



K&L GATES



ISRA

UKIFC & ISRA Thematic Workshop 2018

How Ethical is Islamic Finance?

Wednesday 21 February 2018

K&L Gates
One New Change
London EC4M 9AF

THEMATIC WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The Islamic Finance Council UK (UKIFC) and the International Shari’ah Research Academy for Islamic Finance (ISRA) **2018 Thematic Workshop** will consider the **relationship between Islamic finance and ethical finance**.

The trend of positioning Islamic finance within the broader umbrella of ethical finance has gained momentum in recent years. Following Shari’a principles, it is argued Islamic finance is seen to be intrinsically interwoven with ethical finance values and strategies.

However, this view is not shared across the whole of the financial services industry. Critics of Islamic finance would challenge the notion of Islamic finance being ethical by questioning the creation of synthetic products to overcome textual restrictions with the result that the economic outcome and risk sharing profile is identical or very similar to that of conventional banks.

This conference will review and reflect on a number of key areas to explore the question of “*How Ethical is Islamic Finance?*”

EVENT DETAILS

Title	ISRA & UKIFC Thematic Workshop 2018 – How Ethical is Islamic Finance?
Date	Wednesday 21 st February 2018
Timings	0930 – 1630
Venue	K&L Gates, 1 New Change, London, EC4M 9AF
Cost	Free to attend - registration mandatory. To register, click here .

THEMES

The event will cover several key themes including:

- THE SHARI’A SCHOLAR DEBATE: Is Islamic finance following the spirit of the law or just the letter?
- Is Islamic Finance an ethical alternative?
- What are the differences between Islamic Finance and ethical finance?
- The branding challenge – is the sector wrongly named?
- Plus UK and international case studies on innovation



ATTENDEE PROFILE

The workshop will be attended by over 150 Islamic and ethical finance professionals representing:

- Financial institutions (Islamic and conventional)
- ESG, SRI, Impact based investment and advisory firms
- Rating Agencies
- Islamic and Shari’ah advisory firms
- Regulators and standard setting Bodies
- Academic institutions and Islamic finance students
- Professional institutions
- Professional services firms
- Parliamentarians and Government officials



AGENDA

ORDER	TIMINGS	OVERVIEW	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Welcome / Keynote	0930 - 1000	Event MC	Jonathan	Lawrence	Partner, K&L Gates
		Host	Omar	Shaikh	Board Member, UKIFC
		Keynote	Lord Mohamed	Sheikh	Co-Chair, APPG on Islamic Finance
		Keynote	Alderman Alastair	King	Chairman, Naisbitt King Asset Management
Session 1	1000 - 1115	Islamic finance: is it an ethical alternative?	Kamarul	Ariffin Bin Mohd Jamil	CEO, Affin Bank Malaysia
			Martina	Macpherson	Partner, Sustineri
			Stella	Cox	CEO, DDCAP
			Tarek	El Diwany	CEO, Kreatoc Zest
Session 2	1115 - 1245	The Shariah Debate - is Islamic finance following the spirit of the law or just the letter?	Nyra	Mahmood	CEO, Simply Sharia Human Capital
			Shaykh Ruzwan	Muhammad	Scholar, iSyllabus
			Dr Akram	Laldin	CEO, ISRA
			Sheikh Essam M.	Ishaq	Renowned International Scholar
			Prof, Dr Engku Rabiah	Al Adawiyah	Shariah Advisory Committee, Central Bank of Malaysia
			Sheikh Badr	Al-Hasan	Partner, Dome Advisory
1245 – 1345 LUNCH					
Session 3	1345 - 1430	CASE STUDY 1 - Developing an inter-faith shared values framework	Shaykh Ruzwan	Muhammad	Scholar, iSyllabus
			Graham	Burnside	Board Member, UKIFC
		CASE STUDY 2 - International perspectives: Innovative approaches from Malaysia	Dr. Ashraf	bin Md. Hashim	Senior Researcher / CEO, ISRA Consultancy
			Dr. Said	Bouheraoua	Director of Research, ISRA
Session 4	1430 - 1530	The branding challenge for Islamic finance – have we named the sector all wrong?	Natalie	Boyd	Partner, K&L Gates
			Simon	Walker	Head of Retail Sales, Al Rayan Bank
			Shelina	Janmohamed	Vice President, Ogilvy Noor
			Stuart	Hutton	CIO, Simply Ethical
			Professor Iqbal	Asaria	Visiting Lecturer, Cass Business School
			Petr	Klimes	Group Marketing Director & Head of Digital, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank
Session 5	1530 - 1630	Sector too focused on Islamic banking - has this restricted its ability to provide more ethical and social responsible solutions?	Omar	Shaikh	Board Member, UKIFC
			Professor Mehmet	Asutay	Director, Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance
			Harris	Irfan	CEO, Cordoba Capital
			Justin	Sykes	MD, Innovest Advisory
			Peter	Lovell MBE	CEO, Financing Sharia Enterprise
			Ajmal	Bhatty	Board Member UKIFC and CEO Qatar General Insurance and Re-Insurance Co



