

EVANGELISING HATE:

Islamic Education
and Research Academy
(iERA)



A Report by the Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain

The Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain was formed in June 2007 in order to break the taboo that comes with renouncing Islam. The main aims of the organisation are to provide support to and highlight the plight of ex-Muslims, challenge Sharia and apostasy laws and take a stand for reason, universal rights and secularism.

For further information contact:

CEMB
BM Box 1919
London WC1N 3XX, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 7719166731
exmuslimcouncil@gmail.com
www.ex-muslim.org.uk

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Introduction

The Islamic Education and Research Academy (iERA) was founded in 2009 in the United Kingdom and describes itself as “a global dawah organisation committed to presenting Islam to wider society”. “Dawah” is the preaching and proselytising of Islam.

The founding members of iERA include Hamza Tzortzis, a former member of the Islamist hate group Hizb ut Tahrir, and Abdur Raheem Green, a convert to Islam with a long history of making hate speeches, which are outlined in this report.

iERA position themselves as the headquarters for a global Islamic evangelical movement:

“Through research and development, we aim to produce effective resources to empower Muslims as individuals and local communities to give dawah. Fundamentally this works through inspiring a ‘mass-movement’ of ordinary Muslims giving one-to-one dawah to people in their everyday circles. We empower people through a three-fold approach, Motivation, Knowledge and Action. The next stage is to effectively support and develop local dawah groups and local dawah leaders”.¹

Their structure is centred around a core group of preachers and activists who receive income from the organisation. A number of advisors surround them.² This structure allows iERA to engage in “plausible deniability”, simultaneously promoting and thereby legitimising hate preachers whilst claiming that they are not part of its core group.

iERA are effectively a pro-active organisation that facilitates missionary activities, and also an aggregating organisation that co-ordinates evangelism and preaching by affiliates. Even though iERA does not have a central constitution, the ideas that its core group aggregates, and its affiliates assert, correspond tightly with the ideas propounded by Islamist organisations and hate groups like Hizb ut Tahrir. In addition, the ideas of iERA and its affiliates fit into a wider stream of Wahaabi / Salafi Islamism.

iERA can be classified as a hate group because of its persistent promotion of Islamists who preach hate against non Muslims, women, gays, progressive Muslims and ex-Muslims. It is also one of the main organisations behind the call

1 http://www.iera.org.uk/about_us3.html

2 http://web.archive.org/web/20100608041927/http://www.iera.org.uk/about_us2.html

for the imposition of Islamist norms in society, including gender segregation at UK universities and the assertion of preachers who promote Sharia courts.

This report details specific examples of hate speech practised by iERA preachers, advisors and “street Dawah” activists.

The practical effect of their speeches is a cumulative one, in which hatred, cruelty and dehumanisation are normalised and a climate of hostility and supremacism are deemed to be righteous expressions of belief. Their Islamic missionary activity is not only about spirituality, but a wider call to make society subordinate to theocratic norms. The following is a list of some of the hate speech iERA preachers have propagated:

- Gays deserve to be killed
- Wife beating and domestic violence are allowed and have divine mandate
- Women guilty of adultery and other sexual crimes can be stoned to death – crimes against women have divine mandate
- Endorsing a preacher inciting anti-Shia sectarian hatred in Britain
- Ex-Muslims deserve to be killed
- Hatred of Jews who are viewed as “filth” and propagation of paradigms of conspiracy
- Hatred of, dehumanisation and inferiority of non Muslims
- iERA dawah activist killed fighting for Jihadi terrorist group in Syria
- iERA dawah activist praises Hitler and admires the Holocaust
- Liberal Muslims who oppose iERA's views are not Muslims
- Ideas about how women are to blame for rape and sexual abuse they face
- Female Genital Mutilation is permissible
- Islamic supremacism - democracy and secularism are inferior to rule by Sharia and that multiculturalism is a means to evangelise and impose Islam
- Jihad is a responsibility of Muslims
- iERA advisors have links to extremist Wahaabism
- Apologist for iERA claims protesting against anti-gay hate preachers is bigoted
- Islamic Salafism is a supremacist ideology which aspires to a socially transformative theocracy

Charitable Status

iERA is a registered charity. Their website states that “Our current budget for 2012 is £850,000”. It also says “With regards to our accounts with the Charities Commission, we have sadly been delayed with this. Our accounts are with the auditors currently, and we hope to have this submitted within a month inshaa’Allah”. Their website has not been updated for two years on this matter.³

On 8 May 2014 the Charity Commission announced that it had instigated a statutory inquiry of iERA because of “concerns about the charity’s governance”.

“The inquiry was opened following a records inspection at the charity’s premises in January 2014. The regulator says that it identified a number of regulatory issues connected to the charity’s approach and policies for organising events and inviting external speakers and its associated records and documents”.

“The inquiry is examining the decision making of the trustee body, specifically its due diligence and monitoring of speakers, various payments to trustees and a former trustee and its relationship with the connected company, Islamic Education and Research Academy Limited”.⁴

Hate Groups

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is an American civil rights organisation dedicated to monitoring and mapping Hate Groups. They say: “All hate groups have beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics... Hate group activities can include criminal acts, marches, rallies, speeches, meetings, leafleting or publishing”.⁵

A number of Christian far-Right organisations have been categorised as Hate Groups by the SPLC. The most high profile designation is perhaps the American Family Association (AFA) which engages in campaigns of hate against gays and lesbians.⁶

The AFA provide a useful example with which to compare iERA because there are striking similarities between how they defend themselves from the charge of promoting hatred.

3 http://www.iera.org.uk/about_us6.html

4 <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/investigation-launched-into-educational-charity/>

5 <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-map>

6 <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/groups/american-family-association>

The AFA say that they are simply “advocates for traditional family values”.⁷ iERA claim that they are merely promoting “normative Islam” and adhering to “religious texts and a tradition going back 1400 years showing consistent morality”.⁸

By describing the views of those associated with their organisation as “normative” and “traditional” religious observance, they aim to neutralise criticism. This allows them to deem any criticism as an attack on religion, rather than legitimate resistance to hatefulness carried out under the cloak of religion. In this way, the promoters of hatred depict themselves as victims of those who expose their hatred.

An example of this hate group defence strategy can be found in the section of this report on Mo Ansar and his reaction to gay rights campaigners protesting against anti-gay preachers associated with iERA.

Also, when confronted, they will often claim that the persecutions they advocate only apply in an “ideal Islamic state”. As one member of the Ex-Muslim Forum has stated:

“Imagine if someone said that they believed Muslims / Jews / black people deserve to be killed, but not right now. Only in an “ideal state”. That is exactly what they’re saying about ex-Muslims and apostates. It’s as sinister and wicked as that. That’s what it boils down to”.⁹

In the UK, the anti-fascist group Hope Not Hate categorises the Islamist organisation Hizb ut Tahrir as a hate group and notes that the National Union of Students operates a “no platform” policy towards them. One of the leaders of iERA, Hamza Tzortzis, is a former activist for Hizb ut Tahrir.¹⁰

Soft Islamism

iERA are what is known as “soft Islamists” who “promote Islamist ideas and policies” and aim to “alter popular perceptions toward Islamic law and a range of religio-political issues”.¹¹

7 <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/10/14/us-army-defines-christian-ministry-as-domestic-hate-group/>

8 <https://twitter.com/SaleemChagtai/status/408731108444893185>
<https://twitter.com/SaqibSattar/status/408729476575395841>

9 <http://www.councilofexmuslims.com/index.php?topic=26132.msg743045#msg743045>

10 <http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/hate-groups/ht/>

11 *The World Almanac of Islamism: 2011* by American Foreign Policy Council <http://bit.ly/1gbl2pk>

“Soft Islamists” like iERA use the rhetoric of inter-faith “dialogue” and “tolerance” as a cover to advance and promote speakers whose beliefs and attitudes are at odds with these values. This also charts perfectly the development of a figure like Hamza Tzortzis as an active member of the Hate Group Hizb ut Tahrir to a founder and propagandist for iERA.

