

Muslim World League: A Historical Look at Establishment, Goals and Projects

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Abstract

The Muslim World League is an organization of a religious and cultural character and one of the most active international organizations in the Islamic world, and does not interfere in the political affairs in which it is active. Since its establishment in 1962, this organization has established many institutions and branches, and has opened dozens of offices in all continents as it also carried out thousands of religious, cultural, relief and humanitarian activities in many countries of the world. Due to the organization's large number of activities, it is considered as the university of the peoples of the Islamic world and the pioneer in religious and cultural work in the Islamic world, and it has become confused with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which is a political organization that brings together the governments of the countries of the Islamic world under its flag. This introductory page attempts to define the organization, its history, objectives, branches, and specializations of each branch, and to introduce the historical transformations that the work of this international organization has witnessed.

Keywords: Muslim World League, Islam, Saudi Arabia, Dawa (call for Islam), Humanitarian work

Introduction

The Mecca-based Muslim World League (MWL) is an Islamic association that has many goals, the most important of which is to show the truthful image of Islam and establish Islamic and human ties with all nations around the world.¹ MWL was established following a decision issued by the General Islamic Conference (GIC) in Mecca in 1962 on May 18th, this included 22 of the most famous scholars of Islam, in which the members of the founding council of the MWL were chosen, and the conference put a preliminary formula for the MWL's system, and it was officially approved in the Second General Islamic Conference held in Makkah on 17 April 1965. King Faisal bin Abdulaziz supervised all the details of the general conference and the establishment stages.²

MWL has a charter in which it has endorsed and committed itself to inviting all peoples of the world to cooperate in charities, achieving happiness and justice, and striving to find the best social environment that achieves all needs of its individuals. It made clear that its intention is neither to control and dominate the beliefs of individuals, their behavior nor individuals themselves, noting that it will make its best efforts to achieve unity among Muslims.³ The association revealed its intention to lend a hand to everyone who wants to do good or even advocate for ending racism and prejudice in all Muslim communities by collaborating to achieve this goal in accordance reason, and that it will abide by its charter to achieve its goals.⁴

The MWL believes that the way to achieve its goals is by referring to the divine scriptures and by using reason while dealing with individuals so that it propagates the Islamic religion in a consistent manner with the human mind and logic to reach everyone's heart.⁵ MWL consists of several councils each of which has special tasks, as it has external bodies all over the world represented in a number of bodies that seek to provide aid of all kinds and follow the MWL approach based on spreading Islam and providing aid for the needy.⁶

MWL frequently carries out seminars, activities, interviews and conferences, and it participates in many external activities held by institutions from all over the world. It has a primary role in providing aid to people everywhere and works daily to serve all people, including contributing to efforts to combat the novel COVID-19, which has a clear impact and is an evidence to its credibility, as recognized by the head of the Kastriot Province in Kosovo on June 21, 2020.⁷

¹Muslim World League (MWL), Introduction to Muslim World League, MWL, date of publication is unknown, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, available at: <https://www.themwl.org/en/MWL-Profile>

² The Muslim World League, Achievements and Aspirations in (25) Years, 1962-1987, MWL Press, Mecca, p. 14.

³Ibid

⁴Ibid

⁵Ibid

⁶Ibid

⁷Ibid

• Establishment of Muslim World League

Following a resolution by the General Islamic Conference (GIC), which was held in the city of Makkah on May 18, 1962, where 22 Muslim scholars from various Muslim countries formed the association's founding council of MWL under the auspices of the Crown prince Faisal. On April, 17, 1965 the organization became a reality and its structures, mission, vision and work plane was announced with representation from:⁸

- The United Nations as an observer member of the Economic and Social Council among international consultative NGOs.
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation as an observer that could attend summits and conferences.
- UNESCO as a member.
- UNICEF as a member.⁹