Organisers



www.ukifc.com

The UKIFC is a specialist advisory and development body focused on promoting and enhancing the global Islamic and ethical finance industry. The organisation was launched in 2005 by a group of likeminded professionals who sought to make a contribution to the development of the Islamic finance industry. The UKIFC specialises in four core areas:

- 1) Ethical finance - helping to promote better co-ordination and understanding of the shared values between Islamic finance and the broader ethical finance arena
- 2) Advisory - specialist capability in advising government agencies, regulatory bodies and financial institutions on creating enabling frameworks for Islamic finance
- 3) Executive training – delivering bespoke capacity building programmes aimed at practitioners and regulators focused on commercial issues
- 4) Thought leadership – authoring reports, community education and providing industry comment towards influencing regulation and encouraging the development of the sector based on strong research and insights.

In 2010 the UKIFC hosted a pioneering conference on Islamic and ethical finance which led to feedback from participants supporting an on-going dialogue. Recognising this as a unique opportunity for the UKIFC to lead the ethical finance debate, the Edinburgh Ethical Finance Round Table Series was initiated later that year.

Since then the UKIFC has: brought the Global Ethical Finance Forum to Edinburgh, launched an interfaith shared values initiative with the Church, won the EFICA award and become a founding partner in the Scottish Government backed Ethical Finance Hub.



www.isra.my

ISRA is an autonomous body set-up under the direction of the Central Bank of Malaysia (Bank Negara Malaysia) to promote applied research in the area of Shari'ah and Islamic finance. ISRA provides a platform for greater engagement amongst practitioners, scholars, regulators and academicians via research and dialogue, in both the domestic and international arenas. Through pioneering research and rigorous intellectual dialogue, ISRA aims to promote innovation and dynamism and thus extend the boundaries of Islamic finance.

In line with the nature of our organisations, our work is designed to empower stakeholders and encourage progressive developments within the Islamic finance sector. The collaboration of applied Shari'ah expertise of ISRA and the conventional audit experience represented within the UKIFC team provides valuable insights in this report from both aspects.



Host Partner

 K&L GATES

www.klgates.com

K&L Gates is a fully integrated global law firm and has one of the largest genuinely international Islamic finance practices, which is led by lawyers in our Doha, Dubai and London offices. We advise principally on English, United Arab Emirates, Qatari, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), and Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) laws as they touch Islamic-compliant transactions and structures. We work with other counsel to advise on local law issues in many countries, including Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Our team provides international and regional clients advice on local law security issues and has established a strong international trustee/agency practice as a result of acting on secured financings requiring agents for the banks in local jurisdictions.