“Soft Islamists” often have links to “hard Islamists”. At least one iERA activist, Iftekhar Jaman, has been killed in Syria whilst fighting for the Jihadi group The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS).¹²

In his book “Political Islam, World Politics and Europe”, the German-Syrian scholar Bassam Tibi has written about how Salafi and Wahaabi groups view proselytising and making dawah as part of a wider process enacting an idea of Islam as a transformative political-theocratic movement.¹³

He says: “They pay lip-service to a ‘wishy-washy’ unspecific inter-cultural dialogue implicitly based on deception. For them, dialogue is a cover for acting in the mind of proselytization. Most Europeans fail to understand this ambiguity and often take this lip-service at face value.Islamists believe they are not pursuing dialogue in the understanding of intellectual exchange, but rather in their Islamic understanding of proselytization.

“In fact, in Islam da’wa is considered to be a dialogue directed by an effort at proselytization. The Islamic term ‘da’wa’ covers both meanings: dialogue and proselytization. Islamists talk to Europeans in the language of dialogue, but in fact practise proselytization”.

This in turn aids and abets Islamism’s influence in the given society.

12 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10524179/British-celebrity-jihadi-and-chef-dies-in-Syria.html>

13 *Political Islam, World Politics and Europe: Democratic Peace and Euro-Islam Versus Global Jihad* by Bassam Tibi <http://bit.ly/1n5JB71>

Leaders, Speakers, Advisors and Preachers of iERA¹⁴

Abdurraheem Green

Abdurraheem Green is one of iERA's founders and Chairman. He is described on the organisation's website as follows:

"His reputation for speaking his mind has won him a receptive audience worldwide ... with over 20 years in the dawah field.

"Abdurraheem is down-to-earth and an immediately warm and engaging character with good humour and a strong message. His approach is to the point and easy to relate to and he has a clear and eloquent manner of explanation. He is an intelligent and direct presenter, with a calm and friendly style. His effervescent enthusiasm and popularity has impacted positively on company presentations, project awards and hospitality events".¹⁵

These enthusiastic descriptions, however, conceal Abdurraheem Green's frequent engagement in hate speech.

Jews and Christians

Green has spoken often of his hatred for Jews and Christians. For example, in a video of him preaching in Hyde Park, he says about a man in the audience:

"Why don't you take the Yahoudi [Jew] over there, far away so his stench doesn't disturb us, OK"?¹⁶

In another speech he describes the attitude he believes Muslims should hold towards Christians and Jews. In particular he says that if a Muslim passes a Jew or Christian whilst walking down the street, he should "push them to the side". Muslims, according to him, have a religious duty to fight Christians and Jews until they are "subdued". Christians and Jews should also, in an ideal society, be coerced through social pressures and persecution to convert to Islam.

"So it is impossible for a Muslim to believe in the unity of religions. Indeed whoever claims that the Jew and the Christian are our brethren in faith has

14 http://web.archive.org/web/20100608041927/http://www.iera.org.uk/about_us2.html

15 http://www.iera.org.uk/speakers_arg.html

16 <http://tifrib.com/abdurraheem-green/>

without doubt made a statement of clear kufr, of clear rejection of the most basic verses of the Quran. They have rejected the statement of Allah (SWT) and they have not understood this deen.

“... For example, open Bukhari you will find the hadith that if you find the Jew or a Christian walking down the street, push them to the side. It is well-known from what Umar ibn al-Khattab and the khulafa ar rashidin used to implement, that the Jew and Christian was not allowed to ride on a horse when the Muslim is riding on a horse. They would have to walk...

“... The purpose of the jizya is to make the Jew and the Christian know that they are inferior and subjugated to Islam...

“... In the Muslim state, although the Jew and Christian is free to practice their religion, this is allowed, but they cannot display their cross and even in the time of Umar they were not allowed to re-construct or construct new churches. All of this is to create an atmosphere where, it is encouraging the people to come to iman and Islam, not to remain upon kufr and misguidance. Yes there is, we do not force people, we do not say ‘You must become Muslim or we kill you’. That’s not correct. But it is from Islam to create an environment where people are pressurised and encouraged to be upon the path of haq.... Although the Sharia allows the Jew and the Christian to practice their religion in an Islamic country it does not encourage it”.¹⁷

In another speech, Green discusses the Turkish leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, and suggests, wrongly, that he was a Jew, and uses “Jew” as an insult, as well as describing Ataturk as a “nasty kafir”.

“Ataturk was an extremely, thoroughly unpleasant, nasty kafir. He was a Jew, he was a Jew. And not only was he a Jew, he belonged to a sect of the Jews that even the Jews think are far astray”.¹⁸

Green has also spoken of how Muslims who criticise the Taliban are essentially traitors siding with the “kuffar”.

Throughout his rhetoric, Green categorises non Muslims as “kuffar” and depicts them in hateful and demonising ways.

“Another major sin... is the action of supporting the disbelievers against the Muslims. Supporting the disbelievers against the Muslims is in fact kufr, it is disbelief...

¹⁷ <http://tifrib.com/abdurraheem-green/>

¹⁸ <http://www.siawi.org/article6216.html>

“...For example, slandering and attacking the Muslims unjustly, such as you find many Muslims have done this about the Taliban. Slandering them and attacking them and reviling them based upon news that has come from the disbelieving media, helping the kuffar against the Muslims. This I have to warn you could be an act of kufr brothers and sisters that could take you out of Islam... our alliance and our allegiance is to the believers”.¹⁹

Green also says that when a non Muslim dies he feels no sadness other than that they died without having converted to Islam. He describes Princess Diana and Mother Theresa as “ardent callers to disbelief in Allah”, and laughs about his reaction to Diana dying, because she was a non Muslim.

“I don’t really get very sad when, you know, a non-believer dies, I mean I’m sad they didn’t die a believer, you know, on that level I’m sad, you know.

“We say that when someone who is a non-believer, especially someone who is a caller to disbelief, and I mention, for example, two particular personalities that died recently – Lady Diana and Mother Theresa, both of them ardent callers to disbelief in Allah subhana wa ta’ala, So hamdulillah I remember when my dad came, I actually, I was staying with my parents and my dad came down and told me, you know, early in the morning, you know, that Lady Diana had died, you know... hamdulillah... hamdulillah”.²⁰

In 2006 two pupils from an Islamic school in Australia were expelled after they urinated on a Bible. Teachers from the school told *The Australian* newspaper that one of Abdurraheem Green’s speeches had been shown to students there in which he describes non Muslims as “evil people”. The newspaper also notes that because of his hateful views, Green has been banned from entering Australia.

“In the video, believed to have been taped during a visit in 2003, Green describes Australian non-Muslims as ‘evil people’ and says Muslims in this country must openly criticise Christianity and lure people to Islam.

“If we leave (Muslims) in these (non-Muslim Australian) schools they will be destroyed”.

“You know very well what takes place in these schools ... it is all about evolution, Christmas, Easter, St Valentine’s Day - a barrage. And you expect your children to survive? You think you live in a sewer and you come up smelling of roses?

19 <http://tifrib.com/abdurraheem-green/>

20 <http://tifrib.com/abdurraheem-green/>

“Merely living in the company of evil people will inevitably begin to rub off on us and we will begin to acquire their characteristics”.²¹

In another speech, Green talks about the need for Muslims to make dawah to non-Muslims. He describes all non-Muslims as being “sick”.

“Even though there’s so many non-Muslims that we have to give dawah to... these are people, they are sick, and they are misguided you know, they need our help. This is how we should look at it I think”.²²

Green believes that a non-Muslim “kafir” must never be shown any sign of respect by a Muslim.

“So to show that type of excessive respect by standing up for someone when they come in, let alone to call them your eminence, your honour, because to honour a kafir is not correct. It’s not correct”.²³

Gays, Women, Sexuality, Slavery

On the subject of sexual relationships Green is outspoken about his hatred of homosexuals, advocates sex with slave women and favours stoning for adultery.

In a blog from 2006, Green says that Islam permits a man to have sex with a slave woman.

“Sexual relations were permitted between a man and his female slaves. It should be mentioned that sex in general is not considered a bad or evil thing in Islam. It is a lawful pleasure for both men and women. It is however restricted by certain parameters. One of the restrictions is that it must be within the confines of marriage, with the exception above”.²⁴

Green refers to gays as “evil” and “vile”. “Better to use a more derogatory term like sodomites” when speaking about gay people he says.