Objectives of MWL

MWL presented a civilized and modern approach to deal with various types of issues of concern to the Muslim World, as it is one of a few institutions that promote dialogue and applies reason and logic, in addition to taking into account Islamic texts, values and principles to achieve its goals and promote Islam. The organization pursues the following means and to achieve its goals.¹⁰

- Presenting Islam in its true form according to what was mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah.¹¹
- Promoting moderation in interpreting Islamic scriptures.¹²
- Uniting Muslims and enabling them to overcome obstacles and challenges, they face.¹³
- Promoting civilized communication and spreading the culture of dialogue.¹⁴
- Taking care of Muslims in various countries, communicating with them, and working to help them overcome obstacles.¹⁵
- Uniting Muslims and preserving the Islamic identity around the world.¹⁶
- Spreading the message of Prophet Muhammad PBUH around the world.¹⁷
- Interpreting texts of Islam that are otherwise unclear to people and facilitating understanding them by non-Muslims.¹⁸
- Defending Islam and Muslims and working to correct the defamed image of Islam.¹⁹
- Promoting solidarity and unity among Muslims.²⁰

Trends and Development

The position of Secretary General was held since its establishment by 8 secretaries general who are Muhammad bin Surur Al-Sabban (1962-1970), Muhammad bin Salih Al-Qazzaz (1970-1976), Muhammad bin Ali Al-Harkan (1976-1983) and Abdullah bin Omar Nassif (1983-1994) And Ahmed Muhammad Ali (1994-1995), Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Ubaid (1995-2000), Abdullah bin Abdul-Mohsen Al-Turki (2000-2016) and finally Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa (2016 - now). Throughout its establishment, the League maintained the conservative spirit in

⁸Ibid

⁹The Muslim World League, Achievements and Aspirations, Ibid, p 15.

¹⁰Ibid

¹¹ Peggy Fletcher Stack, Global Muslim leader brings push for peace and tolerance to meeting with top LDS leaders, other Utah officials, The Salt Lake Tribune, November 6, 2019, last retrieved on 2020-06-30. Available at: <https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2019/11/06/global-muslim-leader/>

¹² Mohammad Al-Issa, Guest opinion: Muslims and Latter-day Saints can be leaders in building tolerance, *Deseret News*, November 3, 2019, last retrieved on 2020-06-30. Available at: <https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2019/11/3/20936732/guest-opinion-muslims-and-latter-day-saints-can-be-leaders-in-building-tolerance>.

¹³ Guy Taylor, Islamic leader warns that decades-long ISIS battle only just beginning, *The Washington Times*, October 30, 2019, last retrieved on 2020-06-30. Available at: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/oct/30/mohammed-al-issa-warns-us-ending-isis-fight-early/>.

¹⁴ Muslim World League, *2nd Conference on Cultural Rapprochement between USA and the Muslim World, Muslim World League, date of publication is unknown*, last retrieved on 2020-06-30. Available at: <https://themwl.org/ar/MWL-Profile>.

¹⁵ Taylor, Ibid.

¹⁶ Muslim World League, Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

its approach to religious issues, and did not deviate from the traditional framework of similar institutions and organizations in the Islamic world, but Dr.

Muhammad Al-Issa assuming its general secretariat brought it into a major transformation phase that changed many traditional frameworks in management, work strategy and activities priorities. Al-Issa moved the League from religious classicism to the era of modernization and openness to the outside world, especially the Western world, and the association became involved in the work of the United Nations and organized its modernization programs in the countries of the western world according to a new pattern and a new understanding of the message of Islam, and the discourse of brotherhood, rapprochement and acquaintance became dominant in The League's approach instead of the speech calling to God and spreading Islam.²¹

