



3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON COMBATING ISLAMOPHOBIA

# **ISLAMOPHOBIA IN FOCUS: UNVEILING BIAS, SHATTERING STIGMAS**

# ORGANIZERS

Baku International  
Multiculturalism Centre



Center of Analysis of  
International Relations



Organisation of Islamic  
Cooperation



ISESCO - Islamic World  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Doha International  
Center for Interfaith  
Dialogue



The G20 Interfaith  
Forum (IF20)



Baku Initiative  
Group



Higher Committee of  
Human Fraternity



Muslim Council of  
Elders



Zentralrat der  
Muslime



European Muslim  
Leaders' Majlis  
(EULEMA)



Muslim International  
Forum



## MEDIA PARTNERS





**Commemorating the 3rd Anniversary of  
the International Day to Combat**

# **Islamophobia**

**Conference on “Islamophobia in Focus: Unveiling Bias,  
Shattering Stigmas”**

**May 26 - 27, 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

In the aftermath of recent global conflicts, incidents of Islamophobia have surged, with reports of hate crimes, public harassment, and systemic discrimination increasing across multiple regions. This climate not only threatens the safety and dignity of Muslims but also undermines social cohesion, fostering polarization and hostility in diverse societies. Such techniques of deliberately divisive storyboarding of news to foster a broader campaign of mainstreaming Islamophobia serve as a reminder of how a significant part of media remains invested in anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant coverage.

Meanwhile the impact of Islamophobia on academic staff with a Muslim background come to the focus of another academic publication. Once again it illustrates how a framework of intersectional oppression - with sexism, classism, racism, and ableism as its tributaries - results in the victimization of Muslims in higher education. A global study on the impact of Islamophobia on students across all stages of education has shed more light on how a series of practices - the result of design or bias - have often transformed educational environments into conduits of discrimination.

Addressing Islamophobia requires a collective effort from governments, civil society, media, and individuals. By fostering understanding and promoting inclusiveness, we can build societies where diversity is celebrated and everyone, regardless of their faith, can live with dignity and security. If one truly wishes to accomplish a society where everyone is fully accepting of others' ideas and cultures, one needs to expose them more to this diversity rather than reduce it into a false non-existing bland form of “neutrality.”

The third Baku conference themed “Islamophobia in Focus: Unveiling Bias, Shattering Stigmas” will convene professionals, academics, and government officials to explore the global, historical, theological, and political dimensions driving Islamophobia. Participants will engage in insightful discussions, pose critical questions, and examine the intellectual origins of prejudice against Muslims and Islam. A comprehensive report that can serve as a reference document for international organizations will be presented during the event. Moreover, localhost website on Islamophobia will be launched as an observatory platform that will reflect a state of Islamophobia worldwide. Our aim is clear: to cultivate an environment where people of all faiths coexist harmoniously, where diversity is celebrated, and where principles of justice and equality prevail.

Azerbaijan remains steadfast in its commitment to combating Islamophobia on the modern front. Over the past two years, Baku International Multiculturalism Centre (BIMC) and the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center) in partnership with the G20 Interfaith Forum have successfully held international conferences dedicated to Islamophobia. The aim of the conferences was to contribute to the ongoing efforts to combat Islamophobia in all its forms and manifestations.

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

The conference will include the plenary and breakout sessions. Each panel comprises 5-6 speakers and a moderator, with presentations lasting 8-10 minutes followed by a Q&A session. The outcomes of the conference and its publications are envisioned to serve as advisory resources and roadmaps for nation-states grappling with the complex challenges posed by Islamophobia.

## Program:

### Day 1 – May 25, 2025

Arrival of guests

Welcoming dinner – **8.00 p.m.**, Fairmont Baku Flame Towers, Alov restaurant, 3rd floor

### Day 2 – May 26, 2025

**Registration 8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.**

**9 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Address by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the conference participants delivered by Mr. Hikmat Hajiyeu (Azerbaijan) - Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan.**

**Presentation of the film on Islamophobia (short film) 9.10 a.m. – 9.20 a.m.**

**Opening remarks 9.20 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.**

**H.E. Mr. Ravan Hasanov** - Executive Director of Baku International Multiculturalism Centre, Azerbaijan

**H.E. Mr. Farid Shafiyev** - Chairman of the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center), Azerbaijan

**H.V. Sheikh-ul Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh** - Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Board, Azerbaijan

**H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos** – UN Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the United Nations



Alliance of Civilizations & the UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia (Video address), Spain

**H. E. Mr. Yousef Mohammed S. Aldobeay** - Assistant Secretary General for political Affairs (OIC), Saudi Arabia

**H. E. Mr. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi** - Chairman of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar, Qatar

**H.E. Mr. Khalid AlGaith** - Secretary General, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, UAE

**Presentation of the localhost anti-Muslim website** 10.a.m. – 10.10 a.m.

**10.10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.**

## ***Plenary (A): Global Trends in Islamophobia: Challenges and Responses***

### **Moderator:**

**MR. FARIZ ISMAILZADE**

Vice Rector at ADA, Member of Parliament, Azerbaijan

### **Speakers:**

**H. E. MR. RAMIN MAMMADOV**

Chairman of the State Committee on Affairs with Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan

*"Interfaith dialogue and understanding as a tool against Islamophobia"*

**H.E. MR. COLE DURHAM**

President of the G20 Interfaith Forum, USA

*"A G20 Interfaith perspective on the problem of islamophobia"*

**H. E. AMB. ANTONIO DE ALMEIDA-RIBEIRO**

Acting Secretary General of KAICIID, Portugal

*"The transformative power of dialogue: Combating discrimination and hate speech"*

**H.E. AMB. KHALID FATHALRAHMAN**

Director of the Center for Civilizational Dialogue, ICESCO, Morocco

*"The evaluation of the concept of Islamophobia in the Western approaches"*



**H.E. MR. CHEMS-EDDINE HAFIZ**

**President of the Habous Society, rector of the Great Mosque of Paris, France**

**H. E. MR. IBRAHIM NEGM**

**Secretary General for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide, Egypt**

*"Fatwa Institutions as agents of change in the global fight against Islamophobia: Opportunities and challenges"*

**Discussions**

**Commemorative group photo – 11.30 a.m. – 11.40 a.m.,** all participants are invited to join

**Coffee break 11.40. a.m. – 12.00 p.m.**

Breakout Sessions **12.00 p.m. – 13.30 p.m.**

**Breakout Session (B1): Anti-Muslim Hatred in Policy: Legal Frameworks and Advocacy Strategies**

**Moderator:**

**MR. ABBAS ABBASOV**

**Executive Director of Baku Initiative Group, Azerbaijan**

**Speakers:**

**MR. MOHAMED HEDI SHILI**

**Director of the Department of Legal Affairs and International Standards, ICESCO, Morocco**

*"Legal framework for combating Islamophobia"*

**MR. AMB. MEHMET PAÇACI**

**Secretary General's Special Envoy on Combating Islamophobia, Turkiye**

*"Centralization of discriminatory policies and strategies in combating Islamophobia: An OIC perspective"*

**MR. AMB. MAHMUT EROL KILIÇ**

**IRCIKA Director General, Turkiye**

*"Roots of intolerance to others: Islamophobia case"*





### **MR. TIMOTHY P. STRATFORD**

**General Counsel, G20 Interfaith Forum Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP Former Assistant United States Trade Representative, USA**

*"Addressing the hate speech paradox: Using legal frameworks to build social cohesion"*

### **MR. AHMED SHAHEED**

**Professor of International Human Rights Law & Director, Countering Global Islamophobia Project, University of Essex, UK**

*"Developing policy tools to mobilize action to counter Islamophobia"*

### **MR. KERDOUDI JAVAD**

**President of the Moroccan Institute for International Relations, Morocco**

*"The religious policy against Islamophobia of Mohammed VI King of Morocco"*

## **Discussions**

### **Breakout session (B2): Islamophobia in Different Contexts: Regional Perspectives**

#### **Moderator:**

#### **MR. MOHAMMAD AL SULAMI**

**Head of the International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasanah), Saudi Arabia**

#### **Speakers:**

#### **PASTOR BOB ROBERTS, JR.**

**Co-Founder, Multi-Faith Neighbors Network, President, Institute for Global Engagement, USA**

*"Addressing the challenges of American evangelicals and Islamophobia"*

#### **MONS. KHALED AKASHEH**

**Former Secretary of the Commission for Religious Relations at the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue in the Vatican, Italy**