“...I don’t like to use this word ‘gay’. This word ‘gay’, to use it is already to be fooled by the propaganda of these people, OK? This word is used in order to make this evil and vile act acceptable in society. They should be called at least homosexuals... Better to use a more derogatory term like sodomites, this is a

21 <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/islamic-boys-told-of-evil-aussies/story-e6frg6nf-1111112646557>

22 <http://tifrib.com/abdurraheem-green/>

23 Ibid

24 http://www.islamsgreen.org/islams_green/2006/03/slavery_in_isla.html

better term. Sodomite refers, and therefore automatically brings to mind, in the minds of the people, Sodom and Gomorrah which are the two towns to which Allah sent the Prophet Lut alaihis-salam, who indulged, and they were the first people to indulge in this evil and vile act which Allah severely criticised and condemned in the Quran".²⁵

In a blog, Green says women should be stoned to death for adultery. "Adultery is punishable by death, and a slow and painful death by stoning". He also says that homosexuals should face a similar punishment: "All of this also goes some way to help understand why acts of homosexuality are similarly treated so harshly".

"All this applies also to the matter of stoning the adulterer and adulteress to death. Islam has placed great emphasis on protecting and safeguarding the family. It is in fact the structure on which the well-being of society rests..... Adultery is punishable by death, and a slow and painful death by stoning. It is indicative of just how harmful this crime is to society. This is more so because in order for the crime to be proven the adulterers need seen performing the act by four reliable witnesses!

"There is another direction from which the wisdom of such a punishment can be understood, and that is the death of two criminals can prevent the death and agony of many innocents. There is no doubt that adultery has caused many a jilted partner to kill not only the partner but in some instances the children as well. This is the harm that we can measure and see. It is more than likely that the psychological effects on the jilted partner, the children and their families is extensive, and can lead to behavioural problems that ultimately affect the well-being of the whole society! The 'harm' of the punishment for adultery is offset by the need of the 'benefit' and protects the wider society. All of this also goes some way to help understand way acts of homosexuality are similarly treated so harshly".²⁶

In another speech he explains: "Why you stone the adulterer and the adulteress to death"?

"We want to create an environment where it is encouraging people to be good, otherwise what is the point in the hudood? [Hudood laws are the bounds of acceptable behaviour and the punishments for serious crimes.] What is the hudood? Why you chop the hand off the thief? Why you stone the adulterer and the adulteress to death? Why do you chop the hand and the leg of the one who commits highway robbery and leave them to bleed to death or crucify

25 http://www.islamsgreen.org/islams_green/2006/02/terrible_and_br.html

26 Ibid.

them? All of this is to deter the people from being evil and committing evil. Why is the person who drinks alcohol, who is a drunk, whipped eighty times in public? All of this is to deter the people from being evil".²⁷

Women

Green states that wife beating is acceptable as long as it is not too violent.

"So if your relationship is like that (links hands) then you turn your back on your wife, your wife is gonna feel sad and she's gonna relent to that. Even if this after some time does not work then the husband is allowed, to prevent her from evil, to apply some type of physical force. This is a type of very light beating. In fact, as some scholars mentioned it is to hit with the miswack, but what we know from the prophet is this type of beating is not allowed to leave any type of mark. It is not allowed to break the skin, does not allow to break a bone or even leave a mark on the skin. A beating that is that severe is forbidden and this is a type of assault, and is haram, and a crime in Islam to treat your wife like that. But a type of physical reprimand in order to bring her to goodness is allowed".²⁸

Green also believes that "free mixing" between men and women should never be allowed, and cites this as a reason for adultery being "justly punished with severity".

"Also free mixing between sexes is avoided, men and women should not have physical contact and men and women should not even be alone together (unless they are husband and wife, or from close relatives who are permanently forbidden in marriage). Again in this context adultery is inexcusable, and justly punished with severity".²⁹

Democracy / Secularism

Green believes that democracy is not compatible with Islam and characterises it as essentially unholy and evil.

"What is democracy? You know what democracy is? It means the rule of the people. It means the people the sovereignty is with, not Allah, with the people. It means the people decide what is halal and what is haram. It means the people decide what is the laws we should follow and what the laws we should not follow. That is democracy, the rule of the people.

27 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1sfqpOluJA>

28 <http://tifrib.com/abdurraheem-green/>

29 http://www.islamsgreen.org/islams_green/2006/02/terrible_and_br.html

“Who knows, maybe they’ll make it law to kill Muslims? Why not? If enough of them say yes... ‘votes, yes, fifty percent, sixty percent’...that’s it, it’s the law now. Democracy.

“Let us ask if democracy means that sovereignty is with the people, that the people have the right to decide what’s halal and haram, and it’s up to them, then no Muslim with any mustard seeds worth of iman can agree with this.

“So on the basic very philosophical level we have to say Islam is not compatible with democracy. If we mean by democracy that people have the right to legislate and people have sovereignty”.³⁰

Green asserts that democracy and secularism cannot be reconciled with Islam because Islam cannot be a private faith and that it is incumbent on all Muslims to reject secularism and strive to implement Sharia law.

“...so therefore every Muslim has to try to implement the shariah completely as much as they are able in their life, both individually as individuals and collectively as nations. We have to implement the shariah both individually and collectively because Islam is a complete way of life. It is a deen, it is a deen. This word that they use ‘religion’, you have to understand the word that is used, ‘religion’, does not sufficiently describe Islam. Because when the people in the West, which you have to remember is a secular society, they talk about religion, they have something already programmed in their mind. To them religion is something that is your own personal affair, it’s your own personal business. You go to the church, you go to the synagogue, you go to the gurdwara, you go to the mosque, in their idea that’s it. Your religion is something in your own personal life. But as for government, as for rulership, as for the laws through which and by which we live, then that is not, in their mind, in the realm of religion. This is not the case with Islam at all”.³¹

30 <http://tifrib.com/abdurraheem-green/>

31 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8kBSPdCtQc>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1sfqpOluJA>

Hamza Tzortzis

Hamza Tzortzis is a founder and leading speaker of iERA.

Hizb ut Tahrir

Tzortzis is a former member of the Islamist group Hizb ut Tahrir, which is categorised as a hate group.³²

The draft constitution of an ideal Islamic state according to Hizb ut Tahrir includes killing apostates from Islam and the absolute segregation of women.³³

Tzortzis has never explained on record why he left Hizb ut Tahrir, therefore without this it is impossible to gauge how his worldview differs from them now.

What is clear, however, is that Tzortzis has expressed beliefs that are absolutely at one with the ideas and prejudices of Hizb ut Tahrir.

Tzortzis has said that “Muslims reject the idea of freedom of speech”.

“We as Muslims reject the idea of freedom of speech, and even the idea of freedom. We see under the Khilafa (caliphate), when people used to engage in a positive way, this idea of freedom was redundant, it was unnecessary, because the society understood under the education system of the Khilafa state, and under the political framework of Islam, that people must engage with each other in a positive and productive way to produce results, as the Qur’an says, to get to know one another. Whereas in this society, what they call debate and positive discourse is printing cartoons”.³⁴

In September 2013 Tzortzis debated alongside Faraz Nomani, one of the leaders of Hizb ut Tahrir in Australia.³⁵

In a Facebook post, Nomani described how he had spent several days with Tzortzis discussing many things, including “Islamic revival, politics, Khilafah, groups working for Khilafah”.³⁶

Clearly, despite claiming to have left the hate group Hizb ut Tahrir, Tzortzis actively promotes their leaders and works alongside them.

32 <http://www.hamzatzortzis.com/clarifications-and-responses/not-a-member-of-hizb/>
<http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/hate-groups/ht/>

33 <http://www.pickledpolitics.com/pictures/documents/Hizb%20ut%20Tahrir%20Constitution.html>

34 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOW4Mk1QK84>

35 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EofCjK3eXB0>

36 <http://i.imgur.com/xJ5JMEf.jpg>

Death to Ex-Muslims

In an online discussion in 2011, Tzortzis was asked:

“Death penalty for apostasy, death penalty for blasphemy, right? Islam condones a death penalty for both of those crimes, right?”

He replied “Yes it does, yes”.

He then said that beheading would be a painless method for killing ex-Muslims.³⁷

Homosexuality

In a blog, Tzortzis compared homosexuality to cannibalism and necrophilia and asserted how he believes that it should be a criminal act.³⁸

In a video, Tzortzis attempted to explain his comments about freedom of speech and homosexuality. In doing so he avoided answering what he thinks should happen in an “ideal” Islamic state if two men openly admit to having sex with each other on a regular basis. He states simply that he is not currently calling for violence against homosexuals, though he also says that Sharia, which prescribes violent punishment for homosexuality, is timeless. His explanation should be seen as a rhetorical sleight of hand to avoid addressing the implications of the hatred propounded by the iERA activists.³⁹

Child Marriage

In a debate in Australia, Tzortzis laid down the criteria by which he said the marriage of a female child would be permissible.