MWL Structure and Organs

- 1- The General Islamic Conference (GIC)
- 2- The General Islamic Conference is responsible for expressing the feelings of Islamic peoples around the world and their aspirations to achieve their goals, as it provides MWL with its legitimacy and the power to speak on behalf of all Muslim peoples. It is made of a group of senior preachers who have dedicated themselves to serving Islam and who meet to discuss Islamic issues and work to develop solutions to Muslims' problems and achieve their interests and hopes.
- 3- The first meeting of GIC took place in 1962, in which MWL's establishment decision was taken. The second meeting took place in 1965, in which Islamic solidarity was promoted and the importance of overcoming the challenges facing the Islamic world was emphasized. The third meeting was in 1987, in which the necessity of believing in the sacredness of the Two Holy Mosques, Makkah, the sacred months, and the rituals of the Hajj were highlighted, noting that the safety of the Two Holy Mosques is the duty of Muslims.
- 4- The fourth meeting was in 2002, where issues such as the Islamic nation, globalization, and Muslims were discussed, in which the Mecca charter for Islamic action was issued, in addition to a statement on Palestine, and a decision to form both a supreme body for coordination and a global body for Muslim scholars.
- 5- The Constituent Council (CC)
- 6- Candidates for membership of the CC are required to have a significant work in the field of calling to Islam and Islamic work, as it is the supreme authority in MWL, which adopts all plans made by the General Secretariat of the MWL. The CC consists of 60 members of high-ranking Islamic personalities who represent Muslim peoples and minorities and are appointed by a decree by the CC. The CC meets to discuss and make decisions regarding areas of work and research, The Council meets regularly chaired by the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars, and it is worth mentioning that all workers in the CC are volunteers.
- 7- General Secretary
- 8- It is the executive body of the MWL, which directly supervises its work and activities, and implements its plans and directives issued by the founding council. The secretariat includes a number of departments and administrative departments according to its organizational structure, and its main headquarters is in the city of Makkah.
- 9- The World Supreme Council for Mosques (WSCM)
- 10- Based on a decision issued in the Message of the Mosque Conference, which was held in the holy city of Makkah in September 1975, the WSCM was established at the request of MWL. WSCM is a body working to activate mosques' construction and restoration process. WSCM believes that the Mosque is a vital starting point for all of any social improvement. Additionally, WSCM is tasked to repel attacks against mosques and Islamic Waqf. Religious authorities should face and preserve mosques' sacredness, maintain and take care of them. WSCM consists of 40 members who represent Islamic peoples and groups in the world, who work voluntarily.
- 11- WSCM have many areas of work including working to reactivate the mosque's role to provide community, guidance and educational services and work to spread Islam. Additionally, WSCM has a journal aimed to improve the cultural and artistic capabilities of preachers and to provide them with good examples of sermons and lessons supported by texts from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. It aims to publish books and

²¹Mohammad Al-Issa, I Lead the Muslim World League. Here is Why I Broke Taboos To Acknowledge the Holocaust, Newsweek, on 2019-01-30.

works explaining the Islamic religion. WSCM too checks on mosques in all parts of the world and publish the outcomes in books and pamphlets periodically.

- 12- WSCM Distributes qualified preachers to mosques in different parts of the world to carry out their role. Moreover, it trains preachers and Imams to develop their capabilities and enrich their knowledge. It assigns an administrative body to supervise and monitor the situation of mosques. It studies all behaviors that contradict Islam and work to understand them. WSCM identifies incompetent Imams and send them to train before sending them to different parts of the world to spread the message of Islam. Islamic Fiqh Academy
- 13- The Islamic Fiqh Academy is one of the MWL's bodies with an independent legal personality; it includes a selected group of jurists and scholars of the Islamic Ummah.

It was established on the recommendation of the General Secretariat of the MWL in December 1963 to establish a scientific committee to study emerging issues and calamities, in response to the call of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to establish an Islamic Fiqh Academy. In 1964, the General Islamic Conference decided in its second session to establish an Islamic Fiqh Academy.

The Academy began its first work in the month of Sha`ban in the year 1969, and held its first session in the same year. It mainly aims to activate the mechanism of *Ijtihad* in contemporary jurisprudential issues. Bringing Islamic jurisprudence closer together, and finding solutions to emerging issues in Muslims' lives²².

