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Dr. Mohammad Islam ¹

Dr. Tayyaba Razzaq²

Asma Bibi³

The Rising Trend of Islamophobia and Its Global Impacts: An Academic and Research Review

ABSTRACT

Islam is the religion of peace and protection for the the whole world and huminity. Abusiveness and oppression, all kinds of fraud, treachery, lies, adulteration and usury are forbidden in Islam. It is clear from the teachings of Qur'an and Sunnah that Islam is against all kinds of mischief, unrest, unjust killing, terrorism and atrocities. A study of any aspect of Seerah of the Prophet reveals the fact that He was the Prophet of peace and departed from the world after establishing peace in the world. People, influenced by the best manners of the Holy Prophet and began to enter Islam in droves and enemities and

¹ Elementary and Secondary Education Department KP mislamuom@gmail.com

² Assistant Professor Islamic Studies Department, Emerson University Multan razzaqtayyaba@gmail.com

³ M.Phil Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, SBBWU Peshawar mislamuom@gmail.com

hatreds began to disappear. Many westeren writers have also written that Prophet Muhammad sestablished peace in the world and before Him there was no peace and no law in the Arab. But unfortunately fear of Islam and false propaganda against Islam was started by the infidel, polytheists from the day one and this fear is still found among non-Muslims specially in the West to great extent which is called Islamophobia in modern sense. Due to Islamophobia, various attempts were made to link Islam with terrorism, which had major negative effects. In this research paper, the growing trend of Islamophobia at the global level will be specially evaluated in the present time. Apart from this, it will also be tried to take into consideration its effects, its causes, historical background and appropriate measures for remediation at the global level.

Key Words: Prophet Muhammad # , Islam, Fear of Islam, West, Islamophobia, Orientalists, Media, Peace, etc.

Islam is the religion of peace, prosperity, welfare and success of both worlds, as it is clear from the apparent and literal meaning of the word "Islam". It is a historical fact that before the arrival of Prophet Muhammad in the world, there was a hot market of persecution everywhere. There was no law and order in the world. There was a period of killings and riots and people used to fight each other over trivial matters. The enmity between them continued for an indefinite period. The condition of the society was such that people used to bury their daughters alive. The Holy Qur'an has clearly testified that these people were in open error before the arrival of the Prophet in the world. As Allah says: "It is He who has sent among Ummiyyin (the unlettered ones) a messenger of their own to recite to them His revelations, to purify them, and to instruct them in the Book and wisdom,

though they have hitherto been in gross error." (1) Maulana Abd ur Rahman Keelani RA, in the commentary of this verse, has written that Arab society, including the Jews, was mired in endless tribal wars. Shirk was common. Each tribe had separate idols and some big idols were also shared. Looting, murder, obscenity, adultery and drinking were common. The Jewish nation was the foremost in the usury business. (2) The state of obscenity and nudity in the Arab society is also well known from the tradition of Sahih Bukhari, in which it is said that the houses where the bases of immorality were established, used to have flags on those houses, so that they could be easily identified. (3) This means that there was an open public invitation to obscenity. Many Orientalists have also confirmed the collective evils of the Jahiliyyah era. As Margoliouth, Dr. Weil, Reuben Levy and Willaim Robertson Smith etc. have written that sensuality, sexual promiscuity, prostitution and lewdness are prevalent in Arab society. It was common for professional women to hang flags on the roofs of their houses as an advertisement. (4) In these circumstances, Allah Almighty sent Muhammad, the last link of the chain of prophets and messengers, as a mercy for the entire universe and all creatures.(5) Who, in a very short period of 23 years, completely eliminated ignorance, darkness, polytheism and heresy, and all kinds of unrest, injustice and mutual civil wars from the world and established an ideal Islamic society that will last for the rest of the world. There is a viable model. He changed the whole world by conquering the hearts of people due to his best morals and excellent behavior towards the society.