“Number 1. Is she physically fit? Number 2. Is she emotionally ready? Number 3. Is she mentally ready? Number 4. Is this socially acceptable?”⁴⁰

Sharia Punishments

In a debate held at Birmingham University in 2009 Tzortzis refused to condemn punishments such as stoning and amputation, and asserted that secular societies are inferior to societies regulated by Islamic laws.⁴¹

37 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WhnfM8wR9g>

38 <http://tifrib.com/hamza-andreas-tzortzis/>

39 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lh5yhwpNHbo>

40 <http://bensix.wordpress.com/2013/09/30/dawhat/>

41 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GjAq0FLZec>

The Boston bomber and The Merciful Servant

In 2013 The Sunday Times reported that one of the Boston Bombers Tamerlan Tsarnaev subscribed to a London-based YouTube channel called “The Merciful Servant” that hosted videos of speeches by Hamza Tzortzis and one of the patrons of iERA, Zakir Naik. The channel promoted propaganda about the need for an Islamic Caliphate and featured imagery with Jihadi themes. Journalists discovered that this YouTube channel was registered to the same business centre on the North Circular Road, northwest London, that is the headquarters of iERA and that the owner of the channel Hasan Sarwar actually had his office on the same floor as iERA. *The Sunday Times* reported that “the organisations deny that they are linked”.⁴²

Adnan Rashid

Adnan Rashid is a senior lecturer and researcher at the iERA.

Sharia Law and Apostasy

Rashid says:

“Any Muslim who rejects Sharia Law apostatises from Islam. A Muslim has no choice but to accept Sharia and submit to it”.⁴³

Liberal Muslims

Rashid says that Muslims who disagree with theocracy and the political imposition of Sharia laws are “opposing Islam”.

“May Allah guide some of these people with Muslim names who appear to be opposing Islam. They are either very ignorant or are a bunch of hypocrites, pretending to be Muslims”.⁴⁴

It is important to note that in positioning non-Islamist Muslims as “outside the fold of Islam” he renders them liable to the punishments that according to Salafi and Wahaabi versions of Islam apostates are worthy of.

42 http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1248895.ece#next

43 <https://www.facebook.com/MrAdnanRashid/posts/640512389320213>

44 <https://www.facebook.com/MrAdnanRashid/posts/601781913193261>

Rape, Marital Rape and Honour

Rashid believes that rape of women in non Islamic societies is caused by mixing of women and men in offices and everyday life.

“With this freedom comes a price and many pay by their honour”.

Rashid also explains why marital rape is not a problem in Muslim societies:

“Women in the Muslim world are generally not raped by their husbands because they don’t usually refuse to have intimacy with them”.⁴⁵

Saleem Chagtai

Saleem Chagtai is the head of public relations for iERA.

Ex-Muslims

Chagtai believes that apostates from Islam deserve to be killed.

“If you want to leave Islam, then that is considered pretty much one of the worst things that you can do, so it is definitely not allowed, it is seen as a kind of act of treason....if a person makes that open and shouts it from the rooftops then that is dealt with pretty much in the way of treason”.

Chagtai says however that in an ideal Islamic world, punishment of ex-Muslims “only” takes place after a legal process:

“The person is given the chance to repent, to think about what they are doing, and really, given that it is a capital offence, then really only a person who wants to be a martyr or a lunatic would actually go and advocate, ‘yes I have left the religion and am open about it’”.⁴⁶

Abdul Hakim Quick and Gays

Chagtai defended the cleric Abdul Hakim Quick who said that homosexuals should be put to death:

45 <https://www.facebook.com/MrAdnanRashid/posts/105375629605436>

46 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjGQ_k_QWvQ&feature=youtu.be

“We see from the human experience that if we don’t have harsh deterrents against public displays of sexuality ... the ramifications of a lack of morality can cause lots of problems in society”.⁴⁷

Secularism and Democracy

Chagtai believes that any Muslim who believes in secularism, and rejects theocratic states is engaging in “disbelief”:

“Calling for secularism and democracy over and above the established shariah is disbelief as is doubting the obligation of hijab”.⁴⁸

Mohammad Al-Arefe and Hope not Hate

In 2013, Saleem Chaghtai commented on the entry into Britain of an “Islamic scholar” from Saudi Arabia called Mohammad Al-Arefe.

In June 2013 the anti-fascist campaign group Hope Not Hate said that it was monitoring Al-Arefe because of the risk he posed by spreading a message of hatred towards Shias.

“Senior Muslim leaders in Britain have expressed concerns that a controversial Saudi preacher who arrived in London this week could exacerbate sectarian tensions. According to a really good piece on *The Huffington Post*, they feared Mohammad Al-Arefe’s presence could ‘negatively impact the peaceful co-existence amongst the Muslim community’.

“While many people look just at the extremism on the right wing, it is important to also monitor those who deliberately stoke sectarian tensions within the Muslim communities too”.⁴⁹

Muhammad Al-Arefe and Sexual Abuse

Al-Arefe gave a fatwa on his television show saying that young girls should not dress immodestly in front of their fathers as fathers are men with sexual needs, which places them as victims to their daughters’ beauty. In the programme, he says:

47 <http://www.charlatan.ca/2011/11/u-t-seminar-series-causes-concern/>

48 <http://forums.islamicawakening.com/f17/usama-hasan-quilliam-hes-wahabi-sufi-he-12106-print/index30.html>

49 <http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/blog/nick/article/2780/muslim-leaders-fear-rise-in-sectarian-tensions-over-saudi-preacher-mohammad-al-arefe-uk-visit>

“Um Sara mentioned that someone is sexually harassing her daughter and there’s no doubt that this is a type of sexual perversion, we seek refuge in God, and it’s a type of obscenity. But the girl is also obliged not to wear scandalous clothes in front of their dads. Oh, people, some girls are youthful and have beautiful figures, and decide to wear tight clothing, or tight trousers, and short tops and wear them in front of their fathers. She needs to realise that her father is also a youth! He may feel sexually attracted to his daughter, we seek refuge in God, and when he shakes her hand or kisses her or hugs her, the devil might push him to act upon his desires. So I urge this girl and other girls, if they are young, not to wear bad clothes in front of her father, or reveal her chest or anything like that, just because he’s her father, fact is that father is still a man. So she should not wear tight clothes. The other issue is, she should not be alone with her father. They should not sit alone in a room. She must make sure her mother is present or her siblings are present, until God makes things easier for her and she gets married”.⁵⁰

Al-Arefe and Female Genital Mutilation

In February 2014 al-Arefe stated that Female Genital Mutilation is “a noble act to do to women”, and that objections to the practise are simply on the grounds of circumcision doing too much damage to the genitals of a girl, rather than it being wrong in principle.⁵¹

Al-Arefe’s anti-Semitism and support for wife beating

Al Arefe has also been banned from entering Switzerland because of anti-Semitic comments and for his endorsement of wife beating.⁵²

iERA support for Al-Arefe

Al Arefe was embraced by iERA on his visit to the UK, with Saleem Chagtai in particular praising him, noting that Al-Arefe was interested in evangelising Islam to non-Muslims.

“Sheikh al-Arifi also joined members of IERA in their street dawah stalls in London on Tuesday and have welcomed him to participate in their activities. IERA followers have also shown support for the renowned Saudi scholar on social media who has over five million followers on Twitter. Numerous Salafi orientated organizations have also welcomed Sheikh al-Arifi. Media spokesman for IERA, Saleem Chagtai said to 5 Pillar: ‘We welcome Sheikh al-Arifi as he

50 <http://www.councilofexmuslims.com/index.php?topic=24432.0>

51 pic.twitter.com/8cB97TG7jV

52 <http://www.arabnews.com/news/452987>

is arguably the most popular scholar in social media with millions of Twitter followers. Given the sheikh is so popular in the East, it makes sense that he comes to the West to see what the unique challenges Muslims are facing here. I met him personally and he is a jovial and affable character masha'Allah and is interested in giving dawah to non-Muslims".⁵³

Yusuf Chambers

Yusuf Chambers is a founding member of iERA.

