

Conference Program

The Strategic Umma

Managing Difference, Thinking beyond Secularism, and Building Future Impact

UMMATICS CONFERENCE 2026

◆ 25 – 26 JULY 2026

◆ SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

◆ A-BUILDING, RED AMPHITHEATER
HRASNIČKA CESTA 15, 71210 ILIDŽA/SARAJEVO

UMMATICS

In collaboration with

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DAY 1

Saturday, 25 July

Moderator: Usaama al-Azami

9:00 – 10:00

Welcome and Introductions

Ali Osman Kuşakcı · Rector, International University of Sarajevo

Mustafa Cerić · Grand Mufti Emeritus of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Admir Mulaosmanović · Aurora Foundation, Sarajevo

Ovimir Anjum · Founder, Ummatics Institute; Chair of Islamic Studies, University of Toledo

Uthman Badar · Lead Editor, Ummatics Institute; Western Sydney University

10:00 – 12:00

Beyond the Liberal “Peace”: Managing Deep Difference in the Umma

How can the Umma strengthen unity without requiring uniformity?

Ovimir Anjum · Founder, Ummatics Institute; Chair of Islamic Studies, University of Toledo

Yasmeen Daifallah · Assistant Professor, Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz

Ahab Bdaiwi · Assistant Professor, Arabic Philosophy and Islamic Intellectual History, Leiden University

Yasir Qadhi · Dean, Islamic Studies, Islamic Seminary of America

Mairaj Syed · Associate Professor, Religious Studies, University of California, Davis

12:00 – 13:30

LUNCH & DHUHR BREAK

13:30 – 15:30

The Ummatic Horizon: Future Studies and Civilizational Vision

How can ummatic efforts of revival benefit from Future Studies?

Hamdija Begović · Ph.D., Sociology, Södertörn University

Ahmed Elbenni · Ph.D. Candidate, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University

Rafik Beekun · Professor, Management, Ethics and Strategy, University of Nevada, Reno

Shaheen Kattiparambil · Lecturer, Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds

15:30 – 16:00

BREAK

16:00 – 17:30

Insights from Two Genocides — Srebrenica and Gaza

What are the lessons for the Umma from Srebrenica and Gaza?

Mustafa Cerić · Grand Mufti Emeritus of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Admir Mulaosmanović · Aurora Foundation, Sarajevo

Ermin Sinanovic · Executive Director, Center for Islam, Shenandoah University

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DAY 2

Sunday, 26 July

Moderator: Joseph Kaminski

9:30 – 10:00

Qur'an & Welcome

10:00 – 12:00

Interrogating Secularism

Whither the Muslim critique of secularism?

Uthman Badar · Lead Editor, Ummatics Institute; Western Sydney University

Ayesha Omar · British Academy International Fellow, SOAS, University of London

Usaama al-Azami · Ummatics Institute; Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, HBKU

İsmail Yaylacı · Assistant Professor, Institute of ME and Islamic Countries, Marmara University

Ibrahim Khan · Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dept. of History, Princeton University

12:00 – 13:30

LUNCH & DHUHR BREAK

13:30 – 15:30

Architectures of Solidarity: GEM Ecosystems and Global Impact

How can collaborative work help us transition from individual success to communal empowerment and ummatic integration?

Ashraf Motiwala · President, Ummatics Institute

Joseph Kaminski · Professor, Political Science and IR, International University of Sarajevo

Mustafa Salama · Ummatics Institute; Ph.D., Political Science, Georgia State University

Admir Mešković · Assistant Professor, Finance, International University of Sarajevo

15:30 – 16:00

BREAK

16:00 – 17:30

Muslims in Europe: Past, Present, Future

Whither Muslims on the Old Continent?

What is the current state and trajectory of the Umma in Europe?

Farid Hafez · Associate Professor, International Relations, William & Mary

Yassir Morsi · Lecturer, Politics and Philosophy, La Trobe University

Besnik Sinani · Research Fellow, Center for Muslim Theology, University of Tübingen