



Call for Papers

Conference on
Financial Environment for Refugees and Immigrant Communities:
Islamic Finance in Action
2nd – 3rd March 2023
organised and hosted by
AL-MAKTOUM COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Dundee, Scotland

Background:

The unceasing political, economic, and financial crises at global, regional and country level have paved the way for an unprecedented scale of human movement in the form of refugees and immigration since the beginning of this century. Creating the required funding to help refugees and immigrants to settle well in their new communities by establishing a dignified life has become a real challenge for receiving countries as well as the international agencies. While very large amounts of money are spent on 'war industries', financing human security in the form of daily food, accommodation, work and employment has faced many challenges, leaving refugees and immigrant communities in dire living conditions. These are happening within the pretext of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, aiming to end worldwide poverty by 2030. Thus, emancipation and empowerment of refugees and immigrants through enabling them remains an essential policy and financial challenge. Consequently, the need for mobilising alternative forms of economic and financial sources have become an imperative.

Considering that a large percentage of refugees and immigrants originates from Muslim countries, Islamic finance, including traditional forms of Islamic social welfare institutions (such as *zakat*, *waqf* and *sadaqah*) acts as an important source for responding to the empowering needs of refugees and immigrant communities. Therefore, provision of Islamic finance in its various forms can help to enhance financial inclusion for them by motivating and financing their entrepreneurial skills and developing business.

The Islamic proscription of interest-based financing leads to financial exclusion for Muslim refugees and immigrants in Western countries as Islamic finance tools are not widely offered or accessible. Research reveals that Muslim immigrant entrepreneurs are unable to access *Shari'ah*-compliant financial tools formally, and instead rely on informal means for financing, limiting their growth potential and delaying economic integration. Where immigrants experience structural barriers in labour market participation, the limited access to suitable financial products means Muslim entrepreneurs are unable to fully realise their potential. Specialists in Islamic finance, Islamic law, sustainable development, Islamic studies and community studies are invited to work towards understanding the difficulties that refugee and immigrant entrepreneurs face when seeking capital to finance their business plans.

Conference Theme:

This Conference solicits papers examining the financing gaps among the Muslim refugees and immigrant communities, and how Islamic finance can respond to these financing gaps through creating financial inclusion for emancipatory and empowering nature. In addition, papers on informal financing channels within the Muslim community for business development will be considered.

This Conference aims to open discussion for the generation of policies aiming to improve the financial inclusion of Muslim immigrant entrepreneurs and develop innovative learning tools for key stakeholders.

The Conference also invites papers exploring and examining innovative and creative ideas in Islamic moral economy and finance; challenges for Muslim entrepreneurs seeking financial assistance and the problem of effectively monitoring and managing moral hazard present in almost all entrepreneurial finance but arguably more important in Islamic entrepreneurial finance.





The Conference in part also focuses on sustainable micro-finance projects and entrepreneurial developments which can positively contribute to poverty alleviation.

As the first of its kind to take place in Scotland and the wider UK, the Conference will explore successful financial integration of Muslim refugees and immigrant entrepreneurs, understanding how this leads to increasing equality, labour market integration, and access to healthy workplaces.

Conference Funding:

Focusing on the challenges faced by entrepreneurs as they grow their businesses beyond micro- or small-sized enterprises, the New Scots Integration Delivery Research Project run by academics at the Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, funded by Scottish Government and the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (the European Union), places its key knowledge exchange with Muslim immigrant entrepreneurs, Islamic leadership, and organizations offering support to entrepreneurs.

Extended Abstract Submission:

An extended abstract of 1,000 words around the background provided above should be submitted by **25th November 2022**, which should provide a short background, aim(s) of the paper, the methodology and method used, concepts developed (if a conceptual paper) and the findings (if an empirical paper) or expected findings.

Your extended abstract should also include a short biography (not a CV) in the main text of the abstract identifying your title, present post and rank, affiliation details, and email.

You should send the extended abstract of around 1000 words to research@almcollege.ac.uk.

Travel and Accommodation:

Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, through the funding provided by Scottish Government and the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, will reimburse a roundtrip economy class ticket up to £350 and will provide three nights hotel accommodation to the author of the selected papers (in case of joint authors, only one author of each paper will be provided with this facility). Lunches and a formal dinner will also be part of the hospitality.

Publication Opportunities – Special Issue at Global Policy:

We are pleased to inform that eight papers out of the presented papers will appear in a special issue on the conference title in **Global Policy** (<https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/articles/browse/issues>) with the objective of developing a global debate surrounding the conceptual and theoretical ideas around the financial environment for refugees. Global Policy is a Q1 ranked journal in SCOPUS.

The special issue is scheduled for October 2023, and is edited by Professor Mehmet Asutay (Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance, Durham University Business School) and Dr Alija Avdukic (Assoc. Professor in Islamic Economics and Finance at Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education).

Further queries can be directed to the conference organiser:

Dr Alija Avdukic

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Important Dates:

Deadline for Paper/Extended Abstract/Paper Submission: **25th November 2022**

Acceptance notifications will be sent by: **2nd December 2022**

Full paper submission: **5th May 2023**

Venue:

The Conference will take place at Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, 124 Blackness Road, DD1 5PE, Dundee, Scotland, UK.

Website: www.almcollege.ac.uk

