

with Muhammad Mojlum Khan

Join IHRC for an inspiring author evening with Muhammad Mojlum Khan for his latest book **GREAT MUSLIMS OF THE WEST**



The **GREAT MUSLIMS OF THE WEST** is a unique, inspiring and authoritative study of the history, culture and heritage of the Western world from an Islamic perspective. Through the lives of more than 50 great Western Muslims, this book reveals a remarkably rich and diverse cultural history spanning more than 1400 years.

Muhammad Mojlum Khan is an award-winning British writer, literary critic and research scholar.

ENTRY IS FREE

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The book will be available to purchase on the day

Refreshments will be provided

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

Join in the discussion by sending us your questions and comments via Twitter @ihrc or post them on our IHRC Facebook page.

AUTHOR EVENING WITH MUHAMMAD M KHAN

Islamic Human Rights Commission
www.ihrc.org.uk

Date: Thursday 8 February 2018
Time: 6pm
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA
Tel: 020 8904 4222

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words and brought to life in the minds of two eager, curious children.

Author Evening: 'Great Muslims of the West - Makers of Western Islam' with Muhammad Mojlum Khan 29 January 2018

IHRC was privileged to host Muhammad Mojlum Khan, author of *The Great Muslims of the West*, a unique, inspiring and authoritative study of the history, culture and heritage of the Western world from an Islamic perspective. Through the lives of more than 50 great Western Muslims, this book reveals a remarkably rich and diverse cultural history spanning more than 1400 years. Challenging Eurocentric or essentialist views on Western history, culture and civilisation, this book argues that Islam - like Christianity - has always been a Western religion and culture. Indeed, the lives and contributions of the extraordinary and influential Western Muslims covered in this book shows that Islam is truly a global faith and culture, transcending race, colour, language and geographical boundaries. Aimed at students, scholars and general readers, this highly innovative, informative and invaluable book is



AUTHOR EVENING

with Houria Bouteldja

Join IHRC for an inspiring author evening with Houria Bouteldja for her latest book

Whites, Jews, and Us Toward a Politics of Revolutionary Love

With *Whites, Jews, and Us*, Houria Bouteldja launches a scathing critique of the European Left from an indigenous anti-colonial perspective, reflecting on Frantz Fanon's political legacy, the republican pact, the Shoah, the

creation of Israel, feminism, and the fate of postcolonial immigration in the West in the age of rising anti-immigrant populism. Drawing upon such prominent voices as James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and Jean Genet, she issues a polemical call

for a militant anti-racism grounded in the concept of revolutionary love. Houria Bouteldja is a Franco-Algerian political activist. She is spokesperson for the Party of Indigenous People of the Republic (PIR).



ENTRY IS FREE

To book a place please call 020 8904 4222 or email events@ihrc.org or leave your name and details in store.

The book will be available to purchase on the day. Refreshments will be provided.

Join in the discussion by sending us your questions and comments via Twitter @ihrc or post them on our IHRC Facebook page.

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

AUTHOR EVENING WITH HOURIA BOUTELDJA

Date: Saturday, 3rd March 2018
Time: 6 pm
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA
Tel: 020 8904 4222

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a must read for Muslims and non-Muslims, Westerners and Easterners alike.

Children's Storytelling: The Story of the Elephant with Hajera Memon 14 February 2018

Author Hajera Memon joined us for a storytelling session that stimulated the imagination of children with a story based on the historic event described in the Quran in which Abraha's army of Elephants set off from Yemen to destroy the Kaaba.