*"The phenomenon of Islamophobia: A Christian perspective"*

#### **MR. TURAL GANJALIYEV**

**Member of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan**

*"Breaking the silence: how to confront Islamophobia"*



**MR. HERIZAL HAZRI**

Advisor to the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, UAE

*"Beyond prejudice: Dynamics of discrimination"*

**MR. ROLAND LAFFITTE**

Researcher, President of the Society for French and Arabic Linguistics and Etymological Studies,  
Head of Orient XXI Group, France

*"Historical and contemporary particularities of islamophobia in France"*

**MR. AMB. ABDERAHMAN SALAHELDIN**

Ambassador (Ret.) at Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt

*"Developing Islamic social and cultural concepts as a way of countering Islamophobia in non-Muslim-majority countries"*

**Discussions**

**Lunch break 13.30 p.m. – 14.30 p.m.**

Breakout Sessions **14:30 p.m.– 16.00 p.m.**

***Breakout Session (C1): Islamophobia in Media and Digital Spaces: How AI Systems Can Embed and Amplify Islamophobic Biases***

**Moderator:**

**MR. TAREK CHERKAoui**

Director of the TRT World Research Centre, the architect of the TRT World Forum, Turkiye

**Speakers:**

**MRS. EIMAN AL-KAABI**

Director of the Qatar Government Media Center, Qatar

*"Islamophobia in the media and digital platforms"*

**MR. MOHAMMED BIN ABD RABBO AL-YAMI**

Director General of the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA), Saudi Arabia

*"Media bias as a form of Islamophobia"*

**MR. RUFAT HAMZAYEV**

Executive Director of AnewZ TV, Azerbaijan



*"Artificial intolerance?! Understanding and countering islamophobia in the new media ecosystem"*

**MR. MOHAMMED MUKHTAR AL KHALIL**

**Director of Al Jazeera Center for Studies, Qatar**

*"Islamophobia and artificial intelligence: Recipient awareness and machine ideologization"*

**MR. JEAN-MICHEL BRUN**

**Journalist, geopolitician, writer, France**

*"Islamophobia in France and the solutions to it"*

**Discussions**

***Breakout session (C2): Women, Identity, and Stereotypes: Navigating the Intersection of Religion and Cultural Prejudices***

**Moderator:**

**MRS. AISHA YOUSEF AL-MANNAI**

**Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Qatar**

**Speakers:**

**MRS. ESMA UÇAN**

**President of the Muslim Council of Belgium, Belgium**

*"Redefining stereotypes: The role of (Muslim) women in building inclusive societies"*

**MRS. GULSHAN PASHAYEVA**

**Member of Parliament, Azerbaijan**

*"Beyond the stereotype: Women at the crossroads"*

**MRS. BAHIIJA JAMAL**

**International Law Professor, Hassan II-University, Casablanca-Morocco, UN Expert on Terrorism and Violent Extremism, Morocco**

*"Stereotypes in European media representations of Muslim women: The lens of extremism"*

**MRS. NAIMA LEFKIR-LAFFITTE**

**Journalist, photographer, author of books and director of documentary films, France**



*“Islamophobia in the French media”*

**MRS. ANNA STAMOU**

**Marketing and Public Relations Officer at the Muslim Association of Greece, Greece**

*“Muslim women in Europe: Challenges in professional, political and academic life”*

## **Discussions**

**Free time 16.00 p.m. – 18.00 p.m.**

**Dinner 19:00 p.m.**

## **Day 3 – May 27, 2025**

**10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.**

***Plenary (D): The Institutionalization of anti-Muslim Legislation in Europe. Anti-Muslim Rhetoric Amid Radicalization Propagated Islamophobic Sentiments***

### **Moderator:**

**MR. ALISTAIR DAVISON**

**Advisor, Cordoba Peace Institute, Switzerland**

### **Speakers:**

**MR. SAID AALLA**

**President of the Great Mosque of Strasbourg, France**

*“The situation of Islamophobia in France and the consequences on the lives of Muslim citizens”*

**MR. ABDELMAJID NAJAR**

**Vice President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, Qatar**

*“Hatred of Muslims through Western laws: France as a model”*

**IMAM YAHYA PALLAVICINI**

**Vice President of COREIS, Chairman of EULEMA, Italy**

*“European Muslims, no double standards”*



**MR. ABDASSAMAD EL YAZIDI**

**Chairman of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD), Germany**

*"Institutional discrimination against Muslims in Germany: Features of hatred with social legitimacy"*

**MR. AGIL SHIRINOV**

**Rector of Azerbaijan Institute of Theology, Azerbaijan**

*"The influence of the negative image of Islam and Muslims formed in medieval Europe on the development of Islamophobia"*

**MR. HÜSEYİN İŞIKSAL**

**Special Advisor to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), President on International Relations and Diplomacy, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)**

*"The challenges of Islamophobia in Europe: The case of Turkish Cypriot people"*

**Discussions**

**Coffee break 11.30 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.**

**Breakout sessions 12.00 a.m. – 13.30 p.m.**

**Breakout Session (E1): Safeguarding Islamic Cultural Heritage in a Changing World**

**Moderator:**

**MR. MOHAMMAD AL MOMANI**

**Director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, Jordan**

**Speakers:**

**MR. DAMIR MUHETDINOV**

**First Deputy Chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims, Rector of the Moscow Islamic Institute, Moscow Muslim International Forum, The Russian Federation**

*"Historical memory and preservation of architectural monuments as a form of support for intercultural dialogue"*

**MR. MOHAMMED BECHARI**

**Secretary General of the World Muslim Communities Council, UAE**

*"Towards a global environment for religious coexistence and the protection of Islamic heritage in the horizon of international covenants, the making of human hope"*



**MR. QAYA MAMMADOV**

**Member of Parliament, Azerbaijan**

*"Restoring Azerbaijani cultural heritage in Armenia - the path to peace and reconciliation"*

**MR. MOHAMED ABDEL RAHIM AL-BAYOUMI**

**Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Egypt**

*"Cognitive preservation in Islamic heritage in light of real changes and future prospects"*

**MR. MOHAMMED SHUMMARY**

**Director of the Sumer Foundation for International Affairs, Iraq**

*"The Islamic cultural heritage as an element of global influence"*

**Discussions**

**Breakout Session (E2): Youth Voices for Inclusion: Tackling Prejudice and Misconceptions**

**Moderator:**

**MR. SAID MOHAMED SAID AHMED**

**General Secretary of the Comite Maore, Union of the Comoros**

**Speakers:**

**MR. SAMIR BOUDINAR**

**Director of Al-Hokama Center for Peace Research, Member of the Executive Office of the Muslim Council of Elders, UAE**

*"Creating more opportunities to address Islamophobia: The role of youth in institutions"*

**MRS. MARTINE MILLER**

**President / CEO, International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD), USA**

*"Youth as strategic peace leaders: Transforming prejudice into partnership"*

**MR. OUSSAMA JAMMAL**

**Secretary General of the US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), USA**

*"Rising beyond bias: Youth leading the charge against Islamophobia"*



**MS. LALA KHALILZADE**

**Leading Advisor at the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center), Azerbaijan**

*"Empowering youth to foster interfaith and intercultural dialogue"*

**MR. MOHAMAD ANTONI**

**Chairman of the Institute for Literacy and Education, Executive Director of the Muslim Youth Forum on Int'l Issue, Indonesia**

*"Youth voices for inclusion in partnership and collaboration"*

**MRS. CAROL FERRERA**

**Graduate program director in the Marketing Communication Department at Emerson College, USA**

*"French Muslim schools as contested sites and spaces of inclusion"*

**Discussions**

**Lunch break 13.30 P.M. – 14.30 P.M.**

**Presentation of European Islamophobia Report 14.30 p.m. – 14.50 p.m.**

by **MR. ENES BAYRAKLI**

**The Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Turkish-German University, Turkiye**

**EULEMA meeting 14.50 p.m. – 15.50 p.m.**

**themed "EULEMA Special Focus: Islamophobia in Europe"**

**Presenters:**

**MR. TARAFAGHAJATI**

**Chair of AMI (Austrian Muslim Initiative), Austria**

**MRS. ESMA UÇAN**

**President of the Muslim Council of Belgium, Belgium**

**IMAM EDIN HAMZAKADIC**

**Imam of the Istiqlal Mosque in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**



**IMAM YAHYA PALLAVICINI**

Vice President of COREIS, Chairman of EULEMA, Italy

**IMAM DAVID MUNIR**

Imam of the Central Mosque of Lisbon, Portugal

**AMB. IUSUF MUURAT**

Mufti of the Muslim Community in Romania, Romania

Summing up of discussions and concluding remarks, acceptance of communique

15.50 p.m. - 16.00 p.m.

