

Press Release

For immediate release

**The Onyx Link Foundationⁱ (OLF) Launches its Open Resource on
Challenging Islamist/Jihadist Radical Ideologies**

In the absence of a satisfactory critical account on radical ideologies by Muslim scholars, the OLF, an independent think tank based in Newport South Wales, has launched its open online resource on challenging these ideologies through utilising the prime sources of Islam.

Since the terrorist attacks on London in July 2005, the UK has been horrified by serious atrocities committed by British Muslims who betrayed both Britain and Islam by adopting Islamist/Jihadist radical ideologies to justify the taking of innocent lives! The perpetrators of such violence and terror in the name of Islam in the UK and beyond, often quote verses of the Holy Quran and Prophetic statements to justify their atrocities and messages of hate. Yet the Muslim community lives in peace, disown terrorists, and condemns their terror and violence. Consequently, the key question that arises is: “What does Islam have to do with the Islamist/Jihadist radical ideologies?” This series of press releases and academic documents tackles this fundamental question.

The subject of the OLF academic document (OLF1) supplemented with the current press release is to clarify the essence and purpose of the religion from its prime sourcesⁱⁱ that form the context of its understanding and implementation. In short, the essence of the Message of Islam is mercy and its purpose is morality, fostering love and happinessⁱⁱⁱ. This context shall be the criterion that the OLF will use in future press releases to investigate the evolution of the Islamist/Jihadist radical ideologies. The OLF hopes that this effort will clarify the essence and purpose of these radical ideologies and challenge the religious texts used to justify them. Such analysis may empower communities and organisations to build resilience against radicalisation, and to develop models for deradicalizing and rehabilitating extremists.

The next OLF press release and academic document shall be on: The Rise of Islamist Ideology, “Is Islam a religion and a state?”

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ⁱ THE ONYX LINK FOUNDATION, based in Newport south Wales, is an independent think tank, aiming to enhance community relations through shared values and active citizenship, promoting social wellbeing and environmental harmony.

The OLF is tackling social isolation by developing models of psychotherapy to address personal wellbeing and strategies for challenging radical ideologies and perceptions that encourage segregation, discrimination, and violence.

ⁱⁱ The prime sources of Islam constitute the Holy Quran as clarified by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) while conveying the Message of Islam through his teachings and practical implementation in his life with his own family, and among his companions. Therefore, the legitimacy of the opinions and actions of Muslims after the time of the Prophet (PBUH) should be based on direct evidence from the above sources.

ⁱⁱⁱ For a detailed account see the attached OLF Academic Document OLF1.

^{iv} Dr Abdalla Mohamed, Ph.D. in psychology, is a Muslim scholar who mastered most of the branches of Islamic knowledge in traditional institutions for over 20 years in Sudan. Since 1992, he has been teaching Islamic knowledge and practicing Islamic Jurisprudence, Islamic counselling, and religious advice for Muslim communities in England and Wales. Between 2004 and 2009 he was a lecturer at the Life-long Learning Centre of Cardiff University teaching modules on the Prime Sources of Islam. From 2005 to 2010 the Department of Religious & Theological Studies at Cardiff University, appointed him member of the Advisory Committee for establishing their Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK. His efforts and contributions to community relations in Wales in collaboration with the Welsh Assembly government, the Muslim Council of Wales, Cytun: Churches Together in Wales, Cardiff University, and many interfaith communities and religious organisations has been acknowledged with an OBE by HM Queen Elisabeth II in 2008. In March 2010, he was awarded the Welsh Assembly Government's Recognising Achievement Award for services to community relations in Wales.