Author Evening: 'Whites, Jews, and Us: Toward a Politics of Revolutionary Love' with Houria Bouteldja 3 March 2018

French-Algerian activist and author Houria Bouteldja presented her latest book *Whites, Jews, and Us*, a scathing critique of the European Left from an indigenous anti-colonial perspective, reflecting on Frantz Fanon's political legacy, the republican pact, the Shoah, the creation of Israel, feminism, and the fate of postcolonial immigration in



AUTHOR EVENING

with John Holmwood

Join IHRC for an inspiring author evening with John Holmwood for his latest book

Countering Extremism in British Schools? The Truth about the Birmingham Trojan Horse Affair

In 2014 an investigation into an alleged plot to 'Islamify' several state schools in Birmingham began. Known as the 'Trojan Horse' affair, this caused a previously highly successful school to be vilified. Holmwood, an expert witness in the professional misconduct cases brought against the teachers, and O'Toole, who researches the government's counter-extremism agenda, challenge the accepted narrative and draw on the potential parallels 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 shows how this affair was used to criticise multiculturalism, and justify the expansion of a broad and intrusive counter extremism agenda. John Holmwood is Professor of Sociology at the University of Nottingham. From 2012 to 2014, he was President of the British Sociological Association and in 2014/15, he was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA. He acted as an Expert Witness to the Court in one of the National College for Teaching and Leadership hearings against teachers arising from the Trojan Horse affair.



ENTRY IS FREE

To book a place please call 020 8904 4222 or email events@ihrc.org or leave your name and details in store.

The book will be available to purchase on the day. Refreshments will be provided.

Join in the discussion by sending us your questions and comments via Twitter @ihrc or post them on our IHRC Facebook page.

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

AUTHOR EVENING WITH JOHN HOLMWOOD

Date: Thursday 10 April 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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the West in the age of rising anti-immigrant populism. Drawing upon such prominent voices as James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and Jean Genet, the book issues a polemical call for a militant anti-racism grounded in the concept of revolutionary love.

Children's storytelling and workshop:

HATS OF FAITH

with Hajera Memon

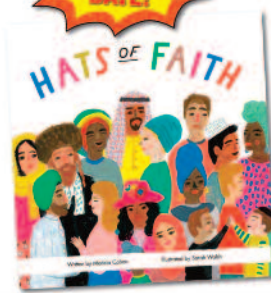
IHRC would like to invite you and your family for an exciting children's storytelling and workshop with Hajera Memon and her latest publication *Hats of Faith*.

Hats of Faith is an interactive children's board book about tolerance of different faiths and races. Each workshop will include a storytelling session and a fun, interactive activity. The book will also be available to purchase on the day.

ENTRY IS FREE

Please RSVP specifying which session you'd like to attend by emailing events@ihrc.org or calling 0208 904 4222

Refreshments will be provided



Please donate £1 on the day!
Your support help us to continue organising these events.

Islamic Human Rights Commission
www.ihrc.org.uk

Date: Thursday 26 October
Time: SESSION ONE FOR CHILDREN 2-7 YEARS OF AGE: TBC
SESSION TWO FOR CHILDREN 8-11 YEARS OF AGE: TBC
Venue: IHRC Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre
202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA
Tel: 020 8904 4222
Email: events@ihrc.org

Nearest train/stube: Preston Road (Metropolitan), South Kenton (Bakerloo and Overground)
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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.

IMMIGRATION LAW:

We advise on the full range of applications to the Home Office including:

- Human Rights applications
- Family migration
- Indefinite Leave to Remain
- EU nationals and their family members
 - British Nationality
 - Refusals and Appeals
- Preparation of and representation at Appeal hearings

The Immigration services we provide are regulated by the UK government regulator, Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC). We are regulated at Level 3, which is the highest level possible.

EMPLOYMENT LAW:

IHRC Legal can help you with:

- Discrimination
- Constructive/Unfair dismissal
- Bullying/Harassment at work
- Grievances / disciplinary proceedings
- Compromise/Settlement Agreements

As well as other employment issues that may arise.

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

Areas we focus on include:

- Complaints about the application of Prevent.
- Education: discrimination on the basis of race or faith (ie complaints to schools, Local Authorities, Department of Education, Ofsted etc).
- Police: Independent Police Complaints Commission.
- Complaints about racism and Islamophobia to government bodies (eg against social services / local councils etc).

For more information please speak to a member of our casework team by contacting us at info@ihrc.org or 020 8904 4222.

All information is treated in the strictest confidence and no information will be passed on to any third party without your consent.

