

Muslim Leadership in Britain: Developments, Challenges and Opportunities

April 1st 2015, 9:30am-4:30pm – University of Central Lancashire

*Organised in collaboration between the **Muslims in Britain Research Network** and the **University of Central Lancashire**.*

Conference Highlights:

- Keynote address by Baroness Sayeeda Warsi.
- Roundtable talk involving Muslim practitioners from chaplaincy, education, faith leadership, local government and the charities sector.
- Papers/presentations from academics and Muslim practitioners.
- Islamic art and academic/research display boards.

Conference Rationale:

Muslim leadership has changed dramatically in Britain over the last two decades. These changes are characterised by a move away from early forms of leadership within discrete religious communities, through to dynamic professional engagement by Muslims in the spheres of politics, local government, education, culture, business and the charities sector. While faith and community leadership undoubtedly remain important, it is increasingly clear that new avenues are opening up for religiously-informed modes of Muslim leadership in Britain.

This conference will bring academics together with Muslim leaders and practitioners from across Britain to discuss the changing forms of Muslim leadership in the UK. There will be an emphasis on examining the challenges and opportunities facing Muslim leaders and professionals from across a range of different sectors. Through this multi-partner approach there will be an attempt to discuss and share forms of best practice for the evolving role of Muslim leaders in modern Britain.

Abstract Submissions:

Abstracts and presentation proposals are invited from both academics and Muslim practitioners working in relevant fields. The conference interprets "Muslim leadership" in a broad fashion. Accordingly, it welcomes submissions addressing the conference themes directly, as well as those approaching issues and ideas relating to "Muslim leadership" in original and creative ways. The following, non-exhaustive, list of topics should be treated as a starting point:

- Historical trajectories of Muslim leadership.
- Case studies of the experiences, challenges and opportunities for Muslim leadership from education, local government, politics, culture, business and the charities sector.
- Explorations of authority within Muslim leadership.
- The evolving role and emerging forms of Muslim leadership.
- Training and accreditation resources for Muslim professionals.
- Muslim professional networks and communities.
- Emerging leaders – youth, culture and the arts.
- Female Muslim leadership.
- Community, grassroots and activist engagement.
- Local, national and transnational perspectives.
- Cross-sector partnerships, e.g. between scholars and activists, or practitioners and government.
- Implications for policy and the political process.

- Muslim institutions and the role of leadership.
- Leadership within intrafaith and interfaith engagement.

Abstracts for individual papers/presentations (200 words max) and panels (500 words max) are invited for submission no later than **19th January 2015**. Please send abstracts to muslimleadersconference@gmail.com. Abstract submissions should include a short biography and any organisational/institutional affiliation.

Conference Output:

If there are sufficient contributions of appropriate quality, this conference will lead to an edited collection involving both academic and practitioner perspectives.

Conference Organisers:

Professor Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University)

Dr Carl Morris (University of Central Lancashire)

Dr Mahmood Chandia (University of Central Lancashire)

Mobeen Butt (Muslim Museum Initiative)

Chris Moses (Cambridge University)

For any queries or further information, please contact the conference organisers at muslimleadersconference@gmail.com.

Online conference registration and additional details will be made available early next year.