Death Penalty for Homosexuality

In an interview with Zakir Naik, Chambers asks him what the punishment for homosexuality should be. Naik replied: "So homosexuality is forbidden in Islam and the punishment for homosexuality is death". Chambers accepts Naik's definition.

Stoning to death for adultery

In the same interview, Chambers engages in further discussion which ends with him endorsing Naik's comment about how adulterers should be stoned to death and saying "May Allah allow us to bring back that punishment to protect all humanity".

"Dr Naik: That means if any man or woman who is not married, if they have unlawful sexual intercourse, the punishment is 100 lashes, flogging them with 100 lashes... So the punishment for adultery, unlawful sexual intercourse done by married man is Islam, it is stoning to death....

"Yusuf Chambers: Well, Dr. Zakir, I feel that those 2 punishments were enough to frighten the most of the individuals from Zina [adultery]. May Allah protect us from that.

"Dr. Naik: That's in Islamic country but the punishment is not there in a non-Muslim country.

"Yusuf Chambers: Ahaa...

"Dr. Naik: So If it's put throughout the world, InshaAllah, Zina would be removed from the face of the earth.

53 <http://www.5pillarz.com/2013/06/20/sheikh-arifis-arrival-in-the-uk-divides-opinion/>

“Yusuf Chambers: InshaAllah.

“Dr. Naik: InshaAllah.

“Yusuf Chambers: May Allah allow us to bring back that punishment to protect all humanity, InshaAllah”.⁵⁴

Protests against Chambers at York University

Chamber’s comments caused significant protests when he was invited by the Islamic Society of York University to speak on campus in 2012. Chambers refused to answer any questions on his comments about gay people. It was noted that the Islamic Society of York University had to remove hate comments about gay people from its website.⁵⁵

A former LGBT Officer for York University Student Union taking part in the protest said that allowing Chambers to speak served to legitimise his presence.

“The university and YUSU were ‘passively supporting’ his other activities by providing him with a platform”.⁵⁶

Chambers on a platform with a preacher who advocates stoning, amputation and death to gays

In May 2013 Chambers appeared on a stage with a Norwegian preacher called Fahad Qureshi. Qureshi asks his audience to consider if they agree with strict Sharia punishments like stonings, amputations, and the execution of gays. The audience members raise their hands and Qureshi states that this is normative Islam.⁵⁷

54 <http://pt.slideshare.net/munafghori1/zakir-naik-ramadan-episode23><http://tifrib.com/zakir-naik/>
<http://hurryupharry.org/2012/06/11/it-cant-just-be-on-the-students-the-university-and-unions-must-act/>

55 <http://www.nouse.co.uk/2012/06/19/isoc-defends-yusuf-chambers-event-2/>

56 <http://theyorker.co.uk/news/campus/11677-anger-as-extremist-islamic-speaker>

57 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bV710c1dgpU>

Zakir Naik

Zakir Naik has been listed as an advisor to the iERA. He is an Islamic evangelist from India and head of the Islamic Research Foundation.⁵⁸

He is the president of Peace TV, an Islamic tele-evangelist channel that broadcasts around the world. Abduraheem Green, one of the leaders of the iERA appears regularly on Peace TV.⁵⁹

Links between Peace TV and Wahaabi Islamism

Peace TV is subsidised by donors from Saudi Arabia to promote the fundamentalist Wahaabi school of Islam.

“It is possible to identify three goals of the Saudi-funded Islamic TV channels.

“The first goal of these channels is to drive a wedge between Muslims and non-Muslims and create a narrow, sectarian binding identity for Muslims, brainwashing them towards a Saudi version of Islam;

“The second goal is to strip away the diverse and rich cultural heritage of Muslims world-wide by condemning and ridiculing their syncretic spiritual practices. The aim is to create a stark, monochromatic and intolerant version of Islam as per which all other faiths or sects are deviant or heretic;

“The third goal of these channels is to encourage hatred and physical violence against all those diverse sects of Islam, e.g., Sufi / Bareilvi, moderate Deobandis, Bohras, Isna Asharis, Ahmadis etc, which do not conform to the official Saudi version”.⁶⁰

Naik’s ban from entering Britain – terrorism, anti-Semitism, blaming rape victims for their own rape

Zakir Naik was banned from entering Britain in 2010. The Home Secretary Theresa May said:

“I have excluded Dr Naik from the UK. Numerous comments made by Dr Naik are evidence to me of his unacceptable behaviour”.

58 <http://www.irf.net/>

59 http://www.iera.org.uk/speakers_arg.html

60 <http://lubpak.com/archives/64365>

Amongst cited statements were suggesting that every Muslim should be a terrorist, anti-Semitism, and blaming victims of rape for their own rape.

“Home Office sources said Dr Naik had been filmed on a website making inflammatory comments such as “every Muslim should be a terrorist.

“He said: ‘When a robber sees a policeman he’s terrified. So for a robber, a policeman is a terrorist. So in this context, every Muslim should be a terrorist to the robber’.

“He has also been filmed saying: ‘There are many Jews who are good to Muslims, but as a whole ... The Koran tells us, as a whole, they will be our staunchest enemy’.

“In a web posting from 2006 he said: ‘Beware of Muslims saying Osama Bin Laden is right or wrong. I reject them ... we don’t know’.

“But if you ask my view, if given the truth, if he is fighting the enemies of Islam, I am for him. I don’t know what he’s doing. I’m not in touch with him. I don’t know him personally. I read the newspaper.

“If he is terrorising the terrorists, if he is terrorising America the terrorist, the biggest terrorist, every Muslim should be a terrorist.

“He is also reported to have said suggested that western women make themselves ‘more susceptible to rape’ by wearing revealing clothing.

“He reportedly said: ‘Western society has actually degraded [women] to the status of concubines, mistresses and social butterflies, who are mere tools in the hands of pleasure seekers and sex marketeers’”.⁶¹

Ex-Muslims should be killed

In 2013 the British broadcasting regulator OFCOM fined Peace TV after it broadcast Zakir Naik saying ex-Muslims should be killed.

“One group of scholars, they say that if a Muslim, if he becomes a non-Muslim [inaudible] he should be put to death. There is another group of scholars who say that if a Muslim becomes a non-Muslim and propagates his new faith against Islam then he should be put to death. I tend to agree more with the second group of scholars, who say that a Muslim, if he becomes a non-Muslim

61 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/7836557/Home-secretary-Theresa-May-bans-radical-preacher-Zakir-Naik-from-entering-UK.html>

and propagates his new faith against Islam, that is the time this penalty is applied".⁶²

Zakir Naik has repeatedly stated that those who leave and criticise Islam should be killed.⁶³

Islamic Supremacism

Naik also gave a speech at a conference in which he expressed Islamic supremacist ideas:

"Islam the religion of truth will prevail over all the other ways of life whether it be Communism, Secularism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism. Islam is destined to supersede all, to master them all, to overcome them all".⁶⁴

Yusuf Estes

Yusuf Estes is an American preacher.

He has stated that the punishment for homosexuality and adultery is death by stoning.

"Scholars of Islam have already made it clear what the position is on those who engage in homosexual activities.

"In order to maintain the purity of the Muslim society, most Muslim scholars have ruled that the punishment for this act should be the same as for zina (i.e. one hundred whiplashes for the man who has never married, and death by stoning for the married man). Some have even ruled that it should be death for both partners, because the Prophet, sallallahu alayhe wa sallam, said: 'Kill the doer and the one to whom it was done'.⁶⁵

62 <http://www.councilofexmuslims.com/index.php?topic=23705.0>

63 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coux2mS4tbg>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDE0z42wpr4>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRI5c-xPVA0>

64 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmnBwewCOLo>

65 <http://www.petertatchell.net/religion/ibis-hotel-hosts-hate-preachers.htm>

Hussain Ye

Hussain Ye is an Islamic preacher from Malaysia. He has spoken about how Jews “are the most extremist nation in this world”:

“Because the Jews, they have gone so far against Allah’s commands. They like to do a lot of things that are very extreme. The most extremist nation in this world is the Jews. So if they used ‘extremists’, it doesn’t apply to Muslims. It applies to the Jews. They are the extremists in the world”.⁶⁶

Abdullah Hakim Quick

Abdullah Hakim Quick is an American preacher of Islam.