1. The World Assembly for the Quran and Sunnah

The General Department for the Service of the Book and Sunnah at the Executive Agency of the Muslim World League, which serves the Holy Qur'an, circulates its memorization and improves its readers' performance. It was established under the decision of the Supreme Council of the League in its thirty-sixth session held in Makkah in November 2000 and its name was modified by a decision of the Executive Council of the Supreme Council of the Islamic World League in June 2017, so that its name was the World Book and Sunnah Organization²³.

2. The International Commission for the Definition of the Messenger, PBUH

It is an independent body with legal personality of the Muslim World League, and it is based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The commission defines its goals as correcting what it considers misconceptions about the Prophet Muhammad, calling non-Muslims to know his biography and providing them with resources related to ten languages. It was founded after the caricature campaign that affected the character of the Prophet Muhammad in both Denmark and France²⁴.

3. The International Commission for Holy Quran Memorization

It is a global charitable body with legal personality of the Muslim World League and works to serve the Book of Almighty God and related sciences, and it is the first of its kind in the world specialized in teaching the Qur'an and taking care of its preservation. It was established under a decision of the founding council of the Muslim World League in November 2000 and it's headquarter is in Jeddah. It aims at memorizing the Noble Qur'an, taking care of its sciences and understanding it, and developing teaching methods for Muslims around the world.

4. The International Association of Muslim Scholars

It is a Muslim World League body with an independent legal personality. It was established in implementation of the decision of the Fourth General Islamic Conference held in Makkah in 2002, and includes an outstanding elite of Muslim scholars from different countries, working to unify the word of the Ummah scholars, strengthen their position, achieve its supreme goals, unify the efforts of scholars, enhance their status, strengthen the link between them, build effective strategic partnerships with peoples and international organizations, and find solutions to face contemporary challenges.²⁵

5. The International Commission for Scientific Rent in the Qur'an and Sunnah

The World Commission for Scientific Miracles in the Qur'an and Sunnah, established based on the decision of the International Supreme Council of Mosques of the Muslim World League in Makkah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) in its ninth session in 1984, is an independent scientific organization that seeks to show the aspects of scientific

²² The Muslim World League, Achievements and Aspirations, Ibid, p 26.

²³ Muslim World League, Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Al-Turki Abdul Mohsin, *The International Association of Muslim Scholars*, Al-Rabita Journal, issue 398, Vol 40, p 2.

miracles in the Qur'an and Sunnah under the name of the Scientific Miracles Commission in Quran and Sunnah. The Constituent Assembly includes twenty members.²⁶

6. International Commission for Relief, Care and Development

Formerly called the International Islamic Relief Organization, it is a charitable organization in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affiliated with the Muslim World League; the organization was established by a decision of the founding council of the Muslim World League in its twentieth session held in Makkah in October 1978. It started its activities in January 1979. The organization is considered a global Islamic charitable cooperating with philanthropists to make their donations to the needy and distressed around the world. In addition to its relief work, it is concerned with sponsoring orphans, spreading the Dawa, building mosques, schools, education and vocational training centers, and digging wells. It is an effective member of the international relief system, which has earned the confidence of the United Nations organizations working in the relief field, as it is responsible for supervising the implementation of its programs in many countries of the world and disaster areas. It provides its various services from relief to educational, social, health and developmental services in most countries of the world through its offices and representatives. In 95 countries²⁷

Programs and Activities of MWL

MWL holds numerous seminars and conferences and participates in external seminars and conferences held by other organizations around the world. By doing that, MWL engages in the way Muslims and non-Muslims see and think of Islam, which helps MWL to know its weaknesses and problems that it needs to work on, and it helps the organization spread the message of Prophet Muhammad on a wider scale.²⁸ MWL has recently participated in the event celebrating the 75th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation in January 2020²⁹.