IHRC Legal successfully supports destitute pensioner with immigration difficulties

IHRC Legal came to the aid of an elderly 78 year old client who, despite living in the UK for 45 years continuously, was unable to get his immigration status regularised. Destitute and struggling, the client was not allowed to rent or claim benefits. Fortunately with the help of IHRC Legal he was granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

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

IHRC
Legal



www.ihrc.org.uk

Our legal team specialises in employment and immigration matters.

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. 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 offers a bespoke UK Immigration law consultancy service and is regulated by the UK government regulator, Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) at Level 3.

IHRC Legal helped a family of six gain leave to remain in the UK

The client and her husband came to the UK separately as visitors over 10 years ago. They both met and started a relationship while in the UK. The couple had four children, three of whom were born in the UK. Unfortunately, our clients overstayed their visa. Several attempts were made to regularise their stay but to no avail.

IHRC Legal agreed to take up the family's case. IHRC Legal argued that the refusal to grant the family leave to remain would be a breach of the family's Article 8 right to private and family life. Furthermore, it would be unreasonable for the Home Office to request the family leave the UK and return to their country of origin particularly since two of the children had been born in the UK, had their schooling in the UK and the family had settled and integrated to life in the UK.

The Home Office fee for this type of application for the entire family was an exorbitant £5958 plus an immigration health surcharge of £3000, making a total of £8958. Being destitute, unable to work and wholly reliant on charitable and local authority support, our clients naturally could not afford to pay the fee.

IHRC Legal successfully applied for a "fee waiver" and argued that our client's would be rendered destitute if they were expected to pay £8958 for an immigration application. IHRC Legal prepared detailed submissions and submitted comprehensive evidence of our client's financial means.

Finally, after several months, IHRC Legal's request for a fee waiver of £8958 was accepted and shortly after the clients' application for leave to remain in the UK was granted.

Social Media and Video

IHRC have been working on a number of forthcoming documentaries over the past year. In summer 2017 our team travelled to Bosnia with the winner of the Genocide Memorial Day 2017 Poetry Competition to meet with Bosnian activist Demir Mahmutcehajic. The team toured the country and went to Srebrenica to commemorate the anniversary of the genocide there. A documentary is being produced based on this enlightening experience.

Two documentaries focused on Islamophobia are currently in post-production and are set to be released later this year. They focus respectively on discrimination in the education system and how hate attacks target mosques. IHRC is also currently in the early stages of production of a TV series discussing socio-political issues across the world that asks "How Did We End Up Here?"

We have recently started a weekly social media series, called IHRC Weekly Message discussing various campaigning and action alerts, as well as topical issues in a timely manner. Subscribe to the IHRCTV Youtube channel: www.youtube.com/user/IHRCTV

IHRC has continued its presence on social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Vimeo. Our events –

from large-scale conferences to small Author Evenings – are all streamed live online on Youtube, Facebook and on our website at IHRC.TV. Audience members from around the world often interact directly with the event by commenting and asking questions via Twitter and Facebook.

IHRC is also on the verge of launching its new website, an exciting new platform that will showcase the great extent of IHRC's work. The new website is more user friendly while presenting a new, pleasing aesthetic.

IHRC also offers its supporters a number of different mailing lists to subscribe to for weekly information. The Alerts list has general updates, event information, invitations and more (<http://eepurl.com/OnJE9>); the IHRC Bookshop list for new titles and discount codes (<http://eepurl.com/WDZE1>); the Islamophobia list for a carefully curated monthly newsletter (<http://eepurl.com/bWDnML>); the Nigeria list for updates on the ongoing conflict and ways to campaign/volunteer/donate (<http://eepurl.com/bML3c5>) and the Saudi Arabia for updates on the region, new media and interesting articles as well as ways to campaign. Other general updates can also be found on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter which users can like/follow for regular and immediate content.



Our Author Evening with Dave Randall was livestreamed on IHRC.TV, Youtube and Facebook Live

IHRC in Media

IHRC's work again attracted plenty of media coverage throughout the year. Here is a selection of mentions:

The Times

26 November 2017

Islamophobia award 'puts target on back' of former equalities chief Trevor Phillips

The annual Islamophobia awards are "genuinely dangerous", according to Trevor Phillips, the former equalities chief who is nominated for a controversial satirical award from the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC).

