

# MUSLIM COMMUNITIES In non-Muslim states

Islamic Council of Europe



مجلس  
الإسلامي  
في أوروبا

ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF EUROPE

16 Grosvenor Crescent

London SW1X 7EP

Phone: 01-235 9832

© Islamic Council of Europe 1980

First edition

April 1980

ISBN 0 907163 01 7 Casebound  
0 907163 00 9 Softback

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may  
be reproduced or transmitted in any form, or by  
any means, without permission.

Set by Dessett Graphics Ltd, London.  
Printed by Interlink Longraph Ltd, London



# CONTENTS

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| Introduction .....  | ix   |
| <i>Salem Azzam</i>  |      |
| Muslim Minorities: A Framework .....  | 1    |
| <i>Amadou Karim Gaye</i>  |      |
| Human Rights and Islam .....  | 7    |
| <i>Issoufou S. Djermakoye</i>   |      |
| The Study of Muslim Minority Problems: A Conceptual<br>Approach .....   | 17   |
| <i>Syed Z. Abedin</i>   |      |
| Problems of Minorities .....  | 31   |
| <i>A. K. Brohi</i>  |      |
| The Rights of Non-Muslims under Islam: Social and<br>Cultural Aspects .....   | 43   |
| <i>Ismail R. Faruqi</i>   |      |
| Current Status of Constitutional Rights and Religious and<br>Cultural Freedoms: in Selected Non-Muslim<br>Countries ..... | 67   |
| <i>S. S. Pirzada</i>  |      |
| Evolution of Human Rights in the West its Implications<br>for Muslims .....   | 81   |
| <i>Khalid M. Ishaque</i>  |      |
| The Problems of Muslim Minorities and Their Solutions..   | 91   |
| <i>M. Ali Kettani</i>   |      |
| Muslim Personal Law .....   | 109  |
| <i>Al-Haj Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait</i>   |      |
| Educational Needs of Muslim Minorities: Nature and<br>Extent of the Problem .....   | 125  |
| <i>H. H. Bilgrami</i>   |      |

# Appendices

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| I   | Welcome Address by The Secretary General ..... | 153 |
| II  | Programme of the Seminar .....                 | 158 |
| III | Seminar Declaration .....                      | 165 |



## Contributors

*Mr. Salem Azzam* is Secretary General of the Islamic Council of Europe, London.

*Dr. Amadou Karim Gaye* was Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, Jeddah, until December, 1979.

*Mr. Issoufou S. Djermakoye* is Under Secretary-General, United Nations (Department of Technical Co-operation and Development).

*Mr. A. K. Brohi*, a distinguished lawyer, was Minister for Law and Religious Affairs, Government of Pakistan, in 1978.

*Dr. Syed Z. Abedin* is a member of the staff of the Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah.

*Dr. Ismail R. Faruqi* is Professor of Religious Studies at the Temple University, Philadelphia.

*Mr. Khalid M. Ishaque* is Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

*Mr. S. S. Pirzada* is Attorney General of Pakistan and Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Minorities, Human Rights Commission of the United Nations.

*Mr. Ali Kettani* is a Special Advisor on Muslim Minorities to the Secretary General, Islamic Conference, Jeddah.

*Al-Haj Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait* is Member of the Indian Parliament and President of the Indian Union Muslim League.

*Dr. H. H. Bilgrami* is Director of the World Federation of Islamic Missions, Karachi.

Almost one-third of the total population of Muslims in the world today lives as a "minority" in lands where people of other faiths, creeds and ideologies have administrative, political and legislative control. In some of the countries, a variety of political, economic, social and cultural factors and circumstances tend to impede their harmonious progress and development, and drastically curtail or limit the avenues open to them for making a fuller contribution to the country to which they belong and where they have been living for centuries.

It was to examine the problems faced by the Muslim communities in the non-Muslim states that the Organization of the Islamic Conference sponsored an international seminar which was organised in London by the Islamic Council of Europe in July, 1978. Muslim scholars and representatives of Muslim minorities were invited to this seminar from all over the world, and some of the papers which were presented at this seminar are included in this volume.

One of the ideas that prominently figured in the studies and discussions concerned the provision of Islamic education to the Muslim minorities. The requirements differ from region to region. The most challenging situation is of course faced by Muslims in the Communist countries. For instance in the USSR, the Muslim population has to be educated afresh in the basic teachings of Islam. In some of the developing countries, especially in Africa, Muslim minorities will only be able to retain their identity if the Muslim world provides significant assistance for their education.

In the Western world, the problem is how to combine religious instruction with