MWL has many participations at international conferences where in November 2019, it participated in seminars held in several countries of the world with the Scandinavian Council for Relations³⁰ with the aim of discussing and presenting global issues and working to find solutions in line with the teachings of Islam.³¹ Several issues and problems have been discussed, such as national identity, intellectual security, unity and human trafficking.³² Each of the participating organizations in the seminars expressed their view on discussed issues and suggested solutions in order to make communities better and suitable for all individuals.³³

As part of its activities, MWL participated in the Paris International Conference for Peace and Solidarity in September 2019 in partnership with the Foundation for Islam in France. The Conferences ended with a Memorandum of Understanding and Brotherhood signed by many officials of religious institutions in France.³⁴ In May 2019, MWL participated in the Responsible Leaders' Summit with the World Council of Religious Leaders, in which officials from various backgrounds met to develop solutions to help overcome obstacles facing the world. The symposium ended up with the distribution of awards to a number of leaders for the year 2019 who performed their various jobs with complete honesty and integrity.³⁵

²⁶ Abdullah bin Omar Nassif, The introduction of the secretary General, Al-Rabita Journal, issue 199, Vol 18, p 9

²⁷ The fruits of Sanabel al-Khair ongoing charity, Islamic Relief Organization, Jeddah, 1990, pp. 4-5 .

²⁸ The Muslim World League, Achievements and Aspirations, Ibid, p 38.

²⁹ Mohammad Al-Issa, *Why Muslims from around the world should remember the Holocaust*, *The Washington Post*, January 25, 2019, last retrieved on June 28, 2020. Available at:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/01/25/why-muslims-around-world-should-remember-holocaust/>.

³⁰ Muslim World League, *Today, the Muslim World League joins the Scandinavian Council for Relations in Oslo for the Symposium on the Unifying Human Brotherhood UHB 2019*, MWL, Last retrieved on 2020-06-28. Available at: <https://themwl.org/en/node/36672>.

³¹ *Muslim World League*, .@HusseinAldaoudi, Chairman of the Scandinavian Council for Relations @SDN_2019, shared his gratitude for HE Dr. #MohammadAlissa & the #MWL for shedding light on such critical issues facing society today. #MWLinSweden #MWLinScandinaviapic, MWL, 2019-11-25, last retrieved on 2020-06-30. Available at: https://twitter.com/MWLOrg_en/status/1199002138711597056.

³² *Scandinavia council for relations, About Us, Scandinavia council for relations, date of publication is unknown, last retrieved on 2020-06-28*. Available at:

<https://scr-council.com/about-us/#:~:text=About%20Us%3A,institutions%2C%20Islamic%20charities%20and%20centers>.

³³ Muslim World League, *Muslim World League, at the Copenhagen Forum, concluded its initiative in the Scandinavian countries*, MWL, last retrieved on 2020-06-28. Available at: <https://themwl.org/en/node/36742>.

³⁴ Saudi Press Agency, *With participation of 40 countries, MWL holds multi-religious peace and solidarity conference in Paris* . Saudi Press Agency, November 19, 2019, last retrieved on 2020-06-30. Available at: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/1971512>.

³⁵ *The Centre For Responsible Leadership*, last retrieved on 2020-06-28. Available at: <https://www.thecrl.org/>.

MWL has participated in the four sessions of the GIC, at the first of which, the GIC's recognition of MWL was declared.

While at the second session, the League's principals and ideas were supported by GCI.³⁶ MWL disowned the Ahmadiyya community in 1974, and considered it a non-Muslim community, prevented them from entering the holy places, and called for boycotting them by Muslim communities.³⁷

The MWL has organized several conferences, each of which has its own title. These conferences work to solve all challenges facing the Muslim world.³⁸ The Mecca Document, a document written in the city of Mecca that includes the values of moderation, and represents a historical constitution to achieve the values of Islam and moderation in various Islamic countries, includes a set of values and principles that should be followed by Muslim peoples, which was discussed at these conferences. The document requires combating terrorism and injustice, defending human rights and dignity, and spreading the values of coexistence between individuals of different religions, cultures, races, and sects in the world.³⁹