Press conference of the organisers and partners 16.00 p.m. – 16.30 p.m.

Free time 16.30 p.m. – 17.00 p.m.

Farewell dinner 18:00 p.m.

**Day 4 – May 28, 2025**

**Departure**





**Mr. Ravan Hasanov** is the Executive Director of Baku International Multiculturalism Centre. He specialized in Law at the University of Potsdam in Germany, successfully completing the Department of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Criminology program. He defended his dissertation for a PhD at the Institute of Law and Human Rights at the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, specializing in Penal Enforcement Law. From March 2016 to April 2017, he worked as a senior specialist for the State Advisory Service of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on International, Multicultural, and Religious Affairs, and from April to July 2017, he served as a Counselor.



**Mr. Farid Shafiyev** is the former Ambassador and Chairman of the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center). Mr. Shafiyev studied History and Law at Baku State University. During his professional career, he pursued further education at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Additionally, he obtained a PhD in History from Carleton University in Ottawa. In 1996 Mr. Shafiyev joined the Foreign Service. Within the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry in Baku, he worked in the Political-Military Issues Division and in the United Nations Affairs Division. His assignments include postings to the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations in New York in 1998-2001 and the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Canada in 2005-2009. Farid Shafiyev has been lecturing in the field of International Relations and Foreign Policy in Baku. Currently, he is an Adjunct Lecturer at ADA University.





**H.V. Sheikh-ul Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh** -

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



**Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos** - UN Under-Secretary-

General, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations & the UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia. He is a Spanish diplomat and politician. He served as a member of Congress from 2004 to 2011, representing Cordoba. Since 2019, he has held the position of UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. From 1996 to 2003, Moratinos served as the European Union Special Representative for the Middle East, with his base in Cyprus and Brussels. He also served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero from 2004 to 2010. In 2007, Moratinos was the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Additionally, he was a member of the High-Level Advisory Council of the President of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly from 2012 to 2013, alongside Serbia's then Foreign Minister, Vuk Jeremic.

**Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay** holds a Bachelor's

degree in Law from King Saud. University in Riyadh (1988), a Master's degree in Diplomatic Studies from the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1991), and a Master's degree in International Law from Kuwait University (1999). He has over 30 years of experience in the diplomatic field within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he progressed until the rank of Ambassador. He moved among the Kingdom's external missions and took part in several international conferences and GCC summits. He also served as officer in charge of the file of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), particularly the work of the Islamic and Economic Commission, Director of the OIC Department within the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Representative of Saudi Arabia to the OIC and is holding the position of Assistant Secretary General for political Affairs since 2019.



**Dr. Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Naimi** is currently the

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar. Prior to his appointment as the Undersecretary by the Emir of Qatar, His Highness, Sheikh Tamimi Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Professor Ibrahim Al-Naimi was the founder and President of the Community College of Qatar from 2008 to May 2018. Under his leadership, the college developed more than 17 associate and bachelor degree programs and grew to become the fastest growing higher education institution in the State of Qatar. Prior to establishing and presiding over the Community College of Qatar, Professor Al-Naimi played a key role in the educational reforms in Qatar. Under the "Education for a New Era" initiative, he led in the development of a number of well-known international K-12 schools including Michael E. DeBakey for Health Professions-Qatar, Sherborne School-Qatar and the International School of London-Qatar. Professor Al-Naimi also led in the design and development of Stenden University in Qatar and served as the acting President for the university during its inaugural stages. Professor Al-Naimi is well known around the country for his outstanding leadership in academic affairs and for his strong commitment to student success as well as program and community development. In 1994, Professor Al-Naimi was the first Qatari to be appointed as the President of Qatar University.





**Ambassador Dr. Khalid AL-Ghaith** - Secretary-General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity. His Excellency Dr. Khalid Al-Ghaith is the current Secretary General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity. A veteran diplomat, he has represented the UAE as Ambassador to Malaysia, Turkey, Brunei, and Azerbaijan, and held senior government roles including Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs and Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Economy. Throughout his distinguished career, he has played a pivotal role in shaping and advancing international cooperation.



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

### **Mr. Ramin Alamshah oglu Mammadov** - Chairman

of the State Committee on Affairs with Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Born in the city of Aghdara (Karabakh) on February 17, 1979. Holder of a Bachelor's degree in International Law and International Relations as well as a Master's degree in International Relations from the Baku State University. Holder of a Certificate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at the Harvard University (USA), as a participant of the Leaders in Development Executive Program. Chairman of the State Committee on Affairs with Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (since 8 April 2024). Member of the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2020-2024). As a Member of the Parliament was a designated representative of the Government of Azerbaijan in charge of contacts with Armenian residents living in the Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016-2020). Awards: "For Distinction in the Civil Service" Medal by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev (July 6, 2012), "Progress" Medal by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev dated (November 18, 2017).



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





**Ambassador Antonio de Almeida Ribeiro** was born in Lisbon in 22/08/55. He graduated in 1976 from the Faculty of Law (Legal and Political Sciences), University of Coimbra. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979 where he held a wide variety of positions. In 2025 he was appointed Acting Secretary-General of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue – KAICIID. Ambassador Antonio de Almeida Ribeiro is married to Isabel Cordovil de Almeida Ribeiro and has two sons



**Ambassador Khalid Fathalrahman** - Director of the Center for Civilizational Dialogue, ICESCO. Studied at King Saud University, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, took his Master Degrees from Durham University, UK. He worked as a Political Science Lecturer at the University of Khartoum, and Umdurman Islamic University. He served as Ambassador of Sudan in the Kingdom of Morocco (2018-2020). Director of the Office of the Prime Minister, Sudan, 2015- 2018. Deputy head of The Mission , Saudi Arabia , 2013- 2015. Deputy head of the Mission, The Hague, Netherlands, 2011- 2013. Minister Plenipotentiary, London, UK , 2004-2008. Counselor, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sudan, 2003. Director of Research and Studies at the Center for Strategic Studies, Khartoum, Sudan. He published a number of books in the fields of Diplomacy and Arts.



**Mr. Chems-Eddine Hafiz** – is the rector of the Great

Mosque of Paris, Honorary Lawyer. Mr. Chems-eddine Hafiz has been admitted as an honorary lawyer since April 1, 2021, after being admitted to the Algiers Bar in 1986, then to the Paris Bar in 1991. Specializing in international business law, he is particularly dedicated to the rapprochement between France and Algeria and supports French companies investing in his native country. Convinced of the possible harmony between Muslim ethics and republican values, he worked to found the French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM). I co-authored with a colleague Law and Muslim Religion at Dalloz in 2005. A player in interreligious dialogue, he created the association “La Fraternite du Barreau de Paris” with colleagues from other faiths in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of November 13, 2015. He was a member of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. In 1999, he became the legal advisor to the Grand Mosque of Paris.



**Mr. Ibrahim Negm** earned his MA in Islamic Studies

in 1995 from AlAzhar university in Cairo and was the class valedictorian. He was awarded a distinguished fellowship to conduct research at Harvard Law School 1996/ 1997. He was also a visiting Scholar and researcher at Oxford University, UK, 2003. He obtained his PhD in Islamic Studies in 2005 from Graduate Theological Seminary, Indiana,USA. He was the adjunct assistant professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, St John’s university in New York in 2005. Ibrahim Negm is currently serving as a senior advisor to His Eminence the Grand Mufti of Egypt since 2006 till the present. He is also the current Secretary General for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide, an umbrella independent organization that has over 90 countries as members aiming at coordinating the work among Fatwa authorities worldwide and countering radical fatwas. As an established author, he wrote more than a dozen books on Islamic legal interpretation, countering violent extremism and Muslim Christian relations





**Mr. Abbas Abbasov**, Executive Director of the Baku Initiative Group, completed his undergraduate studies in International Relations at Baku State University and earned his MBA from EU Business School. He is experienced corporate governance expert highly skilled in managing government relations and foreign affairs. Brings 16 years of proven success in both public and private sectors. His professional background encompasses roles as a Foreign Affairs Expert and Compliance Officer at the State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as a Senior Associate specializing in Corporate Governance and Compliance at NEQSOL Holding, prior to his tenure with the Baku Initiative Group. Abbas Abbasov has spearheaded and presided over more than 30 international initiatives and conferences, with a predominant focus on the critical issue of decolonization



**Mr. Mohamed Hedi Shili**, Director of the Legal Affairs and International Standards Department at ICESCO. graduate of the Higher School of Administration in Strasbourg, formerly a judge at the Tunisian Administrative Court and consultant at UN Women in Tunisia . Mr. Shili is working on several projects, most notably the Charter of Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in the Islamic World, the ICESCO Chair on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the ICESCO's strategy for human rights in the digital space.



