



DAY 1 AGENDA

Time	Activity	Notes
8:30 AM	Registration	
9:00 AM	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Birmingham, Making Aid Work Team MPI Team Logistics & Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symposium info & research journals 	<p>Host: Abdul Samad, MPI Associate Director, Indiana University</p> <p>David Hudson, Head of International Development Department</p> <p>Sandra Pertek, UKRI Future Leaders Fellow, Project Lead, University of Birmingham/CHS</p> <p>Shariq Ahmed Siddiqui, Director of Muslim Philanthropy Initiative (MPI), Indiana University</p>
9:30	Keynote: Khaled Khalifa, Senior Adviser for Islamic Philanthropy and Regional Representative to GCC, UNHCR	Leveraging Islamic Philanthropy to Address Demographic and Geographic Disparities in Humanitarian Settings
10:00	Expert Panel 1: The future of Islamic social finance for inclusion in displacement contexts This expert panel explores the transformative potential of Islamic social finance—such as <i>zakat</i> , <i>waqf</i> , and <i>sadaqah</i> —in addressing the unique challenges faced by women affected by conflict and displacement. As humanitarian needs grow and traditional aid models are stretched, Islamic social finance offers culturally rooted, community-driven mechanisms for sustainable support.	<p>Moderator: Fadi Itani, MCF</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Aisha Al-Ayafi, Director of Humanitarian Affairs Department, OIC GS</p> <p>Mohammed Kroessin, Head of Islamic Microfinance, Islamic Relief Worldwide</p> <p>Husna Ahmad, CEO, Global One</p> <p>Said Yusuf Sheik, Head of IPF, UN Migration (IOM)</p>
10:45	Coffee break	



11:00

Special address: Carole Rakodi, Emeritus Professor, International Development Department, University of Birmingham

Understanding the religious, social and political context of philanthropy and humanitarian action: towards an analytical framework

11:30

Chair: Amjad Saleem, IFRC
Research Panel 1: Integrating gender sensitivity into humanitarianism and philanthropy

1. *Contesting Faith and Justice: Muslim Philanthropy and Gender Justice Activists' Engagement with Zakat for Vulnerable Women* – Amelia Fouzia, UIN, Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia
2. *The Pitfalls and Rewards of Advancing Islamic Humanitarian and Development Innovation, A case study of Islamic Relief: Religious Discourses, Re-Orientalism, and Decolonising Gender Mainstreaming* – Pamela Jabbar, Independent researcher, UK
3. *Quiet Giving, Loud Diplomacy: Islamic Philanthropy, Humanitarian Diplomacy, and the Protection of Afghan Women Refugees in Pakistan* – Haris Bin Aziz, National University of Modern Languages, Pakistan
4. *Invisible Stakeholders: Migrant Muslim Women and the Challenges of Inclusion in Islamic Philanthropy Amid Waqf Reform in India* – Yaseen Muhammed K. A., Darul Huda Islamic University, India (pre-recorded)

12:45

Lunch

13:45

Keynote: Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, UCL, Professor of Migration and Refugee Studies



14:15	<p>Expert Panel 2: Humanitarian diplomacy and philanthropy for displaced women</p> <p>This expert panel explores the intersection of humanitarian diplomacy and philanthropic action in addressing the specific challenges faced by women affected by conflict and displacement. Drawing on diverse regional and institutional perspectives, the session will examine how humanitarian actors and philanthropic institutions—particularly those rooted in faith traditions—can more effectively advocate for and support displaced women.</p>	<p>Moderator: Ahmed Al-Dawoody, Legal Counsel, ICRC</p> <p>Panellists: Fatema S. Alnoaimi, Qatar Charity, Senior External Affairs Specialist</p> <p>Selman Kesign, Head of External Relations, Turkish Red Crescent</p> <p>Maha Akeel, Independent Specialist</p> <p>Jessica Skinner, Independent Specialist</p>
14:55	Coffee break	
15:10	<p>Chair: Kaja Borchgrevink, PRIO</p> <p>Research Panel 2: Humanitarianism, peace-building and women-led philanthropy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Culinary Bonds: How Everyday Food Practices Foster Belonging Among Syrian Refugee & Turkish Host Women in Gaziantep</i> – Ayda Apa Pomesnikov, University of Washington, USA 2. <i>Enhancing the Role of Women Mediators in Conflict Resolution in Muslim Societies</i> – Maha Akeel, Dar Al Hekma University, Saudi Arabia 3. <i>Advancing community-led protection initiatives using its faith-sensitive Community Hope Action Team (CHAT) model. Drawing on implementation across humanitarian contexts</i> – Bushra Rehman, Islamic Relief Worldwide, UK 4. <i>Faith, Generosity, and Impact: Muslim Women and the Future of U.S. Philanthropy</i> – Abdul Samad, Muslim Philanthropy Initiative, Indiana University, USA 	
16:30	Wrap up Day 1 and adjourn	Sandra Pertek Shariq Siddiqui
17:30	Dinner	

