



UMMATICS

Annual Report

2025

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GEM
DOMAINS

4th

YEAR OF
PROGRAM

WHERE WE STAND

A Self-Assessment on Our 10-Year Vision

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Most Merciful, Always Merciful

Dear friends and supporters,

Every year as I sit to write this letter, I feel torn between the desire to celebrate what we have accomplished, and the obligation to be honest about how much remains to be done. When we launched the Ummatics Institute, we committed to a ten-year vision comprised of three ambitious goals that we believed, if realized, would lay serious intellectual and organizational foundations for an ummatic renewal. Now four years in, I'd like to offer a sober self-assessment, offered with gratitude to Allah and those who have made this work possible, and with humility before the scale of what still lies ahead.

Our first goal was **"building a comprehensive knowledge base on the Islamic and empirical rationale, objectives, and pathways for Ummatic unity."**

We remain at an early stage of a long journey.

The most significant milestone in this area is the development and publication of the Ummatics Research Agenda, which maps out the key scholarly questions that must be addressed across broad domains. We believe this agenda encompasses the full scope of research needed to build a thorough and coherent knowledge base in service of comprehensive and realistic ummatic unity.

Our ongoing program of research papers, colloquia, working groups, and scholarly engagement has begun to populate this knowledge base with substantive contributions. Within the "Civilizational and Intellectual Renewal" domain, our publications have covered the most ground so far, spanning the theological grounding of Islamic political theory, the philosophical and normative foundations of ummatic consciousness, critiques of the nation-state and dominant secular paradigms, questions of ummatic sociality and civilizational vision, and more recently, the theory of ummatic soft power as a mechanism for change.

We continue to advance our efforts toward tackling the specific research questions outlined in the agenda, inviting scholars and institutions from across the Umma to contribute to this collective undertaking. Much work remains but the roadmap is now in place. More details on the research agenda can be found in a dedicated section of this report.

Our second goal was **"inspiring the formation of an umbrella of diverse organizations that are actively working for positive change based on a shared ummatic foundations framework, especially within the Muslim World."**

This goal has always been the most ambitious in scope. It asks us not only to do our own work, but to catalyze a broader ecosystem of action across the Umma. In 2026, we took our most significant step yet towards realizing it.

The launch of the GEM Collaboratives and the inaugural GEM Summit, held in Doha, Qatar in January 2026, represents a major milestone in this direction. The summit brought together a range of experts and leaders across several domains to begin developing coordinated, long-term roadmaps for each area. Their goal is to build genuine networks of professionals, scholars, and practitioners who are actively working to strengthen the Umma in their respective fields — precisely the kind of diverse, capable organizations our ten-year vision called for.

The collaboratives are nascent, the ecosystem is still forming, and there is much to refine and grow. But the foundation has been laid, and the energy around GEM gives us genuine cause for optimism. More details on the GEM Summit and Collaboratives can be found in a dedicated section of this report.

Our third long-term goal was to **“provide policy and organizational recommendations to leaders in the Muslim world in regards to economic, political, and civilizational empowerment and unity.”**

Our third long-term goal represents the most forward-looking dimension of our vision. We fully appreciate that it requires significant groundwork before it can be meaningfully pursued. We are encouraged by the progress made in the first 2 goals, and we look forward, insha'Allah, to beginning to pursue this dimension of our vision in the years ahead.

The work of civilizational renewal does not move in straight lines, nor at a predictable pace. Many blessed developments in the Umma since the beginning of our project in 2022 have required us to readjust, grow faster, and yet stay the course and avoid short term distractions in the interest of our long-term agenda. Compared to the scale of the goal, our progress must appear modest, however pursued consistently. By Allah's will, modest efforts accumulate, deepen, and eventually alter realities.

What I can say with confidence, as I survey where we stand at the end of our fourth year, is that the foundations are more solid than they were.

The research agenda is mapped. The collaboratives have formed and are entering processes of institutionalization. The scholars are engaged. The community is showing up. What was once merely conviction and aspiration is gradually acquiring structure, continuity, and momentum.

It happened because of your trust, your generosity, and your conviction that this kind of work matters. I am deeply grateful. And I am asking you to stay with us as we move from these foundations into the harder, more consequential work ahead.



