

Press Release

30 June 2021

AIWG publishes International List of Experts on Training and Employment of Muslim Religious Personnel in Europe

- ***The list includes experts from academia and practice from European universities and governmental institutions***
- ***Journalists can more easily search for qualified contacts***
- ***International list of experts complements AIWG's present expert database***
- ***Provides direct access to the list of experts for media contributions***

Frankfurt am Main. How can the training and employment of imams or Muslim chaplains be expanded in Germany and neighbouring countries? How can the cooperation between State institutions and Muslim communities be structured more effectively? Which solution models have been developed by various European countries? The Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) at the Goethe University Frankfurt has now published an international list of experts, the aim of which is to facilitate the search for qualified contact persons when journalists and interested institutions are looking for responses to questions like those above. The list includes experts from academia and practice from Europe and North America who specialise in issues related to the training and employment of Muslim religious personnel.

Dr Raida Chbib, Managing Director of the AIWG, officially presented the list last week in Berlin at the international conference 'Approaches to Cooperation between the State and Muslim Communities: Training of Muslim Religious Professionals in Europe'.

The experts on the now published list include among others, scholars who have contributed to previous international conferences organised by the AIWG's International Programme. The purpose of the list is to facilitate the search for qualified experts for media contributions or speakers for events.

Commenting on this service, Dr Raida Chbib states: 'This list of experts has emerged from the international exchange between scholars, governmental and civil society experts on issues of Islamic religious life in Europe and North America. Some of the participating

experts have contributed the knowledge and experience they have gained in various fields within the context of the AIWG international conferences and its network and have agreed to make their expertise regarding the ongoing dialogue between academia and practice available to a broader public. By publishing the list of experts, the AIWG is doing its part to ensure that important issues, international experiences, perspectives and expert contributions are made available to all interested societal groups.'

At the moment, the list includes 12 recognised experts in the fields of education and the activities of Muslim religious personnel. The list supports keyword searches and provides an overview of the respective experts. In addition to contact information, the profiles also include a summary of each expert's academic or professional career as well as a list of their areas of research and working fields. The AIWG not only maintains but will continue to add further international actors from science and practice.

[List of experts for media contributions](#)

[List of speakers for events](#)

About the AIWG International Programme

The AIWG International Programme brings together international experts from academia and practice to discuss developments in the religion, life and engagement of Muslims in societies in Europa and North America. In particular, theological approaches, sociological issues and case studies are the focus of research. By means of cross-border cooperation by experts from Germany, Europe and North America, academic as well as practical knowledge on relevant topics will be gathered and the search for sustainable answers to current questions connected with Muslim life and religion made possible. The regularly organised international conferences and the resulting [reports](#) represent an important part of the AIWG's International Programme. These activities are supported by the German Foreign Office. For more information about the [International Programme](#), please check our website.

About the AIWG

The Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) is a university platform for research and communication on specialist Islamic-theological questions and social issues. It facilitates supra-regional collaborations and interaction amongst researchers in Islamic-Theological Studies and neighbouring subjects as well as with actors in Muslim civil society and other



sectors of society. Funding for the AIWG is provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Mercator Foundation.

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