DAY 2 AGENDA

Time	Activity	Notes
09:00	Welcome Remarks	Rene Lindstaedt, Head of School of Government, University of Birmingham Sandra Pertek Shariq Siddiqui
09:15	Keynote: Aisha Al-Ayafi, Director of Humanitarian Affairs Department, OIC General Secretariat	
09:45	Chair: Ali-Reza Bhojani, University of Birmingham Research Panel 3: Islamic Ethics and Philanthropic Instruments for Women 1. <i>Bridging Faith and Equality in Women's Empowerment from a Legal Perspective</i> , Beata Polok, Dar Al-Hekma University, Saudi Arabia 2. <i>'A duty, not an option': Secular and Faith (Dis)Engagement in Protection of Displaced Women in Muslim-majority Contexts</i> – Salma Khalil, University of Manchester, Sandra Pertek, University of Birmingham 3. <i>Mercy in Motion: Islamic Philanthropic Instruments for Women in Displacement, Conflict and Refuge</i> – Muhammed Nabil, University of Birmingham 4. <i>A Historical Review on Early Islamic Philanthropy for Displaced Women</i> - Syed Muaz Shah, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development, Pakistan 5. <i>Islamic Ethics and Gendered Migration: An Analysis of Ethiopian Women in Saudi Detention Centre during COVID-19</i> - Halifet Ayemohammed Yusuf, Wollo University, Ethiopia (pre-recorded)	
11:00	Coffee break	
11:20	Workshop 'Toward a protection framework of displaced women from a faith perspective' This workshop aims to present and discuss a potential women's protection framework and its implementation.	Ahmed Al-Dawoody Amjad Saleem Sandra Pertek

12:45	Lunch	
13:45	Special address: Hayat Sindi, CEO, the Institute for Quality	Women, Social Innovation and Philanthropy
14:15	Chair: Husna Ahmad, Global One Research Panel 4: Community-based experiences and responses to displacement <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Gentrification, Displacement, and Impacts of Resettlement on Marginalised Communities Women- Study of Mumbai's Resettlement Colony</i> - Priyanka Mokale, University of Birmingham2. <i>Access of refugee and asylum-seeking women to community-based mental health services in Edinburgh and Glasgow</i> - Ainuska Sheripkanova, QMU Edinburgh, UK3. <i>Climate-Induced Displacement, Gender-Based Vulnerability, and Legal Precarity Among Displaced Afghan Women in Pakistan</i> - Nafisa Nasar, University of Birmingham (pre-recorded)4. <i>Why is the participation rate of young Muslim women low in the formal workforce? A research study conducted in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh</i> - Durraïn Desnavi, Azim Premji University, India (pre-recorded)	
15:05	Coffee break	
15:20	Expert Panel 3: Moving forward: The future of humanitarianism and the role of Muslim donors and humanitarian actors in building resilience <p>This expert panel explores the future of humanitarianism through the lens of Muslim donors and actors, focusing on their role in enhancing the resilience of women affected by conflict and displacement. In light of growing needs and funding gaps, the session will consider how Islamic humanitarian principles and philanthropic practices can offer distinctive, community-based solutions. It will also examine emerging models of partnership, governance, and the potential of Islamic approaches to more effectively support women in crisis contexts.</p>	<p>Moderator: Amjad Saleem, IFRC</p> <p>Panellists: Hany El-Banna, President, World Humanitarian Action Forum</p> <p>Kaja Borchgrevink, PRIO, Oslo</p> <p>Anwar Khan, Former President Islamic Relief USA</p> <p>Lamees Hafeez, Muslim Aid</p>
16:30	Wrap up Day 2/Next steps	Sandra Pertek Shariq Siddiqui
17:00	Departure/Sightseeing	Free time