Jazākum Allāhu khayran,

Ashraf Motiwala

President, Ummatics Institute

INNOVATION

The Cluster Model: A New Research Architecture

In 2025, Ummatics moved toward a fundamentally new model for producing original scholarship. Drawing on lessons from its early research project on Managing Deep Differences, the Institute recognized that the conventional model of assigning researchers to produce isolated literature reviews yields information, not insight. What the Umma needs are breakthroughs.







The new model centers on what Ummatics calls research clusters: small, regular, intellectually intense gatherings of a handful of scholars organized around two to three active projects. Each cluster meets every 1-2 weeks for two hours. The rhythm gives each researcher time to read, write, and return with something worth contesting. The goal is creative friction: the productive tension between minds committed to the same civilizational mission but each bringing distinct frameworks, disciplines, and convictions.

The most important resource in such networks is not funding or infrastructure but attention — the sustained, rigorous attention that scholars bring to each other's ideas.

— DRAWING ON RANDALL COLLINS, THE SOCIOLOGY OF PHILOSOPHIES



At the center of each cluster is a scholar who functions as a sort of evangelist: someone who combines deep conviction in the research domain with the intellectual and emotional energy to keep the work moving forward — attracting collaborators, sustaining momentum, and modeling the kind of courage that serious inquiry demands. This role emerges organically from genuine ownership of a research area and cannot be bureaucratically assigned.

 <p>Intense Commitment Over lukewarm agreement</p>	 <p>Small Network Intimate, not diffuse</p>	 <p>Creative Tension Rather than consensus</p>
 <p>Ritualized Regularity Consistent meeting cadence</p>	 <p>Disciplined Work Reading & rigorous discussion</p>	 <p>Freedom to Pursue Truth Without financial precarity</p>

The six values guiding each cluster reflect this vision: intense commitment over lukewarm agreement; a small, intimate network rather than isolation or diffusion; creative tension rather than consensus; ritualized regularity in meeting; disciplined hard work in reading and discussion; and an environment in which scholars are free to pursue truth without financial precarity undermining their focus. Anchoring all of this is an understanding that this work is not merely academic, but a contribution to the long project of ummatic revival and the eventual flourishing of an Islamic civilization capable of contributing to humanity at large.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Ummatics Research Agenda

In February 2025, Ummatics published its formal Research Agenda which serves as a structured map of the scholarly questions that must be answered if ummatic unification is to move from aspiration to actuality. The agenda is organized around three broad domains: Civilizational and Intellectual Renewal, Political Unification and Transformation, and Economic Integration and Development. Together, they constitute a comprehensive framework for the kind of knowledge production the Umma needs.

01 Renewed Civilizational and Intellectual Renewal

Rather than asking how Muslims should adapt to the modern world, this domain asks what a renewed Islamic civilization itself could become. It develops new frameworks for knowledge, institutions, ethics, and collective imagination capable of shaping the future rather than reacting to it. It also confronts the deepest internal obstacles to civilizational revival—from sectarianism and legal disagreement to competing identities—not as permanent realities, but as problems to be understood and ultimately overcome through principled scholarship rooted in the Islamic tradition.

02 Political Unification and Transformation

This domain explores one of the most neglected questions in contemporary scholarship: how a politically fragmented Umma might once again develop meaningful forms of collective agency. Rather than treating today's nation-state order as the endpoint of history, it investigates the institutional, constitutional, and historical conditions under which Muslims have achieved large-scale political integration. It also explores how new models of cooperation, governance, and political transformation might emerge in the future.

03 Economic Integration and Development

This domain reimagines the economic foundations of ummatic power and resilience. Rather than merely proposing Islamic alternatives within the existing global economy, it explores how Muslims may build new forms of economic integration and institutional self-sufficiency that reduce structural dependence and expand collective prosperity. From zakāt and waqf to trade networks and monetary innovation, the objective is to rethink how economic systems can strengthen the Umma as a civilizational whole.