Other nominees for the Islamophobia awards, presented in a London ceremony tonight by the pressure group — which is authorised to take part in UN meetings — include Ofsted, the schools inspectorate, and Dame Louise Casey, the former integration tsar.

BBC News

22 January 2018

Finsbury Park: Man 'wanted to kill Muslims in van attack'

Prosecutors believe Mr Osborne had been planning to target an Al Quds Day march in London, organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission, on 18 June.

Mr Osborne is believed to have asked a black cab driver for directions to Grosvenor Square, the destination of the marchers, the court heard.

Mr Rees added: "We are not able to say quite how close the defendant came to the marchers or Grosvenor Square, although it seems likely the defendant was prevented from carrying out an attack because of the road closures that were put in place."

The London Economic

22 January 2018

Van driver who ploughed into a group of

muslims, killing one, told police 'at least I had a proper go', court hears

"It seems that his original intention had been to drive the van into people taking part in the Al Quds Day march through central London, an event organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission. However, when that option had not proved viable, he drove around London looking for alternative target."

The Guardian

20 June 2017

Finsbury Park suspect 'made abusive remarks about Palestinian march'

The IHRC, which organises the march, said that before this year's event it had been made aware of social media postings threatening violence, including one individual who threatened to drive a van into the march. There is no suggestion this was Osborne.

Before the march the organisers put out a statement saying the event would go ahead regardless. It said: "Despite the misinformation and lies currently being put out and the demonisation of the event that is taking place, the annual al-Quds Day march will still be going ahead." They also flagged up concerns to the Metropolitan police. An IHRC spokesman said on Tuesday there had been tension but no major incident.

Middle East Eye

14 November 2017

'A challenge for us all': Study highlights prevalent Islamophobia in UK

British Muslim communities have become more organised and an activist community has emerged that is challenging Islamophobia directly, the report says.

Yet 20 years ago, Islamophobia was not as high a priority within activist circles as it is today, according to a chapter by Chris Allen, a sociologist and expert on Islamophobia at



IHRC Chair Massoud Shadjareh is interviewed at the 2017 Islamophobia Awards

Birmingham University.

While the Islamic Human Rights Commission had been challenging Islamophobia since the 90s, Allen says that Islamophobia became a central concern for the Muslim community in the years after the publication of Runnymede's 1997 report.

The New Arab **29 November 2017**

It's open season on Muslims, and Trumps tweets prove it

Former equalities chief Trevor Philips this week deemed the Islamophobia awards - an annual satirical event in the UK, organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission - "genuinely dangerous" and stated that the label "painted a target on the back of people on the list", apparently oblivious - or indifferent to - the target that Islamophobia paints on its victims' backs.

A 24-year-old British man was sentenced to two years and three months in prison last week for attempting to locate and stab a Muslim passer-by, and electronics company Huawei faced a backlash and calls for boy-

cott in China for a phone feature that reminded Muslims of prayer times and could direct them to the nearest mosque.

Al Jazeera **2 June 2017**

Has Katie Hopkins committed a hate crime?

The question we should really be asking is, therefore, not whether Hopkins has committed a hate crime, but why she is able to enjoy a mainstream public platform and a guise of respectability as a political commentator, which allows her to engage in anti-Muslim ranting with impunity.

The answer is that, sadly, Islamophobia is so endemic within the British media and society at large - as has been well documented by organisations such as the independent think tank, the Runnymede Trust, and the Islamic Human Rights Commission - that when Hopkins expresses Islamophobic views, they are not recognised for what they are, but, instead, are treated as legitimate, if inflammatory, expressions of political opinion.

The Nation

28 November 2017

Trump voted Islamophobe of the Year

The annual Islamophobia Awards by the London-based Islamic Human Rights Commission hosted the representatives of many NGOs and Muslims.