### **Ambassador (Retired) Prof. Mehmet Paçacı** is

a Turkish diplomat and academic with extensive experience in international relations and interfaith dialogue. He earned his Ph.D. from the Faculty of Theology at Ankara University, where he served as a faculty member from 1983 to 2008. During his diplomatic career, Ambassador Paçacı held the position of Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C., representing the Presidency of Religious Affairs from 2008 to 2011. He later served as the Director of Foreign Relations at the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Ankara. From 2014 to 2019, he was appointed as the Ambassador of Turkey to the Holy See. Notably, he was appointed as the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims in January 2019, a role he fulfilled until 2022. He served as the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Islamabad between 2022-2024. In May 2024, he was appointed as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General's Special Envoy on Islamophobia.



**Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç** - Director General, Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). University professor in philosophy and Sufi studies. He has been the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta), Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC, Tehran, President of the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (TIEM, Istanbul), in reverse chronological order. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society (Oxford, U.K.) and gives lectures at Üsküdar University, Institute of Sufi Studies. Kılıç authored 17, translated 5 and edited 2 books, wrote many articles in international journals.





**Mr. Timothy P. Stratford** is General Counsel and a member of the steering group for the G20 Interfaith Forum Association. He also serves as senior counsel at Covington & Burling LLP and was managing partner in the firm's Beijing office from 2010-2022. Mr. Stratford's law practice has focused on advising international clients operating in China and assisting Chinese companies seeking to expand globally. In his former position as Assistant United States Trade Representative, Mr. Stratford was responsible for the U.S. government's trade negotiations with China. Except for the five years he spent in Washington at USTR (2005-2010), Mr. Stratford lived and worked continuously in the greater China region from 1982-2023, including as minister-counselor for Commercial Affairs

at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and as general counsel for General Motors China operations. Mr. Stratford has served three terms as chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in the People's Republic of China -- in 2000, 2001, and 2019. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and Harvard Law School and speaks Mandarin and Cantonese.



**Mr. Ahmed Shaheed** is Professor of International Human Rights Law in the School of Law and Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex. He directs the Human Rights Centre's Project on Countering Global Islamophobia. He served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief from 2016 to 2022 having previously served as the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran from 2011 to 2016. Hailing from the Maldives, Ahmed served as Foreign Minister of Maldives between 2005 and 2010. He is the founding chair of the Geneva-based think-tank, Universal Rights Group. Ahmed's areas of research are human rights implementation, UN's human rights mechanisms, freedom of religion or belief, Islamophobia, Antisemitism, human rights and emerging technologies, the freedom of thought, and progressive Islam.

**Mr. Jawad Kerdoudi** earns HEC Paris Diploma (High Commercial Studies) and was Manager of OCE (Moroccan Office of Trade and Exports) in Hamburg and New York where he was also in charge of the General Consulate of Morocco. Then he acted as Economic relations Consultant, and Teacher of Commerce and International Relations. He was also Honorary Consul of India. He is now founder and President of the Moroccan Institute of International Relations. He wrote several books the last one is " The war in Ukraine and Gaza : what prospects? He published many articles on International Relations in Moroccan and foreign newspapers.



**Dr. Mohammed Alsulami** is an expert in MENA and Iranian affairs. He received his Ph.D. from Leiden University in 2014, He is an associate professor in Iranian affairs at Umm Al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia. He speaks Arabic, English, and Persian fluently, Dr. Alsulami is the founder and president of the International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasanah), as well as the Editor-in- Chief of its biannual peer reviewed Journal for Iranian Studies. He has acted as an advisor for many governmental and non-governmental organizations in Saudi Arabia. Since 2010 he has been a columnist for different Arab and International newspapers such as The Majala, Alsharq Al-Awsat, Makkah, Alwatan, Washington Times, and The Hill. Currently he writes weekly for Arab News. He has appeared on different TV channels such as Al-Arabiya, Al- Jazeera, Al-Ekhabaryya, Sky News Arabic, BBC, BBC Persian, Alhurra, and many others.



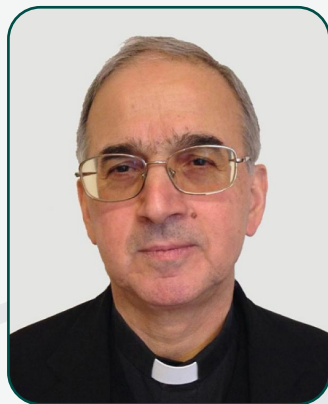


**Dr. Bob Roberts Jr.** is a pastor and renowned bridge builder who has dedicated his life to promoting and advancing religious freedom, peacemaking and civil engagement. He is the founder of GlocalNet, a ministry dedicated to mobilizing the church to bring about transformation in the public square, co-founder of the Multi-Faith Neighbors Network (MFNN), an organization committed to promoting religious freedom through intentional cross-cultural relationships, and newly appointed president of the Institute of Global Engagement (IGE), an organization that catalyzes freedom of faith worldwide so that everyone has the ability to live what they believe. With decades of experience in peacemaking and international religious freedom, Dr. Roberts' groundbreaking work has earned him respect and recognition from the United

Nations, U.S. Department of State, World Economic Forum, ambassadors, international royal families, and policy leaders worldwide. His impressive contributions were honored by The White House in 2022 when he and the MFNN co-founders received the Uniter Award for their inspiring grassroots bridge-building work across faith groups throughout the US. For over 30 years, Dr. Roberts led Northwood Church near Dallas, Texas, where he is now the Founding Global Pastor. He is also a prolific author of six books and the host of the Bold Love podcast, where he shares stories of his journey and encouraging people to boldly love their neighbors. Dr. Roberts holds a Doctorate of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Masters of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a BA from Baylor University.



**Monsignor Khaled Akasheh** - a Jordanian citizen, is a priest of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. After serving as a Vicar in Jordan, he was assigned as a member of the staff of the Seminary of the same Patriarchate (Beit Jala, Palestine), where he remained eleven years. He then came to Rome to end his studies in Biblical Theology, obtaining a PhD in 1994. In 2003 he obtained a Master Degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies. He joined the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue in 1994, becoming Bureau Chief for Islam and Secretary of the Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims. Among his duties is the coordination of the dialogue with Islamic Institutions and Organizations who are stable partners of the same Dicastery.

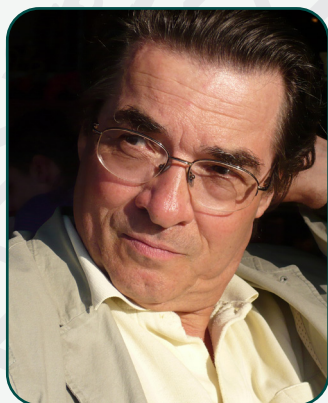


**Mr. Tural Ganjaliyev** was born on March 6, 1980, in the city of Shusha. Following the occupation of Shusha in the Karabakh region, he became an IDP and relocated to Baku in May 1992. He earned a bachelor's degree in law from the Faculty of Law at Baku State University in 2000, and completed his master's degree at the same faculty with distinction in 2002. Since August 5, 2004, he has held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. From 2008 to 2011, he served at the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Canada, and from 2014 to 2018, at the Embassy of Azerbaijan in the Czech Republic. He also currently serves as the Chairman of the "Return to Karabakh" Public Association. He was first elected to the Milli Majlis (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the parliamentary elections held on February 9, 2020, representing Electoral District No. 122 (Khankendi constituency), and was re-elected for a second term in the 2024 elections.





**Professor Herizal Hazri** is Advisor to the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity and Adjunct Professor at the University of Malaya. He previously served as CEO of the Institute for Strategic and International Studies, advising Malaysia's Prime Ministers on foreign policy. With over two decades of experience across 11 countries, he has led major initiatives in diplomacy, peacebuilding, and democratic development.



