



THE WORLD  
FEDERATION  
OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

Spreading the word of  
the Ahlul Bayt [AS]

## EXTERNAL TABLEEGH ANNUAL REVIEW 2019-20

The External Tableegh section of The World Federation strives to promote the teachings of the Qur'an and the Ahlul-Bayt (as) in communities other than the Khoja community. Shaykh Nadir Jaffer has led the External Tableegh section since January 2018.

### THE NEED FOR EXTERNAL TABLEEGH

In various regions and countries that we visited, there is a dire need for the populace to access true teachings of Islam, and as Shia Ithna Asheris, it is our duty to meet their needs especially when it has been requested. And when we do, the results are truly inspiring!

When taking on a new project, the External Tableegh team goes through a rigorous needs assessment process in order to identify what exactly needs to be done as well as the duration. Plans are divided and categorised as short, medium and long-term goals. Project resources are then assembled and the project kicks off.

### OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Alhamdulillah, in 2019, we were able to reach out to communities in 32 countries across Europe, Asia, South America, Middle East and Africa.

### THE 32 COUNTRIES IN WHICH EXTERNAL TABLEEGH HAS HAD ONE OR MORE PROJECTS

KOSOVO | ALBANIA | MACEDONIA | BOSNIA | SERBIA | CROATIA  
MONTENEGRO | FRANCE | NEPAL | BANGLADESH  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | GUYANA | JAMAICA | COLOMBIA | GRENADA  
CUBA | MEXICO | KENYA | TANZANIA | MADAGASCAR | UGANDA  
RWANDA | SYRIA | MALI | IVORY COAST | MAURITIUS ISLAND  
SOUTH AFRICA | UNITED KINGDOM | GERMANY | NORWAY  
HAITI | PHILIPPINES





# EUROPE

## KOSOVO | ALBANIA | MACEDONIA

The WF sponsors a fantastic initiative by a local organisation in Kosovo called NISA that publishes quarterly e-magazines named Revista VLERA. These e-publications cover important topics such as family values, good morals and the biographies of holy personalities. The e-magazine has now got a greater reach as a PDF version that is sent to a number of institutions including libraries, schools, colleges and government officials. It is also shared on social media and can be accessed online for download at <http://www.revistavlera.com/libraria/>



It also benefits neighbouring countries that share the same language such as Albania and Macedonia.

## BOSNIA | SERBIA | CROATIA | MONTENEGRO

We have been supporting the Shia community in Bosnia since 2005. Our community members in Bosnia and neighbouring Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro have successfully initiated a lot of projects. A series of lectures were hosted during the month of Muharram 1441/2019 in Bosnia to create awareness about the lives of the 14 Ma'sumin (as). The 11 video series titled 'In Search of Orthodox Islam' by Shaykh Khalil Jaffer were translated and subtitled to the Bosnian language and screened at the community centre in the city of Ljesevo.



Alhamdulillah, the programs were well received, and the videos were also sent to the centre in Mostar in Herzegovina. The youth were especially interested and considered this program as a short course on Shia Islam.

The World Federation's Bosnia Desk published 2000 copies of a book titled "156 Questions and Answers About the Teachings of Islam" in the Bosnian language. This was widely distributed to the local community as well as religious institutions. The book offers a presentation of the core spiritual and social values of Islam and caters to non-Muslim readers as well, by explaining other Abrahamic faiths in relation to Islam. The book has received a glowing recommendation by Dr Resid Hafizovic from a Bosnian University.





## FRANCE

On 6th April 2019, Paris North Khoja Shia Ithna Ashari Jamaat held an interfaith event co-organised with a Christian organisation called EFESIA, in collaboration with The World Federation. The ceremony included prayers from both communities and two inspiring speeches from special Christian and Muslim guests. Shaykh Nadir Jaffer delivered an inspiring talk on the deep bond between the two monotheist faiths. The founder of EFESIA, Mr Gérard Testard said, ***“I can tell you that this edition was really well organised and full of emotions and sincerity”***.