The research agenda not only scopes the future work of Ummatics, but is designed as a living document, openly published and explicitly inviting scholars, institutions, and practitioners across the Muslim world to contribute, critique, and collaborate. In this sense, the agenda itself enacts the spirit it describes: research as a shared ummatic project.

04 The GEM Summit — Doha 2026

INAUGURAL EVENT — PROOF OF CONCEPT

The GEM Summit — Doha 2026

Pullman Hotel, Doha, Qatar · January 26–29, 2026



A High Powered Collaboration

The GEM Summit was co-hosted by the **Ummatics Institute**, the **Yaqeen Institute**, the **GMW Network**, and the **Al-Sharq Forum**, a coalition of leading Muslim-world organizations united around a shared civilizational mission. The summit gathered the visionaries and "doers" of the ummah to catalyze new ecosystems focused on Muslim integration and empowerment.

Ummatics co-hosted the inaugural GEM Summit in Doha, Qatar; one of the most ambitious gatherings of over 100 Muslim professionals and changemakers in recent memory. Held January 26 through 29 at the Pullman Hotel, the summit was a collaboration between the Ummatics Institute, the Yaqeen Institute, the GMW Network, and the Al-Sharq Forum, bringing together participants from across the globe united by a common aspiration: to build the Umma's future together, year by year.

SEVEN STRATEGIC DOMAINS

TECHNOLOGY & AI	MEDIA & NARRATIVE	EDUCATION
HEALTHCARE & HUMANITARIAN	CULTURE & ARTS	LEGAL
		BUSINESS

800+
PARTICIPANTS

35+
COUNTRIES

Building the GEM Collaboratives

COMPONENT ONE

Inception of Collaboratives 2025

The journey began with months of foundational prep work and strategic alignment prior to the summit. This phase involved scouting top global subject-matter experts (SMEs) to launch long-term GEM Collaboratives across seven strategic domains: Technology & AI, Media & Narrative, Education, Business, Legal, Healthcare & Humanitarian, and Culture & Arts. Envisioned as permanent, ongoing institutions, these core teams spent months developing domain-specific frameworks and concepts for projects that aim to empower Muslims and strategically integrate the Umma.

COMPONENT TWO

CUSP Summit January 26–27 · Invite-Only

Building upon the initial groundwork, additional SMEs from the various domains were recruited to convene approximately 100 subject-matter experts together to review the proposed projects, critique and assess their viability, and help adjust them as needed for maximum impact. During this intensive gathering, each collaborative ideated a framework for their particular domain, discussed first projects and governance structures required to sustain operations beyond the summit. Keynote addresses by Wadah Khanfar and Sheikh Omar Suleiman anchored the event spiritually and strategically, while the morning intention-setting sessions and khatirahs after prayer set a distinct tone of sincere, ego-free, and purposeful collaboration.

COMPONENT THREE

Public Summit January 28–29 · Open Access

The Public Summit opened to a broader audience of over 800 Muslim leaders, artists, scholars, students, and professionals from over 35 countries, showcasing the vision of the GEM network and inviting the wider community to engage with the collaboratives and their emerging plans. Across both days, the summit delivered the kind of high-quality encounters that its vision promised: participants consistently cited the caliber of the people in the room as the event's defining feature, and the connections formed, across sectors, geographies, and disciplines, as its most lasting output.



There is a real and significant constituency of Globally Empowered Muslims who are ready to show up, do the work, and build — not just discuss.

— GEM SUMMIT ASSESSMENT, 2026



What the 2026 summit established above all is proof of concept. There is a real and significant constituency of Globally Empowered Muslims who are ready to commit their time and energy into purposeful, umma-centric work. The GEM Summit served as a catalyst where this collective energy transforms into formal structures and long-term strategies. Current and ongoing initiatives are focused on scaling these summit outcomes into sustainable ecosystems that are accessible to the public and launching targeted high-impact projects.

05

Literature Published in 2025

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Literature Published

The Ummatics Institute's research output this past year included six major publications, engaging three vital frontiers: recovering classical political thought on the Imamate; formulating transnational frameworks for "ummatic soft power"; and deconstructing secular, neoliberal, and unipolar systems.