The items of the document are taken from the Medina document written by Prophet Muhammad, and it has 17 articles endorsed by 1,200 Islamic personalities known for their religious authority. The document calls for:

- Emphasizing that Muslims are part of this world and that the difference in beliefs, religions, and sects is a universal norm.⁴⁰
- Emphasizing Humans' equality.⁴¹
- Making the best efforts to prevent the practice of injustice, aggression, clash of civilizations and hatred.⁴²
- Combating terrorism, injustice and oppression.⁴³
- Discouraging claims to superiority and racist slogans.⁴⁴
- Promoting religious and cultural diversity.⁴⁵
- Appointing Islamic scholars to speak on behalf of Muslims and giving them the responsibility to look after the Islamic Nation's affairs.⁴⁶
- Promoting civilized dialogue.⁴⁷
- Emphasizing that belief in God is the root of divine religions and separating religions from wrong political practices.⁴⁸
- Deterring promoters of hatred and clash of civilization.⁴⁹
- Spreading noble moral values and fortifying Muslim societies.⁵⁰
- Emphasizing the ability of Muslims to contribute to the enrichment of human civilization.⁵¹
- Strengthening women's role in society and discouraging marginalizing them.⁵²
- Emphasizing that the fear of reverting to Islam is a result of a misconception and misleading media outlets.⁵³
- Emphasizing the importance of the role of youths in the society and enriching their knowledge.⁵⁴

³⁶ Muslim World League, Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ The National, *Makkah Declaration looks to promote tolerance and coexistence*, *The National*, May 30, 2019, last retrieved on 2020-06-29. Available at: <https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/makkah-declaration-looks-to-promote-tolerance-and-coexistence-1.868158#:~:text=The%20declaration%2C%20signed%20by%20around,of%20the%20entire%20humanitarian%20community%22>.

⁴⁰ Muslim World League, Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Tariq Al-Thaqafi, Prominent Muslim figures: religious, cultural diversity does not justify 'conflict', *Arab News*, 2019-05-30, last retrieved on 2020-06-30. Available at: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1503946/saudi-arabia>.

⁵¹ Muslim World League, Ibid.

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

- MWL has many participations in the annual International Islamic Unity Conference, which is held on the anniversary of the Prophet's birthday and is attended by an elite group of Muslim scholars and well-known Islamic personalities with the aim of uniting Muslims, promoting solidarity and brotherhood among them, studying some religious issues and working to unify Muslims regarding these issues in particular.⁵⁵ Among its most prominent participations, MWL has participated in the international conference on Moderation and Peace in Prophet Muhammad's Life, the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, The Summit of World Religious Leaders, and the Al-Azhar's International Peace Conference.⁵⁶ MWL held a conference in which it discussed the bridges between Islamic and American cultures and the contribution of Islam to spreading peace in the world, and a number of academic researchers from all over the world have participated in it.⁵⁷

In the same context, MWL has presented the issue of tolerance in societies through the Mecca Document in America in cooperation with the President of the Conscience Foundation and founder Rabbi Arthur Schneier. MWL presented in its document various Islamic principles recommending tolerance and other Islamic values.⁵⁸

At a conference in France, MWL cooperated with the Start Insight team to discuss the phenomenon of youths and extremism and the reasons behind the emergence of this ideology. The conference worked to develop solutions to this dilemma and to take the necessary measures to eliminate extremism. The phenomenon of religious and cultural pluralism and Muslim youths in Western countries were also discussed.⁵⁹

In a two-day conference, the MWL expressed its satisfaction and happiness about Croatia's performance, which contributed to the promotion and encouragement of its Muslim and Christian population to coexist, and look forward to spread peace, love and solidarity among all peoples. The Catholic Church in Croatia participated in the conference and expressed its support for MWL.⁶⁰