The event was **attended by almost 350 people** including special guests such as Mr Gilles Poux, the Mayor of La Courneuve city, Father Amir Jaje, member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Shaykh Ismael Al Khaliq representing Al-Khoei Association, and presidents from the Bohra, Afghan, Pakistani and Paris Khoja communities. The First Secretary of the Iraqi Ambassador, Mr Haydar Al-Shimarti, also attended.

It was a truly powerful and positive meeting of sharing, unity and brotherhood. A perfect illustration of this friendship was the presentation of the latest World Federation publication, *Sagesses de Jésus* (Wisdom of Jesus, Son of Mary) by Ayatullah Rayshahri. This work was translated by the Dar al-Hadith Institute in Qum and was brought to production with the assistance of the Who is Hussain France association.



## UNITED KINGDOM

We were blessed with an amazing opportunity to contribute towards various Muharram programs held in multiple local Shia centres across the world, including the Shi'ah Islamic Education Society in South London. These activities took place in the month of Muharram, which is a period where the great sacrifice made by the grandson of the Holy Prophet (saw) is commemorated.

## SWITZERLAND | GERMANY | SWEDEN | NORWAY

In 2019, Shaykh Nadir paid a visit to the communities in Switzerland and Germany and Murabbi Razahusein Rahim visited Sweden and Norway on behalf of External Tableegh to establish connections with the local Shia community there and assess the needs on the ground, with a view of initiating projects to benefit the local communities and also coordinate some interfaith programs. Inshallah, we aim to continue our efforts and bring about some positive outcomes.





# ASIA

## NEPAL

Since the establishment of an Islamic Centre by The World Federation in Nepal in July 2018, we managed to establish very strong contacts with the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and Jainist communities and also the Rohingya refugees. Apart from meeting the spiritual needs of around 200 Shia community members with 13 refugee families in Kathmandu; several activities have been organised in collaboration with Orison Charitable Trust to convey the message of Ahlul-Bait (as) to the non-Muslims.

A senior scholar of West Bengal from Qum who speaks six languages has been sent there to take on the role of Resident Alim. Since the opening of the centre, seven people converted from Buddhism and Hinduism to the Mad'hab of Ahlul-Bait (as).

In Ramadhan 2019, we distributed pamphlets about the life of Lady Khadija (sa) and her generosity along with Iftaar packs among all the patients at the Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu. Dr Raju Budhathoki, the Director of the hospital, commented that this was the first time in Nepal they had witnessed Muslims Iftaar distribution among hundreds of patients belonging to Hindu, Jainist, Buddhist and Christian communities. A unity Iftaar was also organised with invitees from multiple communities and professions.

For the first time, Ashra of Majalis was conducted in the country during the month of Muharram 2019, with Latmiyyah and dinner. Over 150 people attended these functions every night. For Arbaeen, a Mawkib was organized on the streets of Kathmandu where people from all faiths would get explanations about the great sacrifice of the Master of Martyrs in the plains of Karbala.

Several interfaith meetings are organised with the local Hindu, Christian and Buddhist communities and other activities like World Hijab day celebrations and Lady Zahra (sa) themed painting competition for young children, which are open for all communities.



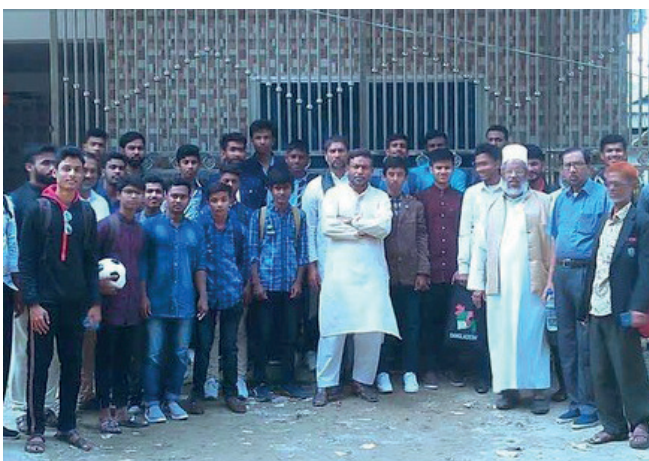
## BANGLADESH

We had the opportunity to save the closing of the Hawza Ilmiyyah in Khulna. **This Hawza has so far produced 47 scholars** and seen **more than 25 of its students move on to seek higher religious education in the holy cities of Qum and Najaf**. Another 80 students, after completing their secular education, are currently working in different sectors of the country and overseas.