MAR
2025

The Jerusalemite Murābaṭa: On the Frontier of the Islamic-Israeli Conflict

Taha Abderrahmane · Translated by Prof. Monir Birouk

This publication translates the opening chapter of Taha Abderrahmane's *Thughūr al-Murābaṭa*, translated by Prof. Monir Birouk and introduced by Dr. Mohammed El-Sayed Bushra. As opposed to a conventional political or legal analysis, Abderrahmane uses his signature "trusteeship framework" to critique the Israeli occupation as a profound theological and moral crisis, framing it as a violation of sacred trust and an affront to divine sovereignty. Ultimately, this work invites Anglophone scholars and activists to rethink Palestine not merely as a geopolitical dispute, but as a civilizational struggle demanding a faith-grounded response to oppression.

MAY
2025

Ummatic Soft Power as a Catalyst for Change

Ashraf Motiwala

Adapting Joseph Nye's soft power framework to an ummatic context, this paper develops the concept of "ummatic soft power" as a tool for collective Muslim action. The author identifies eight domains through which this power can be mobilized and proposes GEM Collaboratives — decentralized transnational networks — as the organizational vehicle for doing so. This paper served as the genesis for the GEM Summit and the ongoing work that it inspired.

SEP
2025

On the Origins of Neoliberalism

Ali Harfouch

This paper argues that neoliberalism's true origins lie not in economics but in secularity — that the crisis it represents is fundamentally metaphysical and existential. Tracing the genealogy of *homo oeconomicus* from its secular philosophical foundations, Harfouch introduces the concept of the *dunyā* as neoliberalism's underlying meta-order, a framework that enables the reduction of human existence to market logic. The paper situates the contemporary neoliberal crisis within a broader civilizational failure that cannot be addressed without confronting its spiritual and philosophical roots.

OCT
2025

The Ummatic Method

Ovamir Anjum

Dr. Ovamir Anjum outlines a vision for reviving Muslim unity and civilizational purpose by bridging the gap between Islamic ideals and contemporary realities. The paper establishes five core strategic pillars rooted in Prophetic guidance: nurturing and connecting globally empowered Muslim professionals (GEMs), critically synthesizing existing revivalist projects, maintaining ground-level community engagement, managing internal ideological diversity, and preparing for unforeseen geopolitical changes. By advocating for both vertical and horizontal integration across the global Muslim community, the text presents a non-linear, practical methodology for cultivating "ummatic soft power" and establishing a shared public sphere to navigate modern sociopolitical challenges.

NOV
2025

Operationalizing Ummatic Soft Power: Criteria for Effective Collaboratives

Joseph Kaminski

Building on Motiwala's foundational framework, this paper identifies six criteria that effective ummatic collaboratives must embody: ummatic orientation, a spirit of cooperation, decentralization, broad representation, constructive management of internal differences, and capacity for self-correction. Kaminski argues that without a reliable mechanism to assess whether collaboratives genuinely meet these standards, the concept risks dilution or co-optation, and calls for the establishment of an independent ratings organization to provide ongoing accountability.

DEC
2025

Shāfi'ī Political Theorists on the Imamate: Māwardī, Juwaynī, and Ghazālī

Sheikh Yousef Wahb · Classical Texts Series

This installment in the Classical Texts Series presents translated excerpts from three major Shāfi'ī jurists — Māwardī, Juwaynī, and Ghazālī — on the concept of the Imamate and the communal obligations surrounding legitimate political leadership. The selections illuminate the evolution of Shāfi'ī political theory and demonstrate how classical Islamic jurisprudence understood the relationship between religious authority, governance, and the collective responsibility of the Muslim community to uphold sound leadership.

Translation Efforts

In an effort to reach wider audiences, the Ummatics Institute has been working to translate our core papers into languages predominant in the Muslim world. Ideas that stay in one language reach only part of the Umma. Our translation program carries Ummatics research into the languages Muslims read, write, and think in — across both the page and the screen, with more added continually.