In an interview with the Secretary-General of the MWL Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications Rasim Ljajic, Ljajic expressed his gratitude for the work of MWL and offered to strengthen the relationship between Serbia and MWL. He stressed the importance of the relationship between the Islam and Orthodox Christianity over time and that it is a sign of tolerance between members of different religions.⁶¹

MWL has signed an agreement with Italy aiming to develop Islamic cultural relations in Italy through the Uffizi Gallery, which is visited periodically by a huge number of people from all parts of the world, where MWL will carry out educational and cultural activities aimed at promoting effective cultural dialogue between Islamic cultures and other cultures around the world.⁶²

The Secretary-General of MWL Al-Issa signed a memorandum of understanding between Judaism and Islam, paving the way for an Islamic-Jewish campaign to fight and eliminate racism.

⁵⁵ Al Manar TV, International Islamic Unity Conference Kicks off in Tehran, Al Manar TV, December 15, 2016, last retrieved on 29 June 2020. Available at: <https://english.almanar.com.lb/134803>.

⁵⁶ *Muslim World League, Ibid.*

⁵⁷ Al Arabiya English, Muslim World League holds US conference on cross-cultural communication, Al Arabiya, 16 September 2017, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, available at <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2017/09/16/Muslim-World-League-to-hold-conference-for-cultural-communication-in-US>

⁵⁸ Al Arabiya English, MWL publishes 'Mecca Document' encouraging tolerance in Muslim societies, Al Arabiya, 29 May 2019, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, available at <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2019/05/29/MWL-publishes-Mecca-Documents-encouraging-tolerance-in-Muslim-societies>

⁵⁹ Chaira Sulmoni, Youth and extremism. START In Sight took part in the Muslim World League's international conference in Geneva, Start In Sight, February 21, 2020, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, <http://www.startinsight.eu/en/youth-and-extremism-start-insight-took-part-in-the-muslim-world-leagues-international-conference-in-geneva/?fbclid=IwAR09A29GNJIBKmgacH9C8ay3T63mqzX62vIaZAYtmWBUBBBvq6zj2-SAs>

⁶⁰ Hina, Muslim World League leader Pleased with Croatia's Religious Communities Living Together, Total Croatia News, , 4 February 2020, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, https://www.total-croatia-news.com/politics/41283-muslim-world-league?fbclid=IwAR3_5LxHkq5quJ2ICc8RcUiypYqnFsUtGG7afhAMj5FGsqbAgjQrkOGMcyA

⁶¹ the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Improving relations with Muslim World League, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, 6 February 2020, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, available at: <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/149967/improving-relations-with-muslim-world-league.php?fbclid=IwAR2ljV-XSf9h8p7kaCmy2rONq3YgjJ2UcbhclyzL4SJI3-QahxXb5FXslek>

⁶² Cision PR Newswire, Muslim World League Signs Cooperation Agreement With Italy's Uffizi Gallery to Promote Islamic Civilization and Enhance Intercultural Initiatives, Cision PR Newswire, 23 Oct. 2018, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, available at: <https://www.prnewswire.co.uk/news-releases/muslim-world-league-signs-cooperation-agreement-with-italy-s-uffizi-gallery-to-promote-islamic-civilization-and-enhance-intercultural-initiatives-861286469.html?fbclid=IwAR2IvzDOBnwSoznhtcyOzhoXaAim45L6AMd11NZ7Gf6tPZ3N3bcb9xO7Tic>

Al-Issa condemned the frequent attacks on many Muslim communities, such as the terrorist attack in Christchurch in New Zealand, describing it as hideous and calling for unity. In return, Harris thanked MWL's partnership and invitation to visit Saudi Arabia and expressed his desire to visit Saudi Arabia to carry out religious dialogues there.⁶³

