



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

## Bismillah Rahman Rahim

*In the name of ALLAH, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM LEADERS' CONSULTATION ON HIV/AIDS AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS.

### Background:

In the year 2000, a group of Muslim practitioners interested in using the Islamic approach to combat HIV/AIDS met in Durban South Africa during the International AIDS Conference on AIDS. They included representatives from the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda, Islamic Medical Association of South Africa and the Malaysian AIDS Council. It was noted that the experiences and culture of Muslim communities in the fight against AIDS were not being adequately catered for by current international AIDS conferences. It was agreed that International Muslim Leaders' Consultations on AIDS should be held to share the experiences of Muslim communities and chart the way forward regarding the Islamic approach to combating AIDS.

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Muslim Leaders Consultation on HIV/AIDS was held in Kampala, Uganda in 2001 and it was organized by the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda. The theme for the consultation was “**Strategies for strengthening and expanding the international Muslim community response to AIDS**”. The consultation motto was “**Jihad on AIDS: Self discipline using Allah’s guidance**”. During this consultation it was agreed that an international centre for promotion of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS be established in Uganda.

The second International Muslim Leaders Consultation on AIDS was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2003 and it was organized by the Malaysian AIDS Council in conjunction with the Malaysian Government. The theme was “**The Caring Ummah, transforming the response**”. During this consultation, it was noted that there was a need to clarify the concept of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS and its implementation among the Muslim communities.

In the process of building on these experiences, the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda in conjunction with the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council are organizing the third International Muslim Leaders Consultation on HIV/AIDS (3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC).

**VENUE** : Sheraton Addis, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**DATES:** 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007

**THEME** : **The Islamic Approach to HIV/AIDS: Enhancing the Community Response.**

The operational definition of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS includes the following components:

- i. Believing in God
- ii. Learning the scientific facts about HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support
- iii. Making use of relevant Islamic teachings
- iv. Forming partnerships with and making use of religious leaders and their administrative structure.
- v. Making use of the concept of Jihad Nafs (The struggle of the soul against temptation) by each individual to combat AIDS.

**GOAL** : To reach a consensus on the strategies and modalities for implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support.

**PURPOSE** : To bring Muslim leaders together as a “Think Tank” to discuss contemporary issues on HIV/AIDS and reach a consensus regarding the way forward from the Islamic perspective.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMLC:**

1. To articulate and analyze the concept of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS and how it can be transformed from theory into practice.
2. To share experiences on the implementation of various aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support using the concept of the Islamic approach to AIDS
3. To develop basic strategic plans to reach Muslim communities more effectively in the implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS.
4. To plan for follow up activities after the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC in relation to the implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS.

#### **PARTICIPANTS OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMLC:**

Participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC will include the following categories:

1. Muslim religious leaders at national and international level.
2. Muslim men, women and youth leaders of national level non-governmental organizations
3. Muslims living with HIV/AIDS and involved in advocacy.
4. Muslim government department leaders
5. Leaders of other organizations interested in promoting the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS.

### **CONSULTATION LEARNING METHODS:**

The learning methods for the consultation will be participatory with the following activities:

1. Group discussions of contemporary issues on HIV/AIDS and strategies for implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS.
2. Key note presentations and discussions of selected contemporary issues related to the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS
3. Presentations and discussions of selected community experiences and responses in the implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS.
4. Plenary session feed back, discussion and consensus building and consensus statements

### **LANGUAGE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMLC:**

The language of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC will be English with translation into Arabic, French and Amharic for plenary sessions only.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMLC, INSHALLAH (GOD WILLING):**

1. Participants will reach a consensus on the concept of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS and how it should be transformed from theory into practice.
2. Participants will share experiences and best practices on the implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS.
3. Participants will develop basic strategic plans for implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS among Muslim communities.
4. The proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC related to the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS will be documented and disseminated.
5. The capacity and enthusiasm of participants to implement the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support will be enhanced.

### **REGISTRATION:**

Interested participants are requested to complete the registration form and email it back to the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda by 20/5/2007.

### **SPONSORSHIP BY CONSULTATION ORGANISERS:**

A limited number of participants will be fully sponsored to attend the consultation. The selection of these will be based on set criteria. The selected participants will be sent an invitation letter by 10<sup>th</sup> June 2007 Inshallah.

### **SPONSORSHIP BY OTHER PARTNERS:**

A limited number of participants who are able to find sponsorship for themselves will be accepted to attend the consultation. The selection of these participants will be based on set criteria. Once a participant is selected to attend the consultation he or she will be required to pay the consultation attendance fee in advance. Each self sponsored participant will pay US\$.2580. This includes conference registration, conference materials, local transport, accommodation and meals for 6 days. Incidental expenses and air tickets are not included in this payment. Selected self sponsored participants will be informed of payment details. Payments have to be made by 25/6/2007. After payment, an official invitation letter will be sent to the participant

### **ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC will include sessions to share experiences, successes, best practices and challenges in the implementation of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. Experiences in Islamic approach to stigma reduction, life skills utilization and other issues related to HIV/AIDS will also be shared. Participants with experience in implementation of one or more of the components of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS as defined in the consultation theme are requested to submit abstracts. Experiences from Muslims living with HIV/AIDS are highly encouraged. Abstracts should be submitted in the following format:

- Title:
- Author(s)
- Institution:
- Issues: A short summary of the issues addressed
- Description: A brief description of the project, experience, service or advocacy.
- Lessons learnt: A brief description of the results of the project, or experience.
- Recommendations: A brief statement of the next steps.
- Length:** Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.
- Deadline:** Abstracts should be submitted by 20/5/2007

### **Abstracts should be submitted by email to:**

Islamic Medical Association of Uganda

Subject: 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC Abstract.

Email: [imau@utlonline.co.ug](mailto:imau@utlonline.co.ug) / [imau\\_ug@hotmail.com](mailto:imau_ug@hotmail.com)

### **PARTNERS IN ORGANIZING THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMLC:**

The following are the core partners that are organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC:

- Islamic Medical Association of Uganda (IMAU)
- Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council
- USAID
- Constella Futures
- World Conference of Religions for Peace.

### **CONTACT PERSONS AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMLC:**

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