تصدق
عن المؤسسة
فريقنا
تواصل معنا
التسجيل/الدخول

ملتقيات أمتكس
مجالات الاهتمام
الإصدارات

البقع الاستعمارية على
تصوّر المسلمين للأمة

د. عويمر أنجم و فرح الشريف

أبريل ٢٠٢٥، ٢٢

أوراق

الطرح الثاني: التاريخ يُلهم
ولا يقنّد

د. عويمر أنجم

أبريل ٢٠٢٥، ٢١

أوراق

ما هي الأمتية

د. عويمر أنجم

أبريل ٢٠٢٥، ١٠

لماذا «الأمتية»؟ سلسلة من الأطروحات

أوراق د. عويمر أنجم مايو ٢٠٢٥، ٨

Arabic Publications

14

PAPERS & ARTICLES

24

COLLOQUIUM SUMMARIES

Turkish Publications

14

PAPERS & ARTICLES

33

COLLOQUIUM SUMMARIES

06 Annual Conference — Istanbul 2025

Istanbul · July 2025 · ISAM — Centre for Islamic Studies

The Ummatic Turn: Research, Method, Futures



The Ummatics Conference 2025, held in July at ISAM — the Centre for Islamic Studies in Istanbul — brought together scholars, thinkers, and strategists to engage the intellectual and strategic foundations of Muslim civilizational renewal. Under the theme The Ummatic Turn: Research, Method, Futures, the conference marked a deliberate shift in Ummatics' work: from making the case for ummatic unity toward the harder questions of research methodology, institutional design, and strategic action within the rapidly changing world order.

The conference opened by exploring civilizational theory, specifically examining how to ground the concept of Islamic civilization in the lived realities of cities, civility, and citizenship. Discussions then transitioned into outlining the architecture of Ummatics' research agenda across its three core domains. Subsequent sessions addressed political unification, examining historical state-merger attempts and competing theoretical frameworks, and the shifting global order, exploring how multipolarity, geoeconomic realignment, and the decline of Western liberal hegemony create both constraints and openings for Muslim agency.

All nine sessions were recorded and subsequently released on the Ummatics YouTube channel, extending the conference's reach to a global audience.

SPEAKERS & PANELLISTS

Dr. Heba Raouf-Ezzat	Dr. Uthman Badar	Dr. Ovamir Anjum
Dr. Mustafa Salama	Mehreen Khan	Dr. Emir Kaya
Dr. Admir Mulaosmanovic	Dr. Joseph Kaminski	

Colloquia

The Ummatics Colloquium Series marked another year of rigorous intellectual engagement in 2025, deepening its exploration of the core challenges facing the Muslim Umma through conversations with scholars, researchers, and thought leaders from across disciplines and geographies. These monthly sessions tackled important questions facing the modern Muslim world whilst grounding contemporary debates in Islamic tradition.

**JAN
2025**

Syria's Transition: Legitimacy, Governance, and Ummatic Solidarity

Dr. Noor Ghazal Aswad (University of Alabama) & Zaid Al-Ali (constitutional law expert; Harvard, Sorbonne, King's College London) · Moderator: Dr. Usaama Al-Azami

This session examined Syria's post-Assad governance transition, exploring the constitutional and legal challenges of building legitimate political institutions in a fractured state. The discussion asked what genuine ummatic solidarity looks like when a Muslim society seeks to rebuild after decades of authoritarian rule.

**APR
2025**

Colonial Stains on Muslims' Imagination of the Umma

Dr. Farah El-Sharif (scholar of Islamic intellectual history, Harvard University)
Moderator: Dr. Ovamir Anjum

This session traced how colonial interventions and the rise of the modern nation-state fractured trans-regional Muslim ties and distorted the collective imagination of the Umma. Drawing on Islamic intellectual history and West African Islamic scholarship, the speakers argued that recovering the Umma as a lived reality requires confronting theological and political distortions left by colonialism.

**MAY
2025**

Raising Ummatic Children: The Parenting Challenge

Dr. Osman Umarji (Director of Survey Research and Evaluation, Yaqeen Institute & UC Irvine) · Moderator: Dr. Usaama Al-Azami

This session examined the psychological and practical dimensions of raising children with a strong ummatic identity, drawing on educational psychology and religious development research. Dr. Umarji offered concrete guidance for parents, from role modelling and community-building to navigating social media and fostering cross-ethnic belonging, to help children internalize their membership in the global Muslim community.