⁵ . Sura Al Anbia: 107

Sura Al-Jumu'ah : 2
 Keelani, Abd ur Rahman, Maulana, Taiseerul Quran, Maktaba Al Salam, Lahore Pakistan, 1428 A.H/2007 A.D, Vol 4, Pg 441
 Imam Bukhari, Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Ismail, Sahih Bukhari,

Maktaba Rahmnia, Lahore Pakistan, Publishing year is Unknown, H 5127, V 2 Pg 275

[.] Qureshi, Zafar Ali, Prophet Muhammad's Wives and Orientalists, Ferozsons (Pvt) Ltd, Lahore Pakistan, 2005, Pg 65, 66

This is the reason why even today Islam is the guarantor of peace for the world. In Islam, there are women's rights, there is a lesson of good behavior with neighbors. It is clear from the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah that Islam is against all kinds of corruption, unrest, unjust killings and atrocities. The study of any aspect of the life of the Prophet # reveals the fact that He was a peace-loving prophet and He left the world after establishing peace in the world. The fear of Islam and the negative propaganda against it was started by infidel polytheists from the first day, the details of which are found in the Ouranic verses, blessed hadiths and the traditions of Seerah and history. This unnecessary fear of Islam is still present in the West among the non-Muslim nations, but this fear is found in all the religions of the world that are against Islam. This unnecessary fear and this negative attitude towards Islam is called Islamophobia in today's modern terms. Due to Islamophobia, continuous efforts are being made to link Islam with terrorism. The effects of Islamophobia are not limited only to the West and the people of the West, but have also engulfed Muslim societies and have started to create various types of doubts and suspicions against Islam in the modern educated minds, as a result of which, within the Ummah dangerous diseases like randomness and anarchy have arisen.

Some More Explanation of Islamophobia:

Islamophobia is a combination of two words 'Islam' and 'Phobia'. Islam is an Arabic word and it has been used repeatedly in the Qur'an and Sunnah. Islam is the only heavenly religion. From Adam (AS) to the last prophet Muhammad , the religion of all the prophets was Islam. However, Sharias were separate and different. As Allah SWT says: "The only true faith in Allah's sight is Islam."(1) While 'Phobia' is a Greek word. According to the Oxford English Urdu Dictionary, the word "Phobia" is the

¹ . Sura Aal Imran : 19

name of a morbid state of mind that is manifested in the form of fear or hatred by someone, and if it is used as a suffix, then It shows fear or aversion to something.(1) According to the Cambridge Dictionary, 'Phobia' is the name of intense fear of someone, or it is a type of mental illness that greatly disturbs someone and affects his life, i.e. It is a type of anxiety disorder (a mental illness that makes some one very worried and affects their life) that involves an extreme fear of someone. (2) Some further explanation is that Phobia is excessive and irrational fear. If someone has a phobia, they may have a deep sense of dread or panic when they face the source of their fear. A phobia or fear can be of a particular place, situation or object. It is usually associated with a specific object. It has various types, some of which are named, e.g. Agoraphobia: People suffering from this type of phobia fear being in large crowds or being trapped outside the house. Another type is Glossophobia, which is called performance anxiety, or the fear of speaking in front of an audience. Another type is Acrophobia, which is the fear of heights. People suffering from it avoid mountains, bridges or high floors of buildings and are afraid of them. In addition, there is also a type of Claustrophobia. This is the fear of closed or cramped spaces. (3) There are many other types of phobia, among which the most important type is Islamophobia, which is an important issue of the present age. The research paper under consideration is also a scientific and research effort regarding Islamophobia itself.

Origin, Evolution and Causes of Islamophobia:

¹ . Oxford English Urdu Dictionary, Murattab o Mutrajjam: Shanul Haq Haqi, Oxford University Press , Karachi Pakistan, 2011 AD, P 1233

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/phobia Access Date 29 July 2021

[.] https://www.healthline.com/health/phobia-simple-specific#treatment Access Date 14 April 2022