Initially, there were 7,000 Shias in Bangladesh. **There are now over 50,000 shias, which means around 43,000 entered the school of Ahlul-Bait (as) in less than 40 years**. There are 24 Muballigheen in total, doing Tableegh in different cities, villages and rural areas all over the country, under the guidance of our coordinator, Maulana Sayyid Ibrahim Khalil.

Around three thousand mourners participated in the Arba'een Majalis and during the Arba'een procession, the participants were provided with security arrangements due to their friendly relations with the local administration. They received media coverage, as the local media team published a short news story and released images about the activities that took place during the ten nights, spreading the message of Imam Husain (as) even further. Two leaflets containing articles on Muharram and Arba'een were also distributed among the people.

In February 2020, The Islamic Education Center organised an overnight students excursion trip to Kuakata. **A total of 68 participants took part in this educational retreat**. The participants got the opportunity to take part in discussions on Abrahamic and Non-Abrahamic religions with their teachers as they visited the 200-year-old Buddhist temple. The trip was very well received and appreciated by both the teachers and the students.





# SOUTH AMERICA

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

As a continuation of the Tableegh activities in the Caribbean, Hawza al-Hidayat organised a six-week (8th July to 16th August 2019) Intensive Islamic course in collaboration with The World Federation.

The aim was to educate both Muslims and non-Muslims, who are seeking to gain Islamic, academic and spiritual enlightenment within South America and the Caribbean Islands. The program received an encouraging response with an attendance of 10 full-time and 22 part-time students. The participants were mainly Trinidadian, with one Guyanese and one US student. The instructors were Shaykh Ahmed Haneef, Dr Rebecca Masterton, Brother Muhammad Husayn and Brother Ja'fari Saleem. The classes included Aqaid, Akhlaq, Comparative Religion, History, Arabic Reading, Hifz of Qur'an and Tafseer of Qur'an. The students also benefitted from outings on weekends which included hiking to a waterfall and visiting the Las Cuevas beach on the North. We hope to run a similar course InshaAllah in December 2020.



## CUBA | MEXICO

The World Federation sponsored Sayyid Muhammad Sibtain Razavi to visit Havana, Cuba and Mexico City, Mexico after receiving several requests of assistance for a Muharram program from the locals there. The Muharram activities that were conducted at the centre were daily Majalis followed by Latmiyyah, with special arrangements for Dua Tawassul on Tuesday nights and Dua Kumail on Thursday nights followed by dinner. The Majalis were attended by men, women and children.

In Mexico, a water distribution drive was organised where the members of the Shia community handed out bottles of water and pamphlets about the message of Imam Husain (as) to passers-by.



# MIDDLE EAST

The World Federation in collaboration with The Regional Council of the Indian Ocean Islands and INISMA Bilal successfully organised for the second time, a seven-day Spiritual and Academic Muballigheen Retreat in Iran from 10th to 18th November 2019. The retreat was held at al-Hikmah Institute in the holy city of Qum, a branch of al-Mustafa International University.

Forty active scholars and preachers selected by INISMA from different cities in Madagascar took part. The retreat provided an excellent platform for sharing experiences and knowledge.

During the retreat, participants met with high-ranking scholars; visited various historical, academic and religious sites; and participated in religious functions. If the situation allows, InshaAllah we hope to rerun a similar course in Iran in November 2020.



