

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> IMLC**

The 2nd International Muslim Leaders Consultation (IMLC) took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19-23 May 2003. About 250 participants from 30 countries, comprising religious scholars and officials, doctors, academics, activists, community leaders and workers and People Living with HIV/AIDS, discussed the response of Muslim communities around the world to the issues related to HIV/AIDS. Like the 1st IMLC held in Kampala in November 2001, the objective of the 2nd IMLC was to gather a wide spectrum of Muslim leaders for discussion and mutual consultation. The objective of the consultation was to discuss issues and realities within the current Muslim response to the spread of HIV/AIDS and its impact.

Uganda was represented by Sheikh Shaban Mubajje, Dr. Magid Kagimu, Dr. Zainab Akol, Dr. Karama Said, Sheikh Abdulmagid Mbago, Sheikh Muhammad Bukenya, Sr. Hadija Nakimwero of Uganda Muslim Women Vision, Sr. Rahida Sendagi IMAU Community trainer.

An International Advisory Committee (IAC) chaired by Ms. Marina Mahathir, President of the Malaysian AIDS Council, was set up and tasked with selecting the theme, topics, speakers and participants.

The theme of the 2nd IMLC was **‘The Caring Ummah: Transforming the Response’**. At the Opening Ceremony, a Muqadimah (Opening) Lecture was given by Prof Dr Mohd Kamal Hassan, Rector of the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur. He stressed the caring and compassionate aspects of Islam in responding to HIV/AIDS. The Consultation began with a session in which four speakers spoke on what had been done since Kampala. In addition, two dinner lectures were held by Dr Nafis Sadik, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on HIV/AIDS in Asia on ‘The Global Perspective: AIDS in the Muslim World’ and by Dr William Vendley, Secretary-General of the World Conference on Religion for Peace on ‘The Role of Religious Leaders’. People Living with HIV/AIDS were very much part of the Consultation and presented papers on Stigma and Discrimination and on Vulnerability. A video at the Opening Ceremony provided the points of view of three Malaysian PLWHAs on the role of religion and religious leaders. At the Closing Ceremony, youth participants produced a video expressing the need to listen to youth voices.

Much of the Consultation proceeded smoothly and participants felt that it was a useful and worthwhile meeting. However, there were some controversial issues which required Islamic guidance. It was agreed that the proceedings should be reviewed by a panel of Ulama before they are published.

### **Action Plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Muslim Leaders’ Consultation on HIV/AIDS**

1. We commit ourselves to continue to do activities to promote the Islamic approach to prevent AIDS and provide care and support for those infected and affected. We commit ourselves to document these activities and share them with others at IMLCs and other appropriate fora. We will continue to build on the achievements of the 1<sup>st</sup> IMLC. As an example of this, we will promote the functioning of the International Centre in Uganda for coordination and promotion of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and control. We will do this by sending our activities to the Centre for the purpose of coordination and sharing experiences of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS.
2. We commit ourselves to continue to hold International Muslim Leaders’ Consultations on HIV/AIDS. The 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC will be held within a period of two years. Selection of the venue will be done by the International Advisory Committee which will review the applications to host the Consultation. The applicants will state the following in their application:
  - Capacity to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMLC.
  - Availability of local support from government and non-government organisations.
  - Interest in the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

The applications will be sent to the International Centre for coordinating the Islamic approach using the address of the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda. The applications should reach the Centre within three months.

3. We have set up a Committee of Ulama to review the proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IMLC to ensure that we are guided on our course to promote the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS. The Ulama will take a critical look at those areas we discussed in the proceedings that touch on Islam.

Their guidance on the proceedings will include the following :

- Areas of common agreement from the Islamic perspective.
- Controversial areas from the Islamic perspective.
- Areas that are outside of Islamic guidance.

4. The Committee of Ulama will consist of the following members:

- Director-General of the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), Malaysia
- Grand Mufti of Uganda
- Chief Kadhi of Kenya
- Director of Indonesian Council of Ulama
- Imam Talib Abdul Rashid, USA
- Imam Cisse, Ivory Coast

5. The Grand Mufti of Uganda will be the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee will provide their guidance on the proceedings within three months.