The winner in the Islamophobia Awards

Prosecutors believe Mr Osborne had been planning to target an Al Quds Day march in London, organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission, on 18 June

2017's 'UK' category is OFSTED who recently announced they would be quizzing young students who wore the hijab. The 'News Media' gong has gone to Fox News who has been fierce champions of Donald Trump and his discriminatory policies.

The Independent

22 June 2017

Finsbury Park attack: Suspect may have wanted to target pro-Palestinian rally in London

The Finsbury Park attack suspect may have originally intended to target a pro-Palestinian protest that saw thousands of people march through central London, it has emerged.

Witnesses who saw Darren Osborne drinking at a pub in Cardiff the night before he allegedly drove 160 miles in a hired van to launch the attack said they overheard him ranting about the Al Quds Day rally.

Led by the Islamic Human Rights Commission, the controversial march was set to

start at 3pm on Sunday.

Al-Bawaba

28 November 2017

'Proud' of Killing the Most Palestinians: How Israeli Officials Get Away With Boasting Abuses

Equally, for her role in failing to stop what the U.N. has suggested is the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar's military, Aung San Suu Kyi has been widely condemned by the international community.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner has been stripped of various accolades, including on Tuesday the "Freedom of the City of Oxford." She beat Donald Trump to be satirically dubbed "Islamophobe of the Year" according to the Islamic Human Rights Commission on Sunday.

ITV News

1 February 2018

Finsbury Park attacker Darren Osborne: What led him to kill?

It seems Osborne's original target was the Al Quds march organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission. He later told the jury that he'd thought labour leader Jeremy Corbyn would be present. Asked if he'd hoped to kill Mr Corbyn, he said "Oh yeah. It would be one less terrorist off our streets. If [London Mayor] Sadiq Khan had been there it would have been even better. It would have been like winning the lottery."

AhlulBayt News Agency

10 January 2018

Nigerian forces attack peaceful protesters demanding release of Sheikh Zakzaky

Nigerian sources said on Monday that at least two young students were killed by the security forces during the ongoing protests in Kaduna which broke out on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Human Rights Commission has called on Nigerian author-

ities to immediately release Shiekh Zakzaky over his deteriorating health condition.

“In view of his deteriorating health, it is now more urgent than ever to allow Sheikh Zakzaky to be allowed access to immediate medical attention in order to assess the extent of his injuries caused by the stroke and access the necessary medical treatment,” read the statement.

Zakzaky lost his left eye sight in a raid, which was carried out by the Nigerian army on his residence in the northern town of Zaria back in December 2015. During the raid, Zakzaky’s wife sustained serious wounds too and more than 700 of his followers and three of his sons were killed. Zakzaky, his wife, and a large number of the cleric’s followers have since been in custody.

The clergyman is said to have been seriously injured. Rep of Islamic Movement in Sokoro Shaykh Kassim Sokoto was shot and injured by malice Police in his leg, according to source the bullets broke the leg.

Islam21c

30 November 2017

Tackling institutional Islamophobia needs to go beyond mere verbosity

The recent example of the deeply worrying and ‘wrong-headed’ Ofsted decision to interpret donning hijab at primary schools as a potential “sexualisation of young girls” and to ask them the reasons for doing so, is a case in point. As the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) pointed out, “It sends out a clear message to all British women who adopt this that they are second-class citizens, that while they are free to wear the headscarf, the establishment would prefer that they do not.” Not to mention becoming a policy without even “engaging with a diverse set of mainstream Muslim voices” on the topic.

In fact, an eye-opening survey and report from the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) in 2015 echoed that government policies, including those linked to security and extremism, are having a “negative impact” on British Muslims. It stated that more than half (58%) said they had been treated with suspicion by society, while 93% said they had

seen negative stereotypes of Muslims portrayed in the media. “The impact of government policies, in particular those related with security, have really had an impact on silencing Muslims – not from a point of view of just talking about political issues, but even to report anti-Muslim hatred... What we really need is a cultural change, not just some laws here or there. Unfortunately, we have institutional problems that need to be addressed.”