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

## **Ambassador (Ret.) Abderahman Salaheldin**

- Ph.D., a four-decades veteran-Egyptian diplomat who turned academician after retirement. As a visiting professor-of-practice, he teaches international relations and foreign policy at Badr University in Egypt. He continues to be involved in Track II diplomacy on regional issues. He also lectures regularly at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's diplomatic institute, participates in academic and policy-oriented seminars in American, European and Egyptian universities, and writes some opinion articles in Arabic and English. Before his retirement in 2018, Ambassador Salaheldin served twice as the Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs. He was also the Ambassador to Turkey and to the Czech Republic. He spent 17 years of his diplomatic career in the United States (Washington, New York, and San Francisco). In 2020, he obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. The dissertation was titled "Egyptian foreign policy and The Arab Spring: A Case study of Egyptian policy toward Turkey and Palestine". In 2019, He published his memoirs in Arabic about his time as the Ambassador to Turkey (2010-2013). In addition to the Arabic version, he also published online an AI English translation and another in Turkish. He also wrote a chapter on Egyptian-Saudi-Turkish relations in a book that was published in 2019 by the Middle East Institute in Washington DC. <https://www.mei.edu/publications/book/aspiring-powers-regional-rivals>







**Dr. Tarek Cherkaoui** is the Director of the TRT World Research Centre and the architect of the TRT World Forum. A leading expert in geopolitics, strategic communications, and media narratives, he is the author of *The News Media at War: The Clash of Western and Arab Networks in the Middle East* (I.B. Tauris, 2017) and numerous publications and policy reports. Dr. Cherkaoui holds a PhD in Media and Communication from Auckland University of Technology and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the National University of Malaysia. His research focuses on international relations, public diplomacy, and media-military relations, with a particular emphasis on the Middle East.



**Mrs. Eiman Al-Kaabi** holds a Master's degree in Women's Studies from the College of Women's Studies at the University of Jordan. She has held various positions, starting as a news editor at Qatar Radio, then head of the news editorial department and head of the social media department at Qatar Radio. She has presented numerous radio programs on Qatar Radio. She has also worked as a media advisor to His Excellency the Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs, and as director of the Qatar Media Center affiliated with the Ministry of Culture. She is active on social media platforms, interested in societal and cultural issues, and active in volunteer and humanitarian work. She has participated in presenting numerous local and international conferences and has moderated numerous

dialogue seminars with prominent figures in the State of Qatar. She is constantly working to develop herself and combines a high level of professionalism with commitment.



**Mr. Mohammed Bin Abd Rabbo Al-Yami** holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and boasts over 30 years of extensive experience across various media fields. Throughout his career, he has assumed numerous leadership roles in private media institutions, governmental organizations, international unions, and prominent companies. His most recent position was as Assistant Director of the Saudi Press Agency's office in the Makkah Al-Mukarramah region. Subsequently, he was appointed as Assistant Director General of the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA), before being entrusted with the responsibilities of Acting Director General. On November 21, 2024, a formal decision was issued appointing him as The Director General of UNA for a term of four years.



**Mr. Rufat Hamzayev** is a TV journalist and media executive with extensive experience in television broadcasting. He began his career at AzTV, where he progressed through roles such as reporter, editor, editor-in-chief, news director, and ultimately Deputy Chairman. He has conducted numerous exclusive interviews and reported from the epicenter of major global events. With a strong academic background, he holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Information Science from Baku State University and a second degree in International Relations from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Azerbaijan. His expertise spans news programming, editorial leadership, and international media collaborations. Rufat Hamzayev's vision is to position AnewZ as a leading voice in global journalism, connecting audiences from Baku to the world.





**Dr. Mohammed Al-Mukhtar Al-Khalil** joined

Al-Jazeera Media Network in 2000, where he was part of the founding team of Al-Jazeera website (AlJazeera.net) (launched in mid-May 2000). In June 2001, Dr. Al-Khalil was assigned to supervise the editorial secretary of AlJazeera.net. He then assumed the position of assistant editor of the site before he was appointed in June 2010 as the website (AlJazeera.net) editor in chief. In January 2018, Dr. Al-Khalil was appointed Director of Al Jazeera Centre for Studies. Dr. Khalil's career with journalism began in 1989 in the Mauritanian capital/Nouakchott. In 1997, he joined the Qatari daily newspaper "Al-Sharq" to work as a journalist, then he became head of the political section before

joining Al Jazeera. In addition to his journalistic experience, Dr. Al-Khalil has academic and training experience in journalism, especially in electronic journalism, journalistic editing and the establishment and management of media institutions. He also has extensive training experience in international relations and the geopolitics of the Arab world and the West African region. Dr. Al Khalil holds a Diploma in Legal Studies and a BA in Public Law- International Relations Division- from the University of Nouakchott, then he joined Omdurman Islamic University in Khartoum where he earned a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in Political Science.



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

**Prof. Dr. Aisha Yusuf Omar al-Mannai** is Director of Muhammad bin Hamad Al-Thani Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization at the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS), Hamad bin Khalifa University. She is also a member of the Arab Parliament and Al-shura Council (Qatar), League of Arab States. She heads and is a member of several national and international organizations and associations. The author of several articles and books on theology, tasawwuf and religions. Prof. Aisha is the recipient of several awards which include the Medal of Honor for Arts and Sciences of the first level from the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Community Service Award from the United Arab Emirates, the first GCC Excellence Award which she received from His Highness Shaykh Tameem bin Hamad Al-Thani and lately the Henry Davison Award from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' – Switzerland.



**Mrs. Esma Uçan** - President of the Muslim Council of Belgium. She was born and raised in Belgium, with Turkish roots. She is the youngest and first female president of the Muslim Council of Belgium, and the first female president of a representative body in Belgium and Europe. Esma is a bridge-builder focused on breaking cultural barriers and promoting inclusion. Between 2017 and 2021, she was actively involved in the only youth quadriologue in Europe, where interfaith dialogue was at the core. She is committed to strengthening the position of (Muslim) women in society and creating an inclusive, equal society.





**Mrs. Gulshan Pashayeva** - Member of Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Board Member, Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center), Azerbaijan. She has been a member of the Milli Majlis since September 23, 2024 as well as a Board Member of the AIR Center since 2019. She previously worked for United Nations Office in Azerbaijan as a National Programme Coordinator for the UN Women (UNIFEM) project "Women for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the South Caucasus" (2001–2006), and as a Public Information Associate for the United Nations Department of Public Information (2007–2009). In 2009 she became Head of Foreign Policy Analysis Department at the Center for Strategic Studies and its Deputy

Director in 2011. She was promoted to the position of a Senior Adviser at the Office of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan in July 2018 and occupied this position until her appointment as a Board Member of the AIR Center in December 2019. Dr. Pashayeva specializes in conflict resolution and security studies, as well as gender and language policy. She has taught several courses on general linguistics, regional conflicts, negotiation, mediation and etc. at universities in Azerbaijan. She was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship and conducted research at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University in 1998/99. Since December 1999 she has been a member of the "Women Waging Peace" Network which connects women peacemakers from conflict areas around the world with each other and with policy shapers.

**Dr. Bahija Jamal** is a Law Professor at Hassan II University

of Casablanca, Mohammedia Faculty of Law. She has an extensive expertise on the nexus of migration, anti-human trafficking and countering violent extremism and terrorism. She led teams in conducting academic researchers in the field of Conflict Transformation, human trafficking, forced displacement and new trends of contemporary migration. For more than 10 years, she has worked and advised international organizations on how to deal with organized terrorism through a combined security approach and a human rightbased and gender perspectives. She is a key contributor to the United Nations regional events in the Middle East and North Africa, with a specific reference to the role women in preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism. She previously worked for the UNHCR as Officer in charge of eligibility of Refugee Status Determination. She also worked for the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs. In that capacity, she represented the Ministry at the Committee in charge of drafting Morocco's anti-trafficking law and the one in charge of drafting the Moroccan Immigration Law. Dr. Bahija Jamal has a Doctorate Degree (Ph.D) in International Law from Hassan II University in Casablanca – Faculty of Law. Her research focuses on the international protection of women refugees through a gender approach. She is currently teaching transnational organized crimes (smuggling of migrants and human trafficking), terrorism and Combating Racism and Hate Speech. She contributes to the development of the academic field by supervising Ph.D. researchers in their thesis on the aforementioned themes.





**Mrs. Naïma Lefkir** is a journalist and photographer, author of books and director of documentary films, particularly concerning the situation of Maghrebi immigration in France.



