



Time for Change: Report on the Future of the Study of Islam and Muslims in Universities and Colleges in Multicultural Britain (El-Awaisi/Nye Report)

Professor Abd al-Fattah and Professor Malory Nye

A report Commissioned by Al-Maktoum Institute, Scotland

There is a clear and very obvious need for the Study of Islam and Muslims to be developed as a significant field of study across all levels of education in Britain. This is not only for the education of British youth as global citizens with a good knowledge and understanding of the contemporary world. It is also essential as a means of understanding our own multicultural society.

Teaching on Islam and Muslims has been an important part of university curricula in the UK for well over 250 years. But now is the time for change. We need to develop this field of study for today's world and, in particular, to rethink many of the loosely understood ideas that frame so much of the public debate surrounding this.

The aims of this report are:

- i) To map out the current crisis in the field of the Study of Islam and Muslims in British higher education institutions.
- ii) To identify key contemporary trends and difficulties within the field.
- iii) To present a framework for the development of the field which responds to the needs of a diverse and multicultural twenty-first century.

Professor Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi is Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Al-Maktoum Institute. He is also the founder of the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies, the first Chair in Islamicjerusalem Studies, and is the Director of the Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies. He is a British Arab, and has an excellent record of research publication in both English and Arabic, most recently a ground breaking monograph titled *Introducing Islamicjerusalem*. He has been studying, teaching and researching in the Study of Islam and Muslims at both Arab and British universities for nearly 30 years. He also received his training in Middle Eastern Studies and taught for a number of years in Religious Studies before taking up his present position.

Professor Malory Nye is Depute Principal for Academic Affairs, the first Chair in Multiculturalism and the Director of the Centre for Research on Multiculturalism and Islam and Muslims in Scotland. He is originally from Wales, and has authored three major books, including *Multiculturalism and Minority Religions in Britain* and *Religion: the Basics*. He has also edited the scholarly journal *Culture and Religion* for a number of years.

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