An eye-opening survey and report from the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) in 2015 echoed that government policies, including those linked to security and extremism, are having a “negative impact” on British Muslims.

Daily Sabah

28 November 2017

Myanmar’s Suu Kyi stripped of Oxford award

Oxford’s world-renowned university removed portraits of Suu Kyi, a former student, from its walls in September. Suu Kyi’s late husband Michael Aris was a lecturer in Asian history at the university, and the couple lived and raised their two sons in the city.

In September, an Oxford college removed a portrait of Suu Kyi from public display and placed it in storage. Earlier in November, Irish musician and founder of Live Aid Bob Geldof returned his Freedom of the City of Dublin award, a civic honor also held by Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi was also dubbed 2017’s “International Islamophobe of the Year” on Sunday by the London-based Islamic Human Rights Commission, beating U.S. President Donald Trump, French National Front leader Marine Le Pen and far-right Dutch Freedom Party chief Geert Wilders, according to Anadolu Agency

Geo News, Pakistan
22 October 2017
Islamophobia and 'brownface'

In 2010, the Islamic Human Rights Commission conducted a survey: about 50 percent of Muslims said they had not witnessed Islamophobia; that figure that has now crashed to 18 percent. Before Katie Freeman spent a week as a Muslim, she admitted she would avoid sitting next to a Muslim on public transport because "you see them and think they're going to blow something up." Now she says: "I'm amazed. They're just the same [as us], aren't they?" Freeman says she suffered extreme levels of abuse on the street as a Muslim and nearly quit. Her fear of Muslims has turned to empathy.

Press TV
9 September 2017
Saudi airstrikes in Yemen clear war crimes

The Saudis "are targeting ordinary civilians, even including children, they are targeting funerals and they are actually committing war crimes and the responsibility for this goes far beyond Saudi Arabia. Governments who are involved in the command structure of this world, including the United States and Britain, are equally responsible for these war crimes, and I do not know how far these sorts of activities of Saudis, which are clearly war crimes, are going to continue and why the world is silent still [in spite of] these barbaric acts against ordinary innocent people in Yemen," Massoud Shadjareh, head of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, told Press TV in an interview on Friday.

The comments come as Human Rights Watch has lashed out at the Saudi-led coalition for its refusal to provide information on its role in the massive unlawful airstrikes against Yemen in an attempt to avoid international legal liability.

Islamophobia is so endemic within the British media and society at large - as has been well documented by organisations such as the Islamic Human Rights Commission

Daily Trust
16 August 2017
Islamic Commission seeks AU intervention in Zakzaky's case

The Islamic Human Rights Commission, IHRC, on Wednesday urged the African union, AU to intervene in the case of detained Islamic movement leader Sheikh Ibrahim al-Zakzaky and his wife.

The Rights Commission made this known in a letter addressed to the leadership of the AU.

The letter stated that Sheikh Ibrahim al-Zakzaky and his wife are being held in detention along with 167 members of the IMN following their arrest during a military assault against the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) in December 2015.

It also stated that Sheikh Ibrahim al-Zakzaky and his wife are still being held in detention despite the court order for the release of the couple set by a federal high court judge on December 2, 2016, which ruled their incarceration was illegal and unconstitutional.



Peaceful
marchers at
Al Quds Day



- **IHRC TV:** <http://ihrc.org.uk/multimedia> or ihrc.tv
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/ihrc> - <https://twitter.com/ihrcbookshop>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Islamic-Human-Rights-Commission/109724959498>
- **Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/IHRCtv>
- **Flickr:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ihrc>
- **Instagram:** <https://instagram.com/ihrcgallery/>

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**My dear friends and supporters,
we have to rise up to all of these
challenges and many others too.
For that we need all of your support.
Without your participation and financial
support, we would not be able to fulfil -
and in the future increase - our current
level of work. We can and must do it
together. Let us united for justice under
the banner of la ilaha illallah.**

”

Massoud Shadjareh
Chair, Islamic Human Rights Commission



**Islamic
Human Rights
Commission**



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