**Mrs. Anna Stamou** is Greek politician, activist and media personality. She has been engaged in refugee rights and interreligious dialogue and praxis since 2003, when the Iraqi refugees arrived in Greece. In 2014 she was the first headscarfed Greek woman, running for a seat at the European Parliament, with an eye on preventing any discrimination against Muslims and to ensure equality for Greek Muslims. She is currently the Marketing and Public Relations Officer at the Muslim Association of Greece. A Board Member of the EMF, European Muslim Forum and head of the Women Section of EMF. Have been member of EULEMA & MJLC, until 2023, and at the coordination committee of the Anti-Fascist Movement in Greece. From 2012 until 2019 she served

as the General manager of Ibn Sina Cultural Center, Greek Branch, promoting intercultural dialogue and arranging educational trips between people of different cultural backgrounds. During this time she hosted a weekly radio show at solidarity radio Portokali. Anna Stamou is an Authorized Sign Language Interpreter of Greek Sign Language & member of the Federation of Deaf in Greece



**Alistair Davison** is Advisor to the Cordoba Peace Institute

- Geneva (CPI), where he was formerly Executive Director. CPI is an independent non-profit organization working on violence prevention and peace promotion. Alistair studied Arabic and Persian at the University of Cambridge, and qualified as a chartered accountant. Prior to joining CPI in 2014, Alistair worked in senior roles in finance and human resources in the private sector and public-private partnerships, including business and development projects in North and West Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Alistair spent his childhood in Iran and extended periods of study and work in Syria, Egypt, Morocco and Sierra Leone. He retains a deep interest in the rich cultural heritage and social and political developments of these regions, and in promoting peaceful interaction and exchange among people of different faiths and worldviews. He has authored and edited a number of reports for CPI, which can be found on its website [www.cpi-geneva.org](http://www.cpi-geneva.org).



**Mr. Said Aalla** - President of the Great Mosque of

Strasbourg. President of the Alsace Regional Council of the Muslim Faith (CRCM). Holds a Master's degree in Public Law from Morocco. Holds a Master's degree in Epistemology of Science from Strasbourg. Holds a Master's degree in Comparative European Law of Religion from the University of Strasbourg. Member of the steering committee for the construction of the Grand Mosque from its launch to its completion. Master of the ceremony for the inauguration of the Great Mosque from Strasbourg in 2012. He has participated in several meetings, seminars, conferences, and symposia in Strasbourg, both at the national and European levels.





**Mr. Abdelmajid Najjar** - Ph.D. in Creed and Philosophy,

Al-Azhar University, Cairo, 1981. He is the Vice President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars. Visiting Professor at various universities including Paris, Jordan, Algeria, Libya, Malaysia. Director of Research, European Institute of Human Sciences, Paris (2001). Published 39 books on Islamic thought, philosophy, and civilizational renewal. Published over 30 academic research papers in renowned journals and conferences. Taught courses on Islamic Creed, Thought, Comparative Religions, Ethics, Research Methodology. Participated in over 44 international conferences as a keynote speaker across the globe. Member of Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly. Trustee and founding member

of several Islamic academic and cultural organizations worldwide. Vice Secretary-General of the European Council for Fatwa and Research.



**Mr. Yahya Pallavicini** is Imam of al-Wahid central

mosque in Milan. Vice President of COREIS the Islamic Religious Community ITALY ([www.coreis.it](http://www.coreis.it)), one of the main Italian Islamic organizations providing theological training, interreligious dialogue and intercultural education, advocacy for Muslim religious needs with the Italian Government. Chairman of EULEMA, the European Muslim Scholars Council (Brussels, [www.eulema.org](http://www.eulema.org)). Since 2004 he has been invited to the High-Level Meetings with Religious Leaders by the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of Europe on policies about Islam in the West. Member of the Global Tolerance Alliance initiated by the Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence of the United Arab Emirates

(<https://www.tolerance.gov.ae/nahyan-bin-mubarak-launches-the-global-tolerance-alliance-and-opens-the-interfaith-summit-at-expo-2020-dubai>). Special Adviser for International Affairs to the General Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board in Indonesia (<https://g20religion.org/spiritual-ecology/>). Imam Yahya Pallavicini was Advisor for Italian Islam to the Minister of the Interior of the Italian Government from 2005 to 2018 and Ambassador to ICESCO, the Islamic Organisation for Education, Culture and Science (Rabat, 2014 - 2023).



**Mr. Abdassamad El Yazidi** was born in Langen (Hessen)

in 1975. He completed elementary school in Dreieich, with a five-year school break in Morocco, where he learned Arabic and studied Islam. Until 2019, El Yazidi worked as a manager at a global logistics company at Frankfurt Airport. For many years, he served as the community leader of the “Moadh Ibn Jabal Mosque” in Pfungstadt. From 2010 to 2013, El Yazidi was the chairman of the German Islamic Association in the Rhine-Main area. He played a key role in the structural reform of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD) and founded its first state association in Hessen in March 2014, where he was unanimously elected chairman, a position he held until 2017. Since 2016, he has been the Secretary General, and

as of June 2024, he serves as the chairman of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany. El Yazidi is actively engaged in interreligious dialogue and organized a study trip to Morocco in April 2015, bringing together Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Furthermore, he coordinated the project “Intercultural Qualification of Imams” for the Goethe Institute and co-founded the organization “Shoulder to Shoulder: Solidarity Against Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Violence” alongside Marlies Horch, Daniel Neumann, and Dr. J. Miksch. El Yazidi also leads the “Mouatana – German Institute for Dialogue and Understanding,” which focuses on training and qualifying Muslim youth for integration in Germany, as well as publishing research and studies to promote the concepts of citizenship, interfaith dialogue, and peace. El Yazidi has participated in numerous international conferences in the Arab and Islamic world and has contributed to many international forums. El Yazidi speaks fluent German and Tamazight, as well as good English, in addition to Arabic, his mother tongue.





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



**Professor Dr. Hüseyin Işıksal** is the Special Advisor to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President on International Relations and Diplomacy, Member of the Negotiation Team, and the Chairperson of the International Relations Committee since 2020. He achieved a B.A. degree as a high-honour student from the Department of International Relations at Eastern Mediterranean University. He completed his M.A. at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom as a Chevening Scholar of Cyprus. He received his first Ph.D. from Keele University, UK, Department of International Relations, and his second Ph.D. from the Middle East Technical University, Department of International Relations in Türkiye. Since 2002, he has been a full-time lecturer in various universities in Türkiye,

England, and the TRNC. He became a full professor in the field of International Relations in 2019. He has over fifty publications written in English and Turkish in various peer-reviewed academic journals. He is also the editor of seven books, including Turkey's Relations with the Middle East: Political Encounters after the Arab Spring (2018) published by Springer Nature. He is also a columnist in the Daily Sabah Newspaper.

**Prof. Al Momani** is the Director of the Center for Strategic Studies – The University of Jordan, Former Dean of Prince AlHussein Bin Abdullah II School of Political Science and International Studies - at the University of Jordan. In the past, he was Chairman of the Jordan-International Studies Department; Coordinator of Conflict Management Program; Assistant and Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs, Quality Assurances at the University of Jordan, International Studies Faculty. He was also Adviser for Humanities and Social Sciences Sector at the Higher Council for Science and Technology and Director for the Regional Centre for Conflict Prevention at Jordan Institute of Diplomacy. In addition to the above he is a member in many academic committees.



**Prof. Dr. Damir Mukhetdinov** – born in 1977, Gorky, Russia, 47 years old. Mufti, Russian public figure, doctor of theology, PhD in political sciences, First Deputy Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, Executive secretary of the Muslim International Forum, Rector of the Moscow Islamic Institute, Editor-in-chief of the «Medina» Publishing House, Advisor to the Director of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St Petersburg, Russia). In 1999, he graduated from the Institute of Arabic Language of the University “Umm al-Kura” in Mecca (Saudi Arabia). In 2003, he graduated from the Faculty of International Relations of the Lobachevsky University (Nizhny



Novgorod, Russia). In 2006, he defended his Ph.D. thesis in Political Science. In 2020, he defended his dissertation on the topic: “The Islamic Renovation Movement of the Late 20th – Early 21st Century: Ideas and Perspectives” at St. Petersburg State University, receiving his doctorate in theology. He is the founder of the “Medina” Publishing House (idmedina.ru); the editor-in-chief of the most popular Muslim newspapers “Medina al-Islam”; of the “the Minbar Islam”; of the “the Minaret of Islam”, which is the only theological magazine in the Muslim world published in three languages (Russian, Arabic, English); of the peer-reviewed academic journal “Islam in the Modern World”, which is included in the list of the leading peer-reviewed scientific publications, formed by the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (since 2015). He is the editor-in-chief of the series of encyclopedic dictionaries “Islam in the Russian Federation”.





**Dr. Mohamed Bechari** is Secretary General of the UAE based World Muslim Communities Council. He holds such posts as President of the French National Federation of Muslims and Secretary General of the Islamic European Conference. This Europe-wide umbrella organization aims to represent Muslims at the European level. Mr. Bechari is also the founder of the Avicenna Institute in Lille and a member of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna, Austria. Sheikh Zayed Book Award 2025.