In the real estate sector, we build on our strong real estate finance practice in London to provide advice to banks and investors looking to structure Islamic-compliant whole facilities or tranches of facilities. We have strong debt capital markets and structured products capabilities, both internationally and regionally, and have developed innovative structures for clients facilitating access to the local equities and asset-based markets and mitigating foreign ownership restrictions and local law issues. We also have a unique offering in Shari’ah-compliant derivatives with members of our team having gained trading floor experience at a major international financial institution in Dubai.

We can service structures that have regulatory requirements regardless of their location from our offices in the Middle East, Europe, Asia or the United States.

We also regularly provide a one-stop solution for clients who are looking for legal and Shari’ah advice on new products and documentation. We work with a number of Shari’ah scholars based in different jurisdictions who are able to provide Shari’ah law guidance, input, and ultimately *fatawa* for clients across a number of schools of thought in Islamic jurisprudence.

Sponsor



www.ddcap.co.uk

Headquartered in central London, with an office in the DIFC in Dubai and a presence in Saudi Arabia, DDCAP Group (“DDCAP”) is positioned as a leading market intermediary and financial technology and systems solutions provider to the Islamic Financial Services Industry, extending value-added services to its global institutional clients across a diverse range of products.

DDCAP is a direct investor in Islamic financial sector initiatives, amongst those its multi award winning Sharia’a compliant financial technology, the ETHOS Asset Facilitation Platform™ (“ETHOS AFP™”). ETHOS AFP™ is a bespoke real-time trading platform with 24hour coverage, enabling clients worldwide to purchase commodities and other assets via a secure, web based portal as an alternative to traditional transactional processes. ETHOS AFP™ encompasses Sharia’a and business focused operational requirements across treasury, capital markets, asset management, client consumer banking portfolios and takaful.

Along with adherence to Sharia’a stipulations, ETHOS AFP™ supports DDCAP’s stated intention to incorporate Sustainable and Responsible Investment (“SRI”) and financing principles alongside efficiency and governance requirements. In 2016, DDCAP became one of the first Islamic financial sector signatories to the UN supported Principles for Responsible Investment (“PRI”). DDCAP is also a member of the RFI Foundation which is a think tank for the Responsible Finance community. These developments demonstrate the commitment that DDCAP has made to meet the growing demand from global investors seeking to integrate SRI principles within their core investment and allocation strategies.



Supporters



The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Islamic Finance (APPGIF) has strong cross-party interest with 10 officer bearers and a number of supporters engaged from across the Commons and Lords. Our aim is to promote the understanding and development of Islamic finance both domestically in the UK and overseas as well as look at the role Islamic finance can play in the wider ethical finance sector.

At a domestic level our focus has been on financial inclusion issues in areas such as student finance, start-up loans and export finance. At the global level we are keen to position the UK as a western hub for Islamic finance highlighting opportunities relating to FDI instruments such as Sukuk and building and developing relationships with new trade partners.

The APPGIF provides a powerful and influential platform to connect industry, academic and community stakeholders with the Government.

TheCityUK

www.thecityuk.com

TheCityUK is the representative body for the UK-based financial and related professional services industry. In the UK, across Europe and globally, we promote policies that drive competitiveness, support job creation and ensure long-term economic growth. The industry contributes nearly 11 per cent of the UK's total economic output and employs over 2.2 million people, with two-thirds of these jobs outside London. It is the largest tax payer, the biggest exporting industry and generates a trade surplus greater than all other net exporting industries combined.



www.ethicalfinancehub.org

The Ethical Finance Hub (EFH) is a Scottish Government-backed, industry-led initiative that emerged from the UKIFC's award-winning Edinburgh Ethical Finance Round Table series. Against a backdrop of the 2008 financial crisis round table discussions around sustainability, climate change and social justice themes, led to a collective desire to create a more responsible financial sector that operates on a transparent and ethical basis. The EFH, launched in 2016, aims to connect individuals and organisations interested or active in the ethical finance market to: raise awareness, educate and facilitate practical activities (such as research, events and projects) that support the growth of the sector. This will help create a fairer, more inclusive and socially responsible financial system as well as improve the environment, social and governance performances of businesses.