Islamophobia is a very modern and important term that is commonly used in the modern era. This word is very old and ancient in terms of meaning, which has been found since the beginning of Islam. In the world of words and terms there are many examples of this type. There are certain words and terms that have started to be used in languages in certain periods of time, but actually their existence is not new, but rather ancient and old, such as the words and terms of Orientalism and Orientalists etc. The same is the case with the word Islamophobia. Ever since Prphet Muhammad started preaching the true religion Islam, from that time an endless series of enmity with the disbelievers and polytheists and spreading misgivings about the religion of Islam and the Prophet of Islam started. It continues till today in different forms. The victory of the religion of Islam over the polytheists of Makkah and other opponents of Islam was very harsh and unpleasant, as is clear from the Holy Qur'an itself. Allah SWT says: "It is He who has sent forth His Messenger with guidance and the true faith to make it triumphant over all relegions, even though the polytheists dislike it."(1) He used to tell people that if you believe, you will become the ruler of Arabia and the Gentiles(Aajams) will also be subordinate to you. The enmity of the people and the hatred of Islam was such that Abu Lahab, the uncle of the Prophet , used to follow him and tell the people, "Don't listen to the words of this person." As if Abu Lahab was providing a dangerous environment of Islamophobia. As in a tradition of Tabaqat Ibn Saad, these words are narrated: وَأَبُو هَبَ وَرَاءَهُ يَقُولُ: لَا تُطِيعُوهُ، فَإِنَّهُ صَابِئٌ كَاذِبٌ The opponents of the time accused him of being a magician and a madman. All these accusations were only based on stubbornness, bigotry and unnecessary fear of Islam. The Holy Qur'an has openly denied all

Sura Al-Tawba: 33
 Ibn Saad, Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Saad, Al-Tabqatulkubra, Tahqeeq: Ihsan Abbas, Daar Saadir Beroot Lubnan, 1388 AH/1968 AD, V 1 P 216

these accusations. It is generally believed that the first and official use of the word Islamophobia was made by the Runnymede Trust, a British institution, in a published report. In this report there is a complete explanation and understanding of this word and term. This report was published in the year 1997. The full title of the report was "Islamphobia a challenge for us all" which means that Islamophobia is a big challenge and an important problem for all of us (Westerners). In this report, Islamophobia was defined as a strong dislike for the Muslim Ummah and a great threat to the West. As a result of this definition, the feelings of prejudice, discrimination and hatred towards Muslims are promoted. This committee consisted of 18 members. Professor Gordon Conway was the chairman of this committee. The gist and summary of what has been stated in the report presented by this committee is that Islam and Muslims are the greatest threat to the people of the West. Islam is a separate and distinct religion completely different from other religions. It has its own political ideology and it is a religion of terrorism and extremism. In the same way, Islam is a unique religion that contradicts and opposes Western thought and civilization. According to it, Islam is a conservative, dangerous and terrorist religion, which is the biggest challenge and problem for the people of the West and other religions. In the report, Islam is presented as a religion inferior to Western thought and Western civilization and culture. A sentence of this report also states that: "Islam seen as violent, aggressive, threatening, supportive of terrorism, engaged in 'a clash of civilisations'. (1) Islamophobia various causes and motivations. These causes and motivations were there during the time of the Prophet and are still there today, and there are examples of increasing or decreasing it at different times. If we examine the anti-Islamic activities of the time of the Prophet a little, why the infidels of

¹ . https://www.runnymedetrust.org/publications/islamophobia-a-challenge-for-us-all , Access Date 13 May 2022

Makkah and the Jews of Madinah were so opposed to the Islamic movement and the prophetic mission that they crossed all limits while opposing. The biographers have clearly written that actually these opponents were afraid of the revolutionary mission of the Prophet #, so they made every possible effort to block the way of the invitation of the Prophet **3.** These opponents of Islam knew very well that Islam does not only teach moral virtues but also gives clear orders about social, economic and political issues. Prof. Muhammad Akram Tahir has pointed out in his book and written that the opponents of Islam knew very well that accepting Allah as the only one means giving up all their class distinctions. If this was not the case, they would not have staked everything in opposition to the Holy Prophet .(1) Even today, if the West sees anything as a threat, it is the rapid spread of Islam and Islam's own political ideology. As mentioned in the 1997 report of Renowned Trust. Islamophobia is a modern word in terms of its nature, but in terms of its purpose, it is both modern and ancient, and its purpose from the beginning to the end is only to defame Islam and Muslims. After 9/11, the use of this term has increased enormously. In which the attacks on the World Trade Center were blamed on Muslims. In the West, the graph of Islamophobia has seen an alarming rise after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Which continued to have very negative effects on the Islamic world and the Muslims living in Europe and the West. Nowadays, there are examples of attempts to show Muslims as terrorists in movies and video games etc. in the West. There are various factors and reasons for the rise of Islamophobia in the West. Some of the famous reasons and motivations are mentioned below.