**Mr. Qaya Mammadov** was elected as Member of Parliament at the general elections in 2024 from the 31st electoral district (Baku). He is member of the Committee for International Relations and Interparliamentary Cooperation, and the Committee for Defence, Security and Counter-Corruption. Mr. Mammadov leads the delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the group for interparliamentary relations with the Netherlands. Prior to election to the Parliament, Mr. Qaya Mammadov had served in the diplomatic service of Azerbaijan for 25 years. He held positions of Ambassador of Azerbaijan to NATO, Head of Department for International Security, Head of Department for Political Military Affairs, Deputy Head of Department for Security Problems among others. He also served

at the Defence Policy and Planning Division of NATO International Staff as a seconded officer. In 2012, Mr. Mammadov was awarded by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Medal for Distinguished Diplomatic Service. Mr. Mammadov holds BA and MA degrees in international relations from the Baku State University, and MA degree in Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of the Tufts University. He is alumnus of the 107th Senior Course of NATO Defence College (2005-2006), and he received training from the German Diplomatic School, John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University, George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies and the US National Defence University. In addition to his native Azerbaijani, Mr. Mammadov fluently speaks English, German, Russian and French. Mr. Mammadov delivered courses on foreign policy and diplomacy at Khazar University and ADA University in Baku, Azerbaijan.



**Dr. Mohammed Abdel Rahim Mohamed El-Bayoumi** is Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Awqaf, Egypt. He Dean, Faculty of theology and Islamic Dawa, Al-Azhar University , lecturer at National Training Academy, affiliated with the Presidency of the Republic, Professor and Head of the Department of creed and Philosophy, Faculty of theology and Islamic Dawa, Al-Azhar University, Associate Professor, Department of Creed and Philosophy, Faculty of Theology and Islamic Dawa, Al-Azhar University, He obtained his PhD in 1999. He has many scientific publications, including: Human Behavior Between Theoretical and Scientific Ethics, published by Dar Al-Walaa, 2002, The Impact of Logical Discourses on Renewing Religious Discourse: An Applied Study on Contemporary Issues, Deconstructing Extremist Issues through the Contexts of the Qur'anic Text.

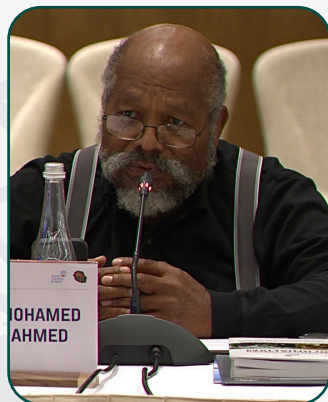


**Dr. Mohammed Shummary** is the Chairman of SUMERIA (Sumer Foundation for International Affairs; a new established Iraqi non-profit institution working for peace & stability through cooperation in Iraq, MENA and worldwide), and a professor at Al-Nahrain University, College of Political Science, since 2006, and a Senior Advisor to Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakim. His main field of interest is foreign affairs and Iraqi politics, with focus on Iraqi foreign policy and regional and international politics. He worked as a researcher in the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, Department of Foreign Relations (2004-2006), led the electoral campaign for Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (2012-2017), and was the head of the Foreign Relations Office of Hikma National Movement (2017-2022). For the period 2020-2021,



Dr. Shummary was a member of the Governmental Reform Cell in the Iraqi Prime Minister Office, which prepared the White Paper for Economic and Financial Reform. And in 2021, he was nominated by Iraqi MOFA and Council of Ministers to be an ambassador. Dr. Shummary holds a bachelor, MA, and PhD in political science. He participated in many Iraqi, regional and international activities, including regional dialogue activities, training programs, workshops, conferences.. etc. He is an alumni of IVLP (2016), participated in a mission to study US Presidential Elections in 2016, and an alumni of GLS of Georgetown University, Walsh School for Foreign Service. Dr. Shummary is based in Baghdad, Iraq.





**Mr. Saïd Ahmed Saïd Mohamed Jaffar** - Activist for the Unity and National Sovereignty of the Comoros; Secretary General of the Comite Maore (Comoros); Member of the Survie Association (against Francafrique).



**Mr. Samir Boudinar** - Director of Al-Hokama Center for Peace Research – , and Professor of Religious and Political Sociology at Mohammed First University in Morocco. He also serves as President of the Center for Human and Social Studies and Research in the city of Oujda Morocco , and is considered one of the leading scholars in the fields of values, religion in the public sphere, and international relations. His research and writings focus on issues of values in the public domain and the role of religion in human affairs and global order. He is a member of the Executive Office of the Muslim Council of Elders, an international organization chaired by the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar.



**Mrs. Martine Miller** - President of the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy, is a globally sought-after conflict transformation specialist with over two decades of working on the front-lines of conflict in support of communities in over 80 countries worldwide. From Libya to Sudan and Afghanistan to Myanmar, she has been honored worked at the epicenter of some of the world's most complex crises—supporting and facilitating early warning and response mechanism, negotiations, national dialogues, and post-war recovery alongside local communities, governments, organization, academic institutions and multilateral agencies like the African Union, the Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and UN agencies. Her approach blends strategic diplomacy and peacemaking with deep cultural and identity sensitivity, developed through years of honored partnerships. A former Legal Fellow at Durham University Law School and a Women, Peace, and Security Fellow at the Kroc Institute at the University of San Diego, Martine brings an exceptional academic foundation to her work. She holds dual Master's degrees in International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law and Politics, Post-War Reconstruction and Development, as well as dual Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and International Development with a Minor in French and a Certification in African Studies. She has completed advanced certifications in mediation, negotiation in war contexts, religion and mediation, and conflict transformation, and has trained with the Harvard Program on Negotiation and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC). In response to the increasing targeting of frontline humanitarian teams, Martine pursued intensive certification as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)—equipping herself to provide lifesaving support in conflict zones. She continues to serve her community as a volunteer AEMT, while also lecturing at Georgetown University, American University, and advising the Peace and Conflict Studies Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Martine is also Vice-Chairperson of the Board at the Al Amana Centre, championing interfaith dialogue and reconciliation.





**Mr. Oussama Jammal** is the Secretary General of the US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), the umbrella organization of national, regional, and local Muslim American organizations. Mr. Jammal is a prominent American Muslim leader with a key role in Muslim organizational leadership, focused on advocacy, interfaith dialogue, and community representation. His role often involves public speaking and representation in various forums, emphasizing the importance of unity and cooperation among Muslim groups across the U.S. His work involves engagement with government officials and interfaith leaders to promote positive relations and address issues concerning Muslims in America and around the world. Mr. Jammal served in different capacities including

President and Chairman of the Board of the Mosque Foundation, Bridgeview, Illinois; Member of the State Department's Interfaith sub-committee on International Religious Freedom; Interfaith Advisory Board of the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA)- Cook County, Illinois; Co-convenor of the Interfaith Dialogue between the National Council of Churches and the US Council of Muslim Organizations; Member of the strategy board of the Metro-Industrial Areas Foundation (Metro-IAF), one of the largest community organizing in the United States; the National Director of MAS-PACE, the Public Affairs and Civic Engagement Division of the Muslim American Society; President of Fox Valley Muslim Community Center, Illinois; President of the Council of Arab Organizations; and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) annual convention (1999-2001).





**Ms. Lala Khalilzada** is a Middle East expert at the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center). She completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Arabic language with honors at Baku State University, where she later worked as a lecturer. She is fluent in Arabic, English, and Russian. Lala Khalilzada's articles have been published in outlets such as the "Syrian Arab News Agency – S A N A", "Al-Watan Syrian Newspaper", "Akhbar Al Youm", Al-Yamamah, "Center of Information and Arabian – Russian Studies" (Saudi Arabia) "Al-Akhbar", EDARA (European Development And Research Academy), "Al Ordoon Alyoum", among others. In addition to her written contributions, she has appeared as a commentator on major Arab-language news networks such as Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, Al Qahera News, Sky News Arabia, Akhbar Al Aan, and TRT Arabi. Ms. Khalilzada has participated in numerous international conferences held in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Morocco, Poland, Moscow, and Belarus. She is the author of the book "The Armenian Diaspora in the Middle East" and the scientific supervisor of the book "Shusha and the building of the Future trilogy: Geography, History, and Culture", published in Egypt.