MWL Publications

MWL has a prominent role in the Islamic world in particular and the world in general, where it carries out many activities and meetings all over the world and has publications issued periodically under the supervision of Islamic scholars of different nationalities. These publications discuss problems facing the Islamic World. It also includes letters that target specific groups, such as kings.⁶⁴ The MWL has articles that are published periodically in which it addresses the hearts and interests of people and demonstrates its work through its website. MWL has a major role in printing the publications of Maad News, which is considered the voice of MWL, where it publishes news of the Islamic world, as well as issues of Islam propagation and what the Islamic world is going through.⁶⁵ In addition to the Rabita magazine, which is published in Arabic and English, and in which MWL reports conferences and seminars held in various places, it publishes ongoing developments in the world such as the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic during which it has assisted many countries around the world by providing them with food and other types of aid such as Afghanistan and Kashmir.⁶⁶ In addition, the Kalima Bulletin is a MWL publication in Italy in both Arabic and Italian, through which it shows the Islamic religion and Islamic civilizations to the Italian people.⁶⁷

MWL's Headquarters and Centers

MWL has 14 offices all over the world⁶⁸ such as the Islamic Center in Vienna, Austria, MWL's offices in Argentina and in the United Kingdom, the Islamic Cultural Foundation in Geneva, the Princess Al-Jawhara Cultural Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Islamic Center in Brazil, the Mosque of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the Islamic Center in Edinburgh, Britain. MWL, through all its centers, calls on people to accept Islam and introduces Islam's teachings and principles in a way that addresses the mind and the heart. It defends the rights of Muslims and Muslim minorities in various parts of the world.⁶⁹

Conclusion

The decision issued at the Islamic World Conference in Mecca is the main reason behind the establishment of MWL on May 18, 1962. As an organization, MWL has several headquarters around the world and seeks to achieve its goals, presents Islam in its true form and values according to the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah, unifies Muslims, defends their rights, strengthens their positions, promotes the culture of dialogue, propagates the message of Prophet Muhammad PBUH all over the world, interprets Islamic scriptures, and spread brotherhood and solidarity among Muslims.

MWL consists mainly of three councils with different tasks; GIC, which is represented by a group of senior preachers who have devoted themselves to the service of MWL and who meet to discuss Islamic issues and work to find solutions to problems facing Muslim and to achieve their interests and hopes. The Constitutional Council, which is the supreme authority at MWL that adopts all the plans made by the General Secretariat, and WSCM, which consists of 40 members who represent Muslim peoples and groups in the world. Working at MWL is voluntary as its staff receive no salary or award.

MWL carries out many activities and meetings all over the world and it has publications that appear periodically under the supervision of Islamic scholars of different nationalities. This includes Maad Newspaper and the Rabita magazine, which is published in Arabic and English and the Kalima Magazine, which MWL publishes in Italy in both Arabic and Italian, and other publications, such as the French website of MWL, Al-Hadaf Global

⁶³AJC Transatlantic Institute, Muslim World League and AJC Agree on Historic Visit to Auschwitz, AJC Transatlantic Institute, April 30 2019, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, available at <https://transatlanticinstitute.org/press-releases/muslim-world-league-and-ajc-agree-historic-visit-auschwitz>

⁶⁴Ibid

⁶⁵Maad Newspaper, About us (Arabic), Maad Newspaper, date of publication is unknown, last retrieved on June 29, 2020. Available at: <https://www.themwl.org/mwn/about>.

⁶⁶Saudi Press Agency, The Muslim World League launches a food baskets distribution campaign in Afghanistan(Arabic),Saudi Press Agency, 2020/05/02, last retrieved on 28 June 2020, available at: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2081533>.

⁶⁷Muslim World League (MWL), Publications, MWL, date of publication is unknown, last retrieved on 29 June 2020, available at: <https://www.themwl.org/en/mwl-journal-english>

⁶⁸Muslim World League, Ibid.

⁶⁹Ibid

Academy for Studies and Training, the Executive Affairs Authority, the Association of Muslim Scholars, the International Organization of Kitab and Sunnah, and the Islamic Jurisprudence Academy.

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