1. Orientalists' Role in Islamophobia:

¹ . Tahir, Muhammad Akram, Professor, Muhammad ur Rasoolullah, Idara Maarif e Islami, Lahore Pakistan, 1436 AH/ 2015 AD, P 54

The writings of Orientalists have a great influence in the spread of Islamophobia. In fact, these people are tools of the Western world powers who have presented Islam in a negative way to their readers. It has been their continuous effort to prevent people from seeing the real face of Islam and understanding the real reality, and in the same way, a negative image of Islam can be brought down in their hearts and minds so that they become afraid and mistrustful of Islam. Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz Manj has written that the negative studies of Islam and the Prophet of Islam in the West is the result of a planned and organized campaign called Tehreek Isthiraq.(1) In the same way, it is written a few pages ahead that the traditional opposition, hatred and war against Islam and Muslims in the West is a form of pen, study and preaching and research which has been started with regular planning. . Western writers have also admitted this. He has also written those names who tried to persuade the people of the West to start this war of pen and paper. Among these names, the names of Roger Bacon, Raymond Lill and Martin Luther etc. are well known.⁽²⁾ Among the Orientalists, there are some who have written books in support of Islam and the Prophet of Islam, and some of them also accepted Islam. But on the other hand, there are a large number of ancient and modern orientalists whose books are based on objections and insults against Islam and the Prophet of Islam. This bitter truth has been acknowledged by some Western authors in their books and writings, as the famous orientalist Karen Armstrong has also written that the history of Islamophobia in the West is very old, whose roots go back to the Crusades (3). Christian Monks insisted

Manj, Muhammad Shahbaz, Doctor, Fikr e Istishraq awr Aalam e Islam me is ka asar o nufoz, Alqamar Publicashes, Lahore Pakistan, 1437 AH/ 2016 AD, P 17

² . Ibid, P 24,25

³ . The Crusades were fought from 1099 AD to 1464 AD. These occurred in the lands of the Middle East and in it the members of the Church were defeated, after which they opened another front against the Muslims. That front is called Tehreek Isthiraq. (Kareemi, Muhammad Jurjees,

that Islam spread by the sword and it is a terrorist religion. It was their work that in the West, the distorted version of the Prophet's biography became a received idea. In the West, since the destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, members of the Christian Right in the United States and some sections of the Western media have continued to aggressively describe the Prophet and claim that he was the prophet of war.(1) The famous Orientalist Montgomery Watt has written that in the Christian world, even before the Crusades, the concept of the Great Enemy related to the Prophet # had been established. (2) The late Professor Muhammad Akram Tahir has also written that a section of scholars believe that the term Islamic fundamentalism was first introduced by Bernard Lewis in 1990 through one of his articles. The term "clash of civilizations" presented in a book was also presented by Lewis himself in a meeting in Washington a long time ago. After 9/11, the demand for his books increased a lot. (3) The result of the discussion is that the negative writings of Orientalists have a major role in the spread of Islamophobia.

2. Conspiracies and mischiefs of the Qadianis:

One of the reasons for the promotion and spread of Islamophobia is the continuous conspiracies and mischiefs of the Qadianis living in foreign countries which they are doing to defame Islam and the world of Islam. The Qadianis are headquartered in London and regularly receive a hefty sum of money. They also have centers in Germany, America, Canada and Israel. (4) There

Maulana, Qur'an Majeed awr Mustashrigeen, Kitab Mahal, Lahore

Pakistan, 1438 AH / 2017 AD, P. 14)

Armstrong, Karen, Muhammad Prophet For Our Time, Harper Press London 2006, P 17, 18

[.] Watt, Montgomery, Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman, Oxford University Press London, 1961, Pg 231

³. Tahir, Muhammad Akram, Muhammad ur Rasolullah, P 409

^{4 .} https://www.jasarat.com/blog/2020/08/16/taosif-ulhaq/ Access Date: 22 May 2022

is also a video on YouTube as a record in which a Qadiani leader from Pakistan, along with his entire team, complains during a meeting with former US President Donald Trump that they are considered Muslims in America but In Pakistan, people consider them infidels and they are subjected to all kinds of ill-treatment.(1) However, the fact is that Qadianis are not Muslims, but infidels. They are also against the constitution of Pakistan and they are traitors of the state.