**JUL
2025**

Rethinking Economic Unity: From EU to the Umma

Mehreen Khan (Economics Editor, The Times, former Brussels Correspondent, Financial Times) · Moderator: Dr. Usaama Al-Azami

Drawing on her six years of experience covering the European Union, Khan analyzed the EU integration project as both a cautionary tale and a partial model for Muslim economic cooperation. She argued that the EU's technocratic, elite-driven model, which is built on geopolitical fear and neoliberal market logic, offers a warning against replicating its democratic deficits, while its early sectoral cooperation points toward a values-grounded starting point for intra-Muslim economic integration.

SEP
2025**Engineering a National Islam: The Kemalist Making of the Diyanet**

Dr. Emir Kaya (Professor of Public Law, Ankara Social Sciences University; author of *Secularism and State Religion in Modern Turkey*) · Moderator: Dr. Usaama Al-Azami

This session examined how the early Turkish Republic, within hours of abolishing the Ottoman Caliphate in 1924, established the Diyanet — a state-controlled religious body designed to domesticate Islam within a secular-nationalist framework. Dr. Kaya analyzed the Diyanet's structure, legal status, and evolving role as a case study in how modern states nationalize religious authority, and what this means for the possibilities and limits of ummatic unity.

OCT
2025**Cyber Umma, Algorithmic Hegemony, and Digital Decolonization**

Dr. Sahar Khamis (Associate Professor of Communication, University of Maryland; former Head of Mass Communication, Qatar University) · Moderator: Dr. Usaama Al-Azami

This session explored how digital platforms have both enabled and constrained the emergence of a transnational Muslim online community, examining algorithmic bias, platform censorship, and the limits of Western-owned digital infrastructure. Dr. Khamis argued for genuine digital decolonization and for building Muslim-owned platforms capable of amplifying voices that commercial algorithms systematically suppress.

NOV
2025**Are Islamists Still Islamists?**

Dr. Sümeyye Sakarya (Assistant Professor of Political Theory, Ankara University; author of *Are Islamists Still Islamists? An Ontological-Relational Analysis*, Routledge 2025) · Moderator: Dr. Uthman Badar

This session challenged the widely circulated thesis that Islamism is in decline, arguing instead that Islamist movements engage in strategic adaptation — not ideological retreat — in response to Kemalist hegemonies. Drawing on comparative analysis of Turkey, Bangladesh, and Senegal, Dr. Sakarya offered an ontological-relational framework for understanding Islamism as an evolving political force whose transformations reflect calculated responses to structural constraints rather than exhaustion.

DEC
2025**Toward an Ummatic Vision for Advanced AI**

Dr. Junaid Qadir (Professor of Computer Engineering, Qatar University; co-organizer of the first international conference on Islamic Ethics and AI) · Moderator: Dr. Usaama Al-Azami

This session interrogated the myth of AI neutrality, examining how contemporary AI systems carry the cultural assumptions and power structures of the civilizations that produce them. This includes their role in surveillance, algorithmic oppression, and the facilitation of violence. Drawing on Al-Ghazali's model of critical engagement and Shah Waliullah's philosophy of human flourishing, Dr. Qadir sketched a framework for an Ummatic vision of advanced AI rooted in justice, stewardship, and ethical sovereignty rather than passive adoption of Western technological paradigms.

08

Istanbul Meetups 2025

Istanbul Meetups 2025



The Ummatics Istanbul Meetups continued through 2025 as a local monthly gathering space in Istanbul for researchers, practitioners, and ummatic-minded thinkers to engage with the most pressing questions facing the Muslim world. Held in an intimate setting in Istanbul, these sessions foster direct exchange between scholars and community members, helping to inspire a community of ummatic thinkers.

JAN
2025

Muslims' Rights in Makkah in Ummatic Prosperity

Dr. Jamel Akbar (Architect and Theorist, Fatih Sultan Mehmet University; MIT PhD)

This meetup examined how Qur'anic and hadith-based property rights originally positioned Makkah as a center of unity and prosperity for the Umma and how that role has been significantly diminished. Dr. Akbar drew on his background as an architectural theorist to connect the built environment with questions of Muslim ownership, control, and collective well-being.