Hate Speech against Gays

In 2004 the New Zealand broadcasting regulator explicitly described Quick as having engaged in hate speech against gays. The adjudication said:

“Voice of Islam was broadcast on 29 September 2003 at 3.00pm on Triangle Television. During the programme, Brother Abdullah Hakim Quick addressed viewers about ‘Challenges Facing Muslims in the New Millennium’. Toward the conclusion of the lecture, Brother Quick expressed views about homosexuality. In summary, he said:

- “AIDS is caused by the ‘filthy practices’ of homosexuals
- Homosexuals are dropping dead from AIDS and ‘they want to take us all down with them’
- The Islamic position on homosexuality is ‘death’
- Homosexuals are ‘sick’ and ‘not natural’
- Muslims are going to have to take a stand [against homosexuals] and it’s not enough to call names.”

The Complaint against the programme said his comments were “deeply disturbing” and described the dialogue as “a hateful and bitter diatribe against homosexuals”:

“When a Muslim Cleric is being broadcast, inciting hatred and intolerance to an audience that may be 40-50,000 strong, you need to take notice! You are

66 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmpCh_HBr_Y

a public access channel, and that means you have a public responsibility to be alert to the nature of the material you allow to be broadcast...

"...This kind of thing is insidious, and if allowed to proceed unchallenged, could in time develop unstoppable momentum, and ultimately sweep away the quality and freedom of life that you and I take for granted..."

The complaint was upheld, and specified that Quick's comments represented hate speech that could be interpreted as incitement.

"The Authority has ruled, on a number of occasions that a high threshold applies before a broadcast contravenes Guideline 6g. For a breach to occur, the Authority has required that a broadcast actually encourage denigration or discrimination. In the Authority's view, the threshold was clearly crossed on this occasion. The comments made in the programme were extreme and the Authority considers that they are aptly described as 'hate speech'. They went far beyond mere criticism of those with a homosexual orientation. Of particular concern, the speaker advocated death for homosexuals and suggested that Muslims should take an active stand against them, which a viewer might have interpreted as an incitement to violence".⁶⁷

Gays should be executed

In another speech, Quick says that gays should be put to death:

"They said [what is the Islamic position on homosexuality?] And I told them: Put my name in the paper. The Punishment is death. And I am not going to change this religion".⁶⁸

Jews are "filth"

Quick has also described Jews as "filth". In 2010 Peter Tatchell raised the issue of him speaking at Kings College, London.

"Gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell accused him of 'coming close' to advocating violence against gays and said university bosses were too 'weak and cowardly' to prevent such clerics visiting campuses.

67 http://bsa.govt.nz/decisions/3235-clayton-and-triangle-television-ltd-2004-001?search_terms=Abdullah+Hakim+Quick&exact=true

68 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbiQchsF4cc>

“He said: ‘The failure of many university authorities to take a stand against homophobic and anti-Semitic clerics is complicity with fundamentalism and radicalisation. It is collusion with the gateways to terrorism’.”⁶⁹

Salim al-Amry

Salim al-Amry is a preacher from the United Arab Emirates and is an advisor to iERA.

Death to Gays

He has said that the punishment for gays is death.

“Homosexuality. Homosexuality, the punishment for it, homosexuality in Islam, is capital punishment. Allah subahanahu wa ta’ala he destroyed the town of Sudum where the people of Lut lived, because they were doing anal, they were involved in that shameful deed.

“And now, in this Jahiliyyah civilisation it is something legal. And now they are teaching homosexuality in schools. So, don’t be surprised if your little son comes and says, ‘Daddy, I’m homo.’ Because that is the system you are living in”.⁷⁰

Non Muslims are “kuffar”

Salim al-Amry also speaks hatefully about non Muslims (using homophobic bigotry) and chastises Muslims who integrate into non Islamic societies. He refers to non Muslims as ‘kuffar’.

“We have answers for the social problems. They have a problem. Give them the solution they don’t have. Most of their men are homosexuals, gays. So who will marry their women? What solution do they have?

“And that we receive lame excuses from the Muslims because they are so content and complacent by living among the kuffar when they are losing their children... If you just smack your little boy, your little child, and he raises the phone, that child is gone forever...and we find people they are trying to justify their stay among the kuffar. Make it one, the first priority on your agenda to make the hijrah. Brothers I will not compromise and I will not, I mean, hide

69 <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2010/02/25/homophobic-and-anti-semitic-preacher-invited-to-london-university/>

70 <http://tifrib.com/salim-al-amry/>

the truth. The prophet () made it very clear, he said 'I wash my hands of every Muslim who lives among the mushriks.' And he said 'Anyone who revert to Islam, Allah will not accept from him any deed until he leaves the mushrik and joins the Muslims.' Muhammad () said this. So now it's up to you to think about it. Put a plan, I will move after one year, two years, three years, five years, but it's there, that I'm not going to stay forever".⁷¹

Shady Suleiman

Shady Suleiman is an Australian preacher.

Homosexuality is a disease, adultery to be punished by death

In 2011, Outrage protested against an iERA event being held at the Ibis Hotel in Earls Court, London. Peter Tatchell quoted from a speech in which Suleiman said that homosexuality is "spreading all these diseases" and ideally sex outside marriage should be punished with 100 lashes. He also states that adultery should be punished by death.

"Also homosexuality that's spreading all these diseases. Let's not deny the fact. Don't call it the name of freedom. Don't talk about freedom and, you know, this is the freedom of action and we could do whatever we want. It doesn't mean that freedom of action you destroy a nation. These are evil actions that bring evil outcomes to our society... Remember that if there is an Islamic state the punishment of zina (sex outside marriage), the punishment of those who commit zina, if they have never been married before, they will be lashed 100 lashes. If they are married while they committed zina, or previously been married and divorced, and they committed zina, then their punishment is stoning to death".⁷²

Bilal Philips

Bilal Philips is a Canadian preacher. He is an advisor to iERA.

Banned from Australia as unindicted co-conspirator in terrorist case

In 2007 he was banned from entering Australia. *The Herald Sun* reported:

71 <http://tifrib.com/salim-al-amry/>

72 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJuSwwsAVHo>
<http://www.petertatchell.net/religion/ibis-hotel-hosts-hate-preachers.htm>

“The US Government named him as an ‘unindicted co-conspirator’ in the 1993 bombing that killed six people and injured 1000. He was deported from the US in 2004”.⁷³

Homosexuality

Philips says that gays should be put to death and compares homosexuality to bestiality.

“In Islamic Law, the punishment for homosexuality is no different from the punishment for adultery and fornication. It can be death. It’s looked at as a deviation, just as if somebody is involved in bestiality. It is a punishment for deviant behaviour which threatens the family structure of the society”.⁷⁴

Philips has repeatedly stated the idea that gays should be executed. In 2011 he was expelled from Germany for his homophobic hate speech. In 2013 he was allowed back into Germany after appealing the decision.⁷⁵

The Toronto Star notes that on the same day of the Gay Pride parade in the city, Philips spoke at a conference in which he said that: “that homosexuals caught in the act should be executed in countries governed by Islamic law”.⁷⁶

In one of his speeches, Philips questions the reason why he is unfairly judged by gay people for his commentary, which reiterates that they deserve death, and seemingly suggests that for gays to ask for tolerance and respect is an unreasonable request.

“...Islamic law says that if you’re caught in the act in an Islamic state, you will be executed. If you’ve been seen by four witnesses etc. execution – that’s the law...So I’ve attacked the homosexuals according to their judgement because it is not for them, it’s not enough to say ‘Well OK we accept you, you have the right to make your choice’ no, they’re saying ‘Don’t even say anything against us. Not only toleration, we want to be respected and liked’”.⁷⁷

73 <http://austrolabe.com/2007/04/09/exclusive-interview-with-dr-bilal-philips/>

74 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AerCqUUxiUo>

75 <http://www.dw.de/germany-expels-openly-homophobic-imam/a-6510494-1>
<http://blog.islamiconlineuniversity.com/germany-says-welcome-to-dr-bilal-philips-again/>

76 http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2011/07/03/speaker_at_islamic_conference_reiterates_antigay_view_during_pride_parade.html

77 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_PIUPXxcL4

Anti-Semitism

Philips has also engaged in disparaging hate speech against Jews, suggesting that Jewish people are intrinsically bad and that they are a model of all things that a Muslim should not be.