3. Role of Western Media in Islamophobia:

The role of the western media in creating hatred and fear of Islam in the whole world in general and in the West in particular is very high. In the West, hateful statements were made against Islam and efforts were made to convince the people of the West that Islam and Muslims are the biggest threat to them and their civilization. If we only take the example of America, former American President Donald Trump made Muslims his special topic during his presidential campaign. His entire campaign is famous for his hateful rhetoric against Muslims.(2) Former American President Trump's anti-Muslims speeches are still available on the Internet as a record on YouTube. (3) One of the reasons for the extraordinary increase in the rate of Islamophobia after 9/11 is all kinds of negative propaganda by the colonial forces through the media. They raised noise and uproar against Islam and the Islamic world through electronic and print media. The incidents of 9/11 were blamed on Muslims, but till date this charge could not be confirmed that Muslims are really involved in it. It was only due to the use of media that attempts were made to show Muslims as terrorists in the eyes of the whole world.

^{1 .} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49vRRisUHmw Access Date 19 May 2022

https://theowp.org/reports/from-orientalism-to-islamophobia Access Date: 26 May 2022

^{3 .} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sz0KY-3PbQ Access Date: 26 May 2022

4. Fear of the political system of Islam:

Islam is a complete code of life and a collection of different systems of life. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an: "O believers, submit all of you to Allah..." (1) Where the Prophet of humanity smoothed out the problems of civilization and culture, society and economy, He also solved the knots of political science. His politics was based on divine revelation. The West is allergic to the political system of Islam. Western economic system is based on interest while Islam is against interest. Therefore, the West is afraid of the economic and financial system of Islam. The West wants to establish its economic monopoly over the whole world. Therefore, they are not ready to accept the publication and spread of Islam in any case, due to which the environment of Islamophobia is being promoted and developed and continuous efforts are being made to defame Islam.

5. Fear of Islam's family System and Civilization:

Western civilization and culture are also deeply afraid of Islamic family system and civilization. They have made the family system of Islam a subject of discussion. On the other hand, they have started a series of objections regarding the Shariah rules of Islam, such as the veil, as a sign of danger. According to them, the veil is like a prison for a woman and a woman has to be locked in a sack or a shroud. The Orientalists have kept this in their hearts. In this regard, we can give examples of Lesley Hazleton and Karen Armstrong etc., whose writings mention such myths.(2) The fact is that in the western world, women have always been victims of oppression, because instead recognizing women as women in comparison to men, they are

 $^{^{1}}$. Sura Al-Baqarah : 208 2 . Hazleton, Lesley , The First Muslim - The Story of Muhammad, Pg 271

given the work of men. Hijab and niqab is an effective means of protecting women's honor and dignity. It is not a prison or hardship. But the West's fear of Islamic culture and civilization is nothing but nonsense and Islamophobia.

Effects and Harms of growing Islamophobia:

Islamophobia is having a profound impact on the relationship between Western and Islamic civilizations. Recently, in an attempt to forcefully remove the hijab from a Muslim student girl in India, a number of young men chased her and showed the negative action in front of the world, so there is no similar example in history.(1) Muslims living in the West where women want to wear hijab. The non-Muslim women also want to come closer to Islam. But due to Islamophobia and negative propaganda against Islam, they can not do so. Because of Islamophobia, today Muslims are considered terrorists. The Holy Ouran and the rites of Islam are desecrated. Muslim are attacked and tortured inside mosques. Some benefits of Islamophobia have also come out, which can be considered as positive effects, and that is that there are also examples that some moderate orientalists, when they studied Islam impartially, the truth of Islam became clear to them and as a result they converted to Islam. These lucky ladies and gentlemen include Maryam Jamila, Allama Muhammad Asad, Dr. Phillips and some other famous personalities.

How to reduce the growing trend of Islamophobia?

It is an important need of the hour for the Muslim Ummah to take the lead in the world and to take practical steps to remedy, treat and find solutions to Islamophobia. In this regard, some of the important tasks to be done by the Muslim Ummah are mentioned below.