**Mr. Mohammad Anthoni** is the editor of the Indonesia Window on-line media and graduated from the Paramadina Graduate School of Diplomacy (PGSD), Jakarta, Indonesia. Further, for nearly three decades he worked as a senior journalist at the state-owned Antara News Agency and chief of Batam and Singapore Bureau (1992-1999). He is currently a fellow at the Global Future Institute (GFI) and one of the founders and chairman of the Indonesian Muslim Journalists Association (PJMI) for 2011-2018. His articles including: Azerbaijan Celebrates November 8 as Victory Day, Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict Has Left Many Lessons, Journey of Azerbaijan's City of Shusha to Regaining its Lost Status, and Vietnam: Optimism for the Future can be found in the above-mentioned media outlets and others. Also, he wrote some books with some friends.





**Mrs. Carol Ferrara** is an anthropologist, assistant professor, and graduate program director in the Marketing Communication Department at Emerson College. Her research has focused on the intersection of religion, education, and national identity. She has published several articles, book chapters, and public scholarship pieces about religious education, private Muslim schooling, and secularism in France. Her debut book *Muslim and Catholic experiences of national belonging in France*, was published in September 2024 with Bloomsbury Academic Press as part of the *Islam in the Global West* book series. Carol holds a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from Boston University, a dual MA degree in Islam and Middle Eastern Studies and International Affairs from the American University of Paris, and an BSc in International Business from Rochester Institute of Technology.



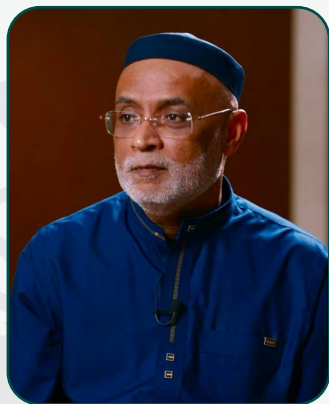
**Prof. Dr. Enes Bayraklı** is the Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Turkish-German University. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Vienna, where he also received his master's degree in 2006 and his PhD in 2012. His research interests include Islamophobia, Turkey-EU relations, German foreign policy, far-right movements in Europe, terrorist organizations, and foreign policy analysis. Since 2015, he has served as the editor of the annually published *European Islamophobia Report*. Bayraklı is also the Vice President of the Türkiye Research Foundation.

**Imam Tarafa Baghajati** - chair of AMI (Austrian Muslim Initiative), established in 1999. He acts as Imam in Vienna, and he is former Cultural Officer of the Islamic Community in Vienna. Baghajati is founder member (2006) and since 2014 Co-Chair of the Platform Christians & Muslims in Austria. He is Board member of MJLC Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council. Tarafa Baghajati is former Board member (2001-2004) and Vice President (2004-2007) of the European Network against Racism ENAR and currently member of the ENAR Advisory Council and he is Vice Chair of Islamic Institute for Adults Education-Vienna WIEEB. He was Board Member of the PIE Platform for Intercultural Europe (2009-2013). Baghajati is since 2005 activist against FGM (female genital mutilation).



**Mr. Edin Hamzakadic** (35) from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Graduate of the Gazi Husrev-beg Madrasah in Sarajevo and the Faculty of Islamic Sciences, University of Sarajevo. Currently a final year MA student at the Faculty of Political Sciences, UNSA, Department of Communication. Imam, khateeb and muallim of the Istiqlal Mosque in Sarajevo. Head of the Youth Network of the Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo. Associate of the BIR Radio and Television of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Member and participant in the activities of the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina.





**Sheikh David Munir** - Senior Imame of the Central Mosque of Lisbon. M.A Islamic Studies, B.A Psychology Research Interests: In Tafsir of the Holy Quran Publications: Elementary Islamic teaching. Achievements: Diploma of Honor awarded by the Islamic Community of Lisbon on the occasion of the visit of His Ex. Doctor Ameen Ageel Al-Attass, Deputy Secretary General of the World Islamic League. Sheikh David Munir is The Imam of the Central Mosque of Lisbon since 1986 Participates in interfaith dialogue and inter cultural conferences. Represents the Islamic Community of Portugal in the media.



**Amb. Muurat Iusuf** is currently the Mufti – spiritual leader of the Muslim Community in Romania. He was born on August 18, 1977 in Medgidia, Constanta. He began studying in Romania, but in order to study Islamic theology he continued his education in Turkey. Mr. Iusuf graduated from Edirne Theological High School in 1994 and then he took TÖMER classes to study Turkish language. In 2000 he graduated from the 19 Mayıs Faculty of Islamic Theology in Samsun, Turkey and then he became a religious counselor at the Muftiate of the Muslim Community of Romania, holding the position until being elected as Mufti for the first time in 2005.

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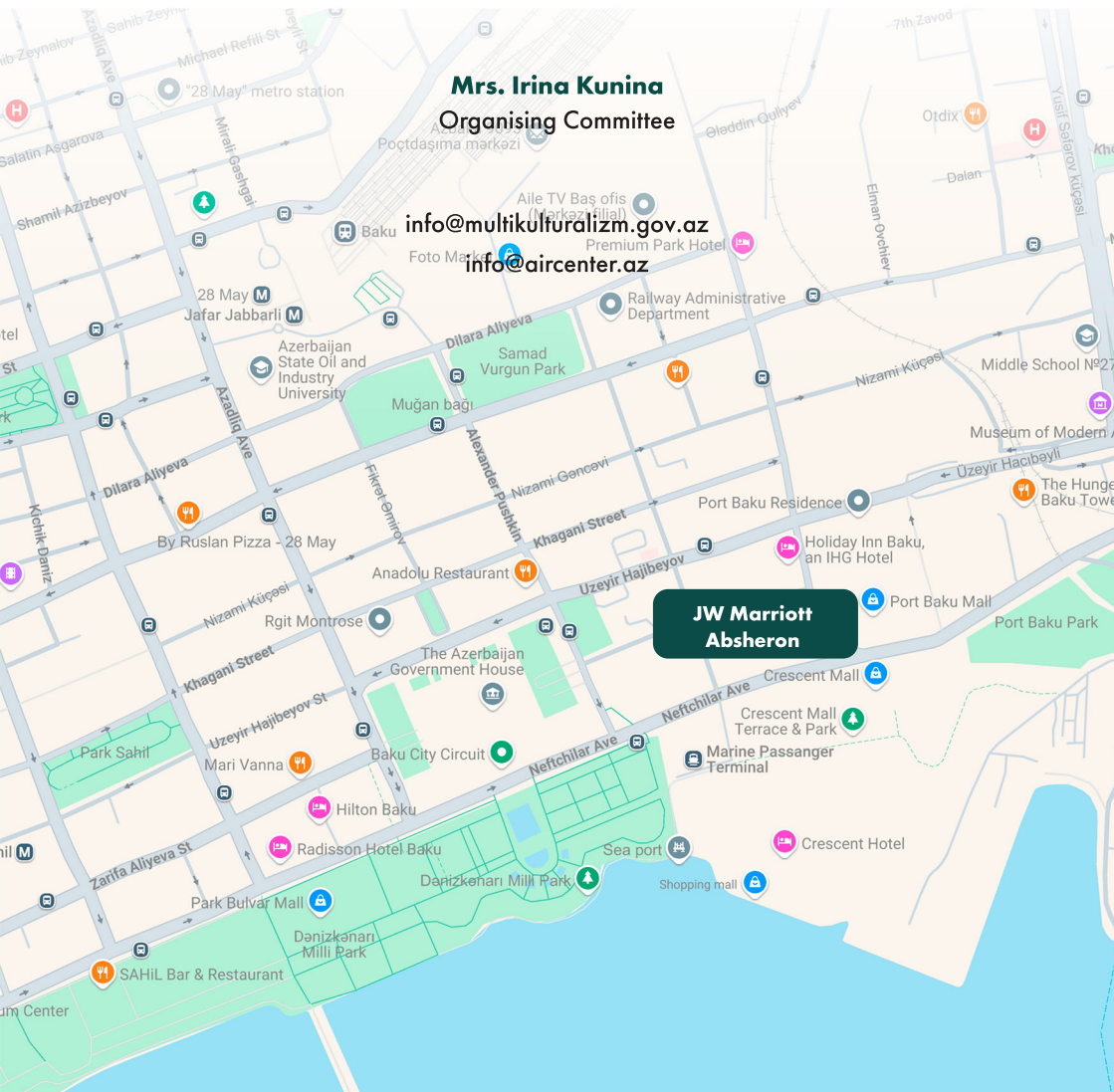
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Lined writing area with a faint background watermark of a globe and geometric patterns.



Handwriting practice lines on page 56. The page features a large, faint background watermark on the left side, consisting of a stylized map of Southeast Asia overlaid with a complex geometric pattern of interlocking lines. The right side of the page is filled with horizontal lines for writing practice.