# AFRICA

## **KENYA | TANZANIA | MADAGASCAR | UGANDA | RWANDA | IVORY COAST**

In order to commemorate the great sacrifice of Imam Husain (as) in the months of Muharram and Safar, The World Federation collaborated with Africa Federation and the local organisations in Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda and Ivory Coast to organise Majalis, Latmiyyah and Niyaz during the first ten nights of Muharram. Some of the brothers from the Ivory Ministry also attended these programs held in Abidjan. Processions on the days of Ashura and Arbaeen were also conducted wherein lectures regarding its significance were delivered. This received an extremely encouraging response with attendance numbers steadily rising. These lectures and Nawhas / poetries were delivered in the local language of these communities and televised to different cities as well.

Apart from these programs, a blood donation drive was organized in Tanzania and Rwanda where a high number of blood donations were recorded.





## MALI

The World Federation collaborated with Who Is Husain – France and participated in a project to drill a well, which will provide clean drinking water for a village of people living in the surrounding areas of Bamako in Mali. The project has benefited around 600 people who live in the vicinity. **The total number of beneficiaries is estimated to be 18,000**, which is expected to rise as people are moving to the area due to clean water facilities being made available.



## MAURITIUS

The President of the centre, Mr. Desire Jacques Herbert l'Olive stated: **"We were desperately looking for funds to be able to invite a speaker and last moment got in touch with The World Federation of KSMC; otherwise the Muharram program could have been cancelled this year!"**. The daily Majalis were recited by Sayyid Abidi specially invited from Bangalore and were followed by recitation of eulogies, Latmiyyah and Niyaz. On the day of Ashura, the locals were presented with an opportunity to participate in the annual procession at Port-Louis along with the Khoja Jamaat, with Sayyid Abidi delivering a lecture there.



## OUR PLAN OF FOCUS FOR THIS TERM INSHA'ALLAH

1. Striving to make indigenous communities self-sufficient, especially in Africa and other third world countries. External Tableegh and WF-Aid will work hand in hand to achieve both relief and Tableegh goals. This way, we will be offering a more complete form of assistance and our investment can help the receiving communities in both this world and the next.
2. In the Western world, focus on spreading the wonderful and universal teachings of our Madh'hab, which appeal to the human nature. Discuss our similarities with other religions as advised by Imam al-Redha (AS) "if people would know the beauty of our words, surely they would follow us". Shining the light of our Ahlulbayt (AS) through interfaith programs and spreading the key message of peace, love and understanding will take away Islamophobia and allow harmony between us, even if they continue following other Abrahamic or non-Abrahamic religions.
3. Well-planned short courses like The WF renowned Madinah and Bab al-Ilm are very efficient. In a few days, participants get a life changing experience that they call "a journey without return". With the involvement of skilled scholars originating from diverse backgrounds, such programs will be encouraged in different continents and with proper follow up, the successful participants will be trained to lead such projects in their respective regions.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please consider supporting our projects through your generous donations and constructive feedback. We invite you to also advise us on what you feel would add value for the External Tableegh section to focus on. To add to that, you are most welcome to join our needs assessment and evaluation visits to witness the needs on the ground or see the positive impacts of your generous donations. I am sure these will prove really rewarding.

Donor confidence is central to our project delivery. With this in mind, we release regular newswires and articles on our website which summarise our activities and accomplishments. In addition, major donors receive a report detailing how their contributions were allocated and used – this is usually produced within two months of project completion.

We encourage donor involvement in our activities and are happy to discuss any of our activities and answer questions. Please contact us at: [islamiceducation@world-federation.org](mailto:islamiceducation@world-federation.org)

**"The parable of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is that of a grain which grows seven ears, in every ear a hundred grains. Allah enhances several fold whomever He wishes, and Allah is All-Bounteous, All-Knowing."**

HOLY QUR'AN, CHAPTER 2, VERSE 261

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our amazing donors for their generous support towards our activities. We pray to Allah (swt) to accept our services and to allow us to receive Imam Husain's (as) intercession on the Day of Judgment, Ameen.

To find out more about our activities, please visit us at:  
**[www.world-federation.org](http://www.world-federation.org)**





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