FEB
2025

Syria's Transition: Legitimacy, Governance, and Ummatic Solidarity (Part II)

Dr. Mohammad Affan (Director, Al Sharq Academia; Lecturer in Political Science, Ibn Haldun University)

This session asked whether legitimacy in post-revolutionary Syria should be sought through a centralized nation-state model or through a governance approach rooted in ummatic solidarity. Dr. Affan assessed whether decentralized, Muslim-networked governance could foster transnational ties without reproducing authoritarianism in a new form.

MAR
2025

Ummatic Solidarity Amidst its Beautiful Diversity

Wadah Khanfar (former Director General, Al Jazeera Network; Founder, Al Sharq Foundation)

Hosted as a Ramadan iftar gathering, this meetup brought together participants to reflect on the diverse yet united fabric of the Umma. Khanfar argued that even when governments are restrained by geopolitics, Muslim conscience and solidarity, particularly around causes like Palestine, Kashmir, and East Turkistan, must not be silenced.

JUL
2025

Navigating Muslim Identity in Ethno-National Sovereignties

Prof. Salman Sayyid (Professor of Rhetoric and Decolonial Thought, University of Leeds; founding editor, *ReOrient: The Journal of Critical Muslim Studies*)

As ethnic nationalism rises globally, this session explored what it means to be Muslim in states that prioritize ethnic nationality over religious identity. Sayyid examined how Muslims preserve their faith and "Muslimness" in such contexts, and what global Muslim solidarity could look like in a fragmented world.

JUL
2025

The Soft Power of the Umma

Dr. Anas Altikriti (Founder and CEO, The Cordoba Foundation; PhD in Political Science, University of Westminster)

How cultural appeal, intellectual leadership, and ethical governance can reshape global narratives. The case for CUSPs — Collaboratives of Ummatic Soft Power — as the practical vehicle for Islamically-grounded global change.

JUL
2025

Ripple Effects of Activism

Dr. Asim Qureshi (Research Director, CAGE International) & Lauren Booth (journalist and activist)

This session examined the impact of Muslim political activism in the West within local political systems and its role as part of the global Umma. The discussion addressed the limits of Western Muslim activism in influencing systemic change while advocating for Palestine and human rights, and how solidarity networks with non-Muslim groups are being built to drive international change.

SEP
2025

Revelation-Based Islamic Perspectives on Current Economic Challenges

Dr. Ildus Rafikov (Vice President, Maqasid Institute Global)

This meetup presented a framework for understanding the modern economic crisis not merely as financial instability but as an epistemic and moral failure. Dr. Rafikov offered an Islamic alternative grounded in revelation by drawing on the higher objectives of shariah and integrated Islamic knowledge, with the aim of reshaping finance, sustainability, and development toward purpose, justice, and ethical transformation.

OCT
2025

The Concept of Umma & Navigating Islamic Solidarity within Nation-States

Dr. Kasim Kopuz (Marmara University; specialist in Islamic legal thought and world systems)

This meetup traced the concept of the Umma from its Qur'anic, linguistic, and early historical roots through to the age of the modern nation-state. Dr. Kopuz drew on the Medina document and Ottoman legal history to examine how theological and political unity were originally intertwined. He then turned to the colonial disruption and asked how Muslims today can think and act as an Umma intellectually, economically, and culturally beyond state borders.

09 Expenditure Details

Expenditure Details

The Ummatics Institute once again extends its deepest gratitude to our donors whose generous support continues to make this work possible. As we grew our programming and reach in 2025 we remained committed to the same principle that has guided us from the beginning: doing more with less, and ensuring that every dollar given is a dollar deployed toward the mission.

We continue to operate as a lean and deliberately efficient organization. Our team remains small and globally distributed, with administrative and operational staff engaged in cost-effective regions across the Muslim world. We do not maintain large fixed overheads, and our senior directors continue to serve in a voluntary capacity. By contracting scholars and specialists on a flexible, per-project basis, we avoid institutional overhead. This model ensures our resources are funneled entirely into generating new knowledge, fostering public discourse, and actively disseminating our work.