¹ . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52X1-uZM04c Access Date: 26 May 2022

1. The need to follow Islamic Teachings:

First of all Muslims themselves need to follow the Qur'an and Sunnah and all Islamic Teachings. Instead of connecting everything with the West, we should first see what our current condition is. To what extent have other deadly and destructive traits like lying, cheating, backbiting, mixing, corruption, usury, hypocrisy and treachery been embedded in Muslim societies? So, first of all, we need to correct ourslves. Along with individual reform, struggle is also necessary for collective reform and establishment of the best and ideal society.

2. Unity of the Muslim Ummah:

In order to remove the effects of Islamophobia, mutual unity of the Muslim Ummah is an inevitable necessity. Islam is the only religion and the Muslim Ummah is the only Ummah. Islam has urged the Muslims to be united in the form of a single community and has forbidden and disliked mutual chaos and division. A hadith of Sahih Bukhari has the meaning that the example of believers is like a body. When there is pain in any one part of the body, the whole body feels pain and becomes restless due to pain. (1)

3. The need for dialogue with World Powers:

There is need for the Muslim leadership and scholars to find solutions to the problems through dialogue with the West. There is clear guidance in this regard in Islamic teachings. One thing is worth keeping in mind and that is whether dialogue with the West is really possible today or not. If the west is really ready to listen to the position of Muslims, then no other measure can be more useful and effective than dialogue. In the form of dialogue, the West will get an opportunity to listen to the position of

¹. Imam Bukhari, Sahih Bukhari, H 6011, V 2 P 414

Muslims and they will know that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony.

4. Need of Global Islamic Media Cell:

Currently, the world media is under the control of the big world powers who are using it against Islam and Muslims according to their own will. Therefore, Muslims also need to establish a joint Islamic media cell. Through this, there will be an encouraging reduction in the environment of Islamophobia, but it will be completely eliminated. Therefore, there should be a mutual media group of Muslim countries at the global level, from which it will be easy to convey the true and peaceful voice of Islam to the world.

Discussion Summary:

The result of all the studies on the subject is that Islamophobia is the name of an unreasonable fear of the people of the West about Islam and as a result of this fear, there have been profound effects on the world level. Islam is peace, prosperity, security. It is the religion of welfare and success of the worlds, as is evident from the apparent meaning of the word Islam. Before the arrival of Prophet Muhammad in the world, the market of oppression was hot everywhere, immorality and alcoholism were common, there were no laws and regulations. People were fed up with the killings and violence. Daughters were buried alive and people were in open error. In a very short period of 23 years, the Prophet seradicated ignorance, darkness, polytheism, heresy, and all kinds of unrest and injustice from the world. He brought peace in the world. In Islam, there are women's rights, there is a lesson of good behavior with neighbors. It is clear from the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah that Islam is against all kinds of corruption, unrest, unjust killings and atrocities. He was a peace-loving prophet and He left the world after establishing peace in the world. In the West, the unreasonable fear against Islam is called Islamophobia in the modern sense.

Because of Islamophobia, Islam and Muslims are considered terrorists. An extraordinary increase is being seen in this trend after 9/11. There are profound effects on Muslims living in foreign countries. Even the mosques and places of worship of the Muslims could not remain safe. All kinds of terrorism are being attributed to Muslims. Although Islam and Muslims have nothing to do with terrorism. It is an urgent need of time to fulfill the responsibilities that are imposed on the Muslim Ummah for the elimination of Islamophobia.

Findings:

The results and findings of the whole discussion are as follow:

- 1. Islamophobia is an important issue of the present age which is very old in terms of meaning and has been found since the beginning of Islam.
- 2. Islamophobia is another name for an aggressive environment of Western nations based on all kinds of campaigns against Islam and Muslims.
- 3. Western Media and Orientalists have played an equal role in the promotion of Islamophobia. Some Orientalists themselves have admitted this.
- 4. The effects of Islamophobia are having a negative impact on all huminity. The problems of Muslims living in western countries are increasing day by day. Demolition of mosques, ban on hijab and desecration of Islamic rituals have become the norm of the day.
- 5. In order to solve Islamophobia, taking practical steps in the light of the Prophet's seerah.
- 6. Dialogue with the people of the West, strengthening ourselves economically and politically, establishing Islamic media and informing non-Muslims about the merits of Islam are the responsibilities of the Muslim Ummah.