“Every time he (Allah) tells us something about the Jews, we should not (merely) take it as a piece of information, that the Jews are this and that. No! Whenever he tells us something about the Jews, we should see in it a warning to ourselves – that we don’t become like them”.⁷⁸

Child Marriage

Philips has also justified child marriage:

“If a Muslim man in his 50’s, even today, wanted to marry a young woman who was nine or ten, and she had reached puberty, it is legitimate”.⁷⁹

Female Genital Mutilation

Philips has also said that Female Genital Mutilation is permissible.

“Does Islam support or allow female circumcision? Yes, but in a very limited or at a very limited scale...taking only a small portion from the end of the clitoris, this is all that is really permissible from Islamic perspective”.⁸⁰

Domestic Violence

Philips justifies wife beating.

“It is true that the Sharee’ah does permit a husband to hit his wife..... the intent of this beating is not inflicting pain and punishment but merely to bring the woman back to her senses and re-establish authority in the family”.⁸¹

Ex-Muslims

Philips endorses the principle that those who leave Islam can be put to death.

78 <http://www.scribd.com/doc/20362851/Hardening-Heart-II>

79 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SfUKGp4iMg>

80 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r74dvMkNjqE>

81 <https://www.facebook.com/DrBilalPhilips/posts/10150958706834089>

“Apostasy encourages the rejection of law and order in society. One who personally abandons the faith and leaves the country would not be hunted down and assassinated. The death penalty discourages those who might think to join the religion in order to undermine it from within. Western Civilization executes its citizens for giving away state secrets something material. Islamic law prescribes the death penalty for something far more serious. Rebellion against God is a far greater crime than rebellion against state secrets”.⁸²

Non Muslims

Philips has also stated in a speech that Muslims should not live as neighbours with non Muslims.

“So, hijra, it doesn’t necessarily mean leave the UK. It means establishing here, first and foremost, where you are, Muslim Town. You heard of Chinatown? Well you need to think about Muslim Town. Yes, people could say ‘That’s Bradford, we have one already.’ No, no. Bradford is not the place of hijra. Bradford is by default. Right? Muslims gathered there by default. This was not something deliberate where they chose to make hijra for the sake of Allah”.

In other narrations he mentions that: “you should not see their fires nor should they see yours. Of course in those days it had to do with setting up your tent or your house and fires was what was used to illuminate the houses at night, lamps. Meaning that your neighbours, those who live around you, should be Muslims. You should not live, and all of your neighbours front, back, sides, are non-Muslims. That is not the way to live. That is wrong. It is wrong. It is not permissible for a Muslim to live like that”.⁸³

Haitham al Haddad

Haitham al Haddad is an advisor to iERA and appears regularly as a speaker at their events. Based in London, he is a judge at the Islamic Sharia Council.

Female Genital Mutilation

Haddad has said that Female Genital Mutilation is not just acceptable, but obligatory according to some scholars.

“The sunnah way of doing it, the proper way of doing it, it is the consensus of all the scholars that female circumcision is a sunnah. I haven’t come across any

82 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRB3snGxgns>

83 <http://tifrib.com/bilal-philips/>

scholar who said it clearly that it is not sunnah. All of them they said that it is sunnah, in fact some scholars say it is wajib (obligatory)".⁸⁴

Jews and Christians

He has described Jews and Christians as the "enemies of Allah".⁸⁵

In a sermon he refers to Jews and Christians, describing them as "swine eaters" and "cross worshippers", and saying that for Muslims, hating Jews and Christians is a "necessity". It is also, in his eyes, evil for Muslim children to participate in Christmas celebrations, which he characterises as "shameless" and full of "depravity".⁸⁶

Suicide bombing and Jihad

He believes that criticising suicide bombing is wrong because to do so would be to "nullify" "defensive Jihad" which would mean "the nullification of one of the most serious commandments in this religion".⁸⁷

Haddad considers it a duty of Muslims to engage in Jihad to "fight everyone until they establish the law of Allah".⁸⁸

Domestic Violence

Wife beating is supported by Haddad:

"A man should not be questioned why he, OK, hit his wife because this is something between them. Leave them alone. They can sort out their matters among themselves. And even they said that the husband, the father of the daughter, she is married to a man, he should not ask his daughter why you have been beaten or hit by your husband. Why? Because al-Islam is looking for the bigger picture in order to keep the relationship between the husband and wife together".

In response to a question about domestic violence, Haddad said:

"It depends on the situation. We have to look at the bigger picture. Why? Because so many women who have been divorced they regret it after that. We

84 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM23QsE7Rd4>

85 <http://www.alarabnews.com/alshaab/gif/31-05-2002/a19.htm>

86 <http://www.alminbar.net/alkhutab/khutbaa.asp?mediaURL=6449>

87 <http://theislamicfarrightinbritain.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/hah114.jpg>

88 <http://tifrib.com/jihad/>

see it. I saw it in the Islamic Shariah Council. They regretted that. And because they regret, yeah, sometimes we tell them that you have to be careful. And there is in all legal theories, there is something called the small problem that can be overlooked to avoid bigger problems, small harm that can be overlooked for a bigger harm. So we apply the same thing”.⁸⁹

The Niqab as obligatory in order to prevent integration with non Muslims

Haddad says that women should wear the niqab, because he does not want Muslims to integrate with non Muslims.

“Sisters, I highly recommend that all sisters wear niqab in this country, forget about whether it is obligatory or not.

“If we say so what? Yes it (niqab) is against integration. So what? Why do we need to say ‘no it is not against integration?’ And as long as you are not breaking the law and causing violence and civil disorder, so what? I don’t want to integrate with you. As simple as that”.⁹⁰

Ex-Muslims

Haddad supports the death penalty for ex-Muslims, and even says that “their blood is halal”.⁹¹

Haddad also encourages Muslims to “boycott” anyone who has left Islam.

“If we confirm that this person knowingly and deliberately apostated then generally speaking we say that this person should be boycotted. You should boycott this person because he or she has left the fold of al-Islam willingly, knowingly, deliberately”.⁹²

Sexuality of Women – Stoning to death

Haddad teaches that “fornication” and “adultery” should be punished by death, and specifically by stoning.

89 <http://tifrib.com/2014/03/31/domestic-violence-haitham-al-haddad-mrdf-v-usama-hasan-quilliam/>

90 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_jpPYcX60Q

91 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnTFg0shJkk>

92 <http://tifrib.com/haitham-al-haddad/>

“First of all he said the penalty of death for it, whenever applicable, is done in the harshest manner possible. Which is what? Stoning”.⁹³

Multiculturalism as a means for Islamic Supremacism

Haddad teaches that Islam should seek to govern the whole world, and that multiculturalism should be viewed as a method of achieving Islamic supremacism:

“...the far ultimate aim for Muslims is to have Islam governing the whole world, Islamisation of the whole globe. This is the ultimate aim of any Muslim and of all communities, Muslim communities.

“Jamil Rashid: ‘So, this is what I was going to return to, this is what see, this is what a lot of the so-called skeptics say see. They say that what Shaykh Haitham, what you’re saying is what the aims of this multiculturalism is, which is for Islam to take over. Because Islam now, you’re asking now, you’re saying that ‘Look the problem is that we need to find out what’s actually better for society as a whole.’ So really you’re calling to society to accept Islam, so really this is disguised as multiculturalism. Really it’s not about multiculturalism, it’s about getting Islam into the door. What do you say to that kind of...?’

“Haddad: ‘Even if we say that, what’s wrong with that? Because this is our aim at the end of the day, and I don’t want to react as so many Muslims reacted towards the issue of integration when they had this attack. They said ‘No, no, no we are integrated.’ I don’t want to say ‘No, no, no we are not going to take over’. Our ultimate aim is not a matter of taking over using this terminology, our ultimate aim as Muslims is to have, to see Islam spreading all over the world and to see the word of Allah dominant on the whole globe, because justice will never be achieved unless the word of Allah is dominant”.⁹⁴

Islam as a Political System

In a series of lectures, Haddad states that Muslims must aspire to institute Islamic states so that Islam can be implemented fully, and that this must be the aim of Muslims living in the West.

“What was his [Muhammad] aim? Was it just to give dawah to people so will accept Islam? And then after accepting Islam what? What will happen? No the aim of the prophet is to establish the deen of Allah as we mentioned. Means the aim of the prophet is to make sure that the system ruling in Mecca and

93 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHWtpSBgEQo>

94 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2edCSkw2kk>

elsewhere is the system of Allah, is the law of Allah, is the deen of Allah. That was his aim.