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE	ALLOCATION
Research & Content	45.86%	
In-Kind Contributions	36.69%	
General, Marketing & Administrative	12.67%	
Events & Conferences	4.78%	

The work ahead demands more: more clusters, more colloquia, more scholars supported, and more summits that can bring the Umma's talent together. Now is the time to invest.

— UMMATICS INSTITUTE, 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Your support makes it possible to push this mission forward — from ideas into scholarship, and from scholarship into action. Give today and be a part of what we are building together for tomorrow.

Letter from the Founder & Chief Research Officer

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Most Merciful, Always Merciful

I begin with praise and gratitude to Allah the Most High and prayers and blessings upon His Noble Messenger, his family, companions, and followers until the Last Day.

There are moments in history when the ground shifts beneath one's feet, not through any single event, but through the slow accumulation of changes that, taken together, signal that an old order is passing. We are living through such a moment. The political architectures of the post-Cold War world are visibly fraying. The hegemons are losing their footing. Alliances that seemed permanent are fracturing. Nations that once organized their entire foreign policy around a single patron are quietly, then not so quietly, looking elsewhere.

For Muslims, this is a civilizational opening. And what makes this moment remarkable is that the signs of awakening are appearing from within the Umma itself. We are witnessing, cautiously and imperfectly, something that would have seemed implausible a decade ago: Muslim-majority states in the Middle East and beyond moving toward rapprochement, re-engaging diplomatically, and seeking common ground across longstanding fault lines. These are fragile steps, and they are driven more by pragmatism than by principle. But the direction matters. It tells us that the logic of ummatic solidarity is not merely idealistic — it is, under the right conditions, rational. The groundwork is being laid, whether those laying it know it or not. Alongside these geopolitical shifts, a quieter but perhaps more durable development is underway in the realm of ideas.

The logic of ummatic solidarity is not merely idealistic — it is, under the right conditions, rational. The groundwork is being laid, whether those laying it know it or not.

— DR. OVAMIR ANJUM, FOUNDER & CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER

Across the Muslim world — in academic institutions, civil society networks, and informal intellectual circles scholars and thinkers are increasingly finding ways to engage one another across the boundaries that have historically kept Muslim minds apart. While the sectarian walls have not disappeared, they are being navigated with greater intentionality. Conversations that once stalled at the threshold of theological difference are now pushing past it, toward shared questions about governance, civilization, and collective purpose. There is a growing recognition, felt more than formally articulated, that the Umma's intellectual divisions are not just a permanent reality we must accept, but rather they are problems of the kind that serious, sustained engagement can move. Something is loosening.

What is becoming clearer to me, as I survey the broader landscape, is the extraordinary depth of human capital that exists within the Umma. Across every domain, Muslims have developed expertise at the highest levels of global civilization. This talent is largely uncollected. It operates within the silos of nation-states and professional disciplines, often in service of systems it did not build and does not share the values of. The GEM Collaboratives represent our most ambitious attempt yet to begin collecting this capital to direct it toward a shared civilizational purpose. The Global South is searching for what comes after the current world order. The Umma, if we can integrate and deploy its knowledge, networks, and moral imagination, is uniquely positioned to help answer that question.

Allah promises success and guidance but to only those who strive. History does not move toward ummatic unity on its own, even when the divine providence has made all the resources and means available. Its agents are the believers, those who read and write, argue and meet, fund and aspire, and show up. The work you have supported through the Ummatics Institute is a contribution to this longer arc. We remain, in our fourth year, a small and deliberately focused institution. But the clarity of our direction, and the growing community of scholars and practitioners who share it, gives me more confidence than ever that what we are building is worth building. I ask for your continued trust, your du'ā, and your partnership as we press forward.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ovamir Anjum

Founder & Chief Research Officer, Ummatics Institute
Professor, University of Toledo

SUPPORT THE MISSION

Lay a **Brick** in the Structure of the Umma

One brick at a time, the structure takes shape. The research agenda is mapped. The collaboratives have formed. What was once merely conviction and aspiration is gradually acquiring structure, continuity, and momentum. Your support makes it possible to push this mission forward — from ideas into scholarship, and from scholarship into action.

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