“How can we establish the hudood if we do not have Islamic states? Is the question clear? So we have to have Islamic states in order to establish the hudood. So our ultimate aim is to have an Islamic state. Means our ultimate aim is to have the law of Allah dominant, the system of Allah dominant”.⁹⁵

Ifthekar Jaman

In December 2013 Ifthekar Jaman from Portsmouth was killed in Syria whilst fighting for a Jihadi group called the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS).⁹⁶

This group has engaged in brutal terrorist violence. It seeks to set up an Islamic caliphate in territory that it controls, and its members have engaged in beheadings, amputations and public executions. Shias and Christians have been persecuted by them.⁹⁷ ISIS executed a secular Syrian activist for “apostasy”.⁹⁸

Nine months before being killed in Syria, Ifthekar Jaman was participating in an evangelical event with iERA in Portsmouth city centre.

In a picture posted on his Twitter account on 14 April, Jaman is standing in a group of men, wearing a yellow iERA T-shirt with the slogan ‘Is Life Just a Game?’ He comments under the picture “Us Portsmouth Dawah group & brothers from Newham dawah joined today. Alhamdulillah for shahadahs! Allahu Akbar”.⁹⁹

95 <http://tifrib.com/haitham-al-haddad/>

96 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10524179/British-celebrity-jihadi-and-chef-dies-in-Syria.html>

97 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-26366197>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/02/17/world/meast/syria-isis-leader-videos/>

<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21593462-baghdad-beirut-growing-backlash-against-most-extreme>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10449815/Al-Qaeda-linked-rebels-apologise-after-cutting-off-head-of-wrong-person.html>

98 <https://twitter.com/omarsyria/status/454506661000904704>

<https://twitter.com/omarsyria/status/454510702112165888>

<https://twitter.com/omarsyria/status/454511265067462656>

99 <http://twitpic.com/dp1xg1>

Hassan Farooq

Hassan Farooq is a “senior member” of iERA Newham Dawah team. He can be seen with the killed member of a Syrian al-Qaeda affiliated group, Iftekhhar Jaman, on the picture posted on 14 April 2013 on Jaman’s Twitter account, in Portsmouth, participating in an iERA evangelical mission.¹⁰⁰

After Farooq was chosen to speak at a Holocaust Memorial Day event in London in 2013, it came to light that he had made the following comments praising Hitler and promoting hatred of Jews on Twitter in the past, including the following:

“The Hour will not come until the Muslims kill the Jews”.

“Let’s go Jew bashing”.

“Oh hypocrisy its nothing new you can’t blame him after all he’s a Jew”.

“Solution to Newvics political problem = Hitler. If there’s any brothers out there alike you have my support”

“I look up to Hitler”.

“Hitler: I can kill 10000 by putting them into gas chambers”.

“What we speak about today will be forgotten by tonight, but what we do today will be remembered in history – Adolf Hitler”.

“Allow quoting Gandhi he was an impure Kaffir”.¹⁰¹

Mo Ansar – how supporters of iERA defend a Hate Group

Mohammed Ansar appears in the media occasionally to comment on Islamic issues. In 2011 he chaired a debate at Southampton University between Adnan Rashid of iERA and the Christian minister Clive Thorn. Hamza Tzortzis and Yusuf Chambers spoke later in the week.¹⁰²

Ansar has endorsed iERA propaganda material, and advocated for their positions on a number of issues, including gender segregation.¹⁰³

100 <http://twitpic.com/dp1xg1>

101 <http://www.councilofexmuslims.com/index.php?topic=25872.0>

102 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=544-5j5xzMw>
http://en.anarchopedia.org/Talk:Mohammed_Ansar#Islamic_Education_and_Research_Academy_.28iERA.29

103 <https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/197493242344906752>
<https://twitter.com/moansar/status/297446408729001984>
<https://www.facebook.com/MohammedAnsarUK/posts/438365779572573>
<https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/327865098632851456>

In 2011, OutRage! protested against an event being held by iERA at the Ibis hotel in Earls Court, London. It featured Shaykh Abdullah Hakim Quick, Abduraheem Green, Shaykh Shady Suleiman, Hamza Tzortzis and Yusuf Chambers, all of whose anti-gay hate speech, including some descriptions of gay people being worthy of death, have been covered in this report.¹⁰⁴

In 2012, Mo Ansar came to the defence of iERA and claimed that in opposing the homophobic bigotry of iERA, the gay rights group Outrage! was engaging in a campaign of “Islamophobia”. His apology began with a comment about Peter Tatchell.

“Very difficult to hear the Islamophobe Peter Tatchell speak of morality to animals, when he denies it to Muslims”.

“A Muslim organization called IERA do a massive amount of outreach work to dispel myths and... misconceptions about Muslims which leads to horrific Islamophobia. PT [Peter Tatchell] went out of his way to block a conference..... being organised by them on combatting Islamophobia. He petitioned the hotel and used his website and influence to... activate a mass movement against IERA and the hotel chain. Appalling use of islamophobic language..... and total refusal to engage, discuss at all his actions, or apologise. I sent him a lengthy email to try and mediate”.¹⁰⁵

We contacted Peter Tatchell about Mo Ansar’s apology for iERA and their conference that featured hate preachers who have indulged in violent, murderous rhetoric about LGBT people. This is his response:

“Mo Ansar made the false claim that I used ‘Islamophobic language’. I did not and never have. He should withdraw this accusation and apologise. Together with my OutRage! colleagues, I merely exposed the hateful, homophobic extremism of several iERA speakers, including their collusion with, and promotion of, the idea that LGBT people should be executed. We’ve never made generalised attacks on the Muslim community; only against Islamist fanatics. In addition, Mo Ansar claimed that we refused to ‘engage’. This is also untrue. We received

104 <http://outrage.org.uk/2011/01/ibis-hotel-hosts-anti-gay-hate-preachers/>

105 <https://twitter.com/mysteryhousewyf/status/181331273426546688>
<https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/181332522049880064>
<https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/181335270011052033>
<https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/181335633208422400>
<https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/181337755509456896>
<https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/181337865723187201>
<https://twitter.com/MoAnsar/status/181338114642542595>

no offer at the time of any engagement or dialogue from iERA or Mo Ansar. In any case, why would we want to engage with people who abuse and insult us with foul bigoted language and who want us killed”?

This is a perfect example of how iERA apologists suggest that criticising the hate speech which is normalised by iERA is itself an act of prejudice. Its aim is to seek to prevent scrutiny of their bigotry, in furtherance of their Islamist cause.

In doing so, the language of multiculturalism, of “outreach”, and “diversity” becomes perverted, and is simply used as a way to camouflage the actual beliefs of those who promote prejudices against others. This has become a standard rhetorical strategy of Islamist hate groups in the UK.

Given Mo Ansar’s apologia for iERA he should be scrutinised as to his beliefs more rigorously when he presents himself in the media as a “moderate Muslim” commentator.

Conclusion

Whilst iERA purports to be a missionary-like charitable organisation, it is in fact a “soft Islamist” group. The aim of “soft Islamists” is to act as the Islamist movement’s public relations arm by promoting and normalising Islamist values and norms, including inciting hatred against ex-Muslims, gays, Jews, women, non Muslims and a majority of Muslims who do not share their values. In Britain and the west, groups like iERA use multiculturalism (as a social policy that segregates “communities”) and cultural relativism as well as the rights language of diversity, tolerance and inter-faith dialogue to increase influence and access. Any opposition to their theocratic aims are met with accusations of racism and Islamophobia.

Where they have more influence, society is witness to a rise in everything from women and children wearing burkas, increased gender segregation at universities, legitimisation of Sharia-compliant wills and rules, acceptance of Sharia courts for the “Muslim minority” and the Islamisation of schools and mosques.

Unfortunately, groups like iERA are not analysed sufficiently within a wider context of the international Islamist movement. Their demands for gender-segregation at universities or Sharia-compliant rules are merely seen to be “people’s right to religion” (and are defended as such by many “progressive” groups in Britain rather than understanding the implications of such groups on the increasing influence of Islamist norms in Britain).

The continuum in which extremist ideas are normalised is the area in which the iERA operate. It perpetuates a discourse that normalises hatred in religious terms, and sets the climate for “radicalisation”, bigotry and Islamism to flourish.

This report makes plain that iERA must be classified as a hate group and should have their charitable status withdrawn. These will help bring clarity to their agenda and can be a starting point for a wider investigation of the influence of Islamism in modern Britain.

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