

MUSLIM OPINION LEADERS (MOLs) FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) PREVENTION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA PROJECT THE MUSLIM OPINION LEADERS (MOLS) FOR THE 2024 PEER-TO-PEER STUDY TOUR IN EGYPT ON ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE IN PREVENTING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM HARM

S/NO	BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF THE MUSLIM OPINION LEADERS
1.	 Sheik Abubakar Abdussalam Muhammad, born on October 3, 1982, in Kano, is an academic and Islamic scholar with extensive experience in the field of Hadith studies. He holds a PhD in Hadith from the University of Kordofan, Sudan, and has completed both his Master's in Hadith from Algezeerah University also in Sudan and a Bachelor's degree in Hadith from the Islamic University of Madina. His academic journey also includes a Postgraduate Diploma in Da'awah from the Muslim World League and various certifications in teaching, digital skills, and peaceful coexistence. Currently, he is lecturer in the Hadith Department at Aminu Kano College of Islamic and Legal Studies (AKCILS) in Kano, Sheik Abubakar has held several administrative roles, including Head of the Hadith Department and Deputy Dean of the School of Islamic and Qur'anic Studies (SIQS). He has contributed to numerous conferences and committees within his institution and broader Islamic circles. His academic work includes several published books and papers, such as <i>An Introduction to the Science of Hadith</i> and a Hausa translation of <i>Al-Ushrul Akhir</i> (<i>The Last Tenth Portion of the Holy Kur'an</i>), showcasing his expertise in Islamic jurisprudence. Beyond academia, Sheik Abubakar is actively involved in community service as an Imam and public speaker, delivering lectures in mosques and institutions in Nigeria and abroad. He also serves as the National Director of Seminars and Conferences for Izala Society or <i>Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah</i> (Society for the Removal of <i>Bid'ah</i> and Re-establishment of the <i>Sunnah</i>) popularly called JIBWIS Nigeria, promoting peace and unity from an Islamic perspective. His dedication to Islamic scholarship and community engagement underscores his influence in both religious and academic spheres. Sheik Abubakar Abdussalam Muhammad <i>Lecturer and Imam in Kano</i>

2.



Dr. Taufiq Abubakar Hussain
*Director of Centre for Islamic
Civilization and Interfaith Dialogue
(CICID) BUK*

Dr. Taufiq Abubakar Hussain is an Associate Professor of Islamic Modern Development at Bayero University, Kano (BUK). He holds a PhD in Islamic Studies and currently serves as the Director of the Centre for Islamic Civilisation and Interfaith Dialogue (CICID) at the university. Dr. Hussain is fluent in Arabic and is deeply involved in the academic community, where he teaches courses on Muslim Modern Development, Islamic Philosophy, Tafsir (Translation), Hadith (The Sayings of the Prophet) and Islamic History to both undergraduate and graduate students. He is also engaged in supervising numerous academic projects including PhD dissertations, Masters theses, and undergraduate projects.

As an educator and researcher, Dr. Hussain has made significant contributions to the study of Islam and interfaith dialogue. His work focuses on addressing contemporary challenges faced by Muslims in engaging with other faith communities in Nigeria. His role as the Director of the Centre for Islamic Civilization and Interfaith Dialogue reflects his commitment to promoting understanding and cooperation between different religious groups. He has published extensively on these topics, with some of his work available on academic platforms such as Academia.edu.

Dr. Hussain's professional and academic expertise in Islamic philosophy and modern developments in Islam has made him a highly respected figure in both the academic and religious communities. Through his work, he continues to shape the discourse on Islamic studies and interfaith relations in Nigeria.

3.



Sheikh Muhammad Nasir Adam
*Chief Imam and
Chairman of Kano Council of Imams.*

Sheikh Muhammad Nasir Adam is a prominent Islamic scholar serving as the Chairman of the Council of Kano Imams of Friday Mosques and the Chief Imam of Sheikh Ahmadu Tijjani Friday Mosque in Kofar Mata, Kano. His leadership within the Kano Muslim community is well-established, and he is actively involved in religious and social matters. Sheikh Nasir is recognized for his efforts to promote Islamic values and interfaith dialogue, as well as his significant role in guiding and advising both religious leaders and the broader Kano community.

In addition to his role as Imam, Sheikh Muhammad Nasir was appointed by Former Governor, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as Chairman of the Kano State Shari'a Commission, where his integrity and commitment to Islamic jurisprudence have been widely acknowledged. His involvement in major discussions, including on issues of public health, governance, and business, reflects his influence beyond the religious sphere.

Sheik Muhammadu-Nasir is the current chair of all Jumaat Mosque Imams in Kano State and remains an important figure in efforts to address social issues, including peace and development initiatives within Kano and the larger Muslim community in Nigeria.

4.



Barrister Aisha Tijjani Ali

Senior Lecturer in Kano

Barrister Aisha Ali Tijjani is a dedicated legal professional with a strong focus on women's rights, and peacebuilding. She holds multiple advanced degrees in law, including a Master's in Business and Commercial Law and a Master of Laws (LLM) from Bayero University, Kano, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Law. Over her career, she has been involved in numerous research, legal, and advocacy initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. Her professional engagements include consultancy work with prominent organizations such as BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights, the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTf), and Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), where she has led research and advocacy efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV), promote women's rights, and advance legal literacy on critical gender issues.

In addition to her legal practice, Barrister Aisha has facilitated dialogues on peacebuilding, conflict management, and reproductive health from Islamic perspectives, often under initiatives supported by international organizations like the UK-DFID and USAID. Through these engagements, she has contributed to policy development and community mobilization to strengthen social justice, health, and gender-sensitive governance frameworks in Northern Nigeria.

Barrister Aisha Ali Tijjani is a Principal Partner at A.A. Tijjani & Co. Chambers in Kano and has been a Senior Lecturer at the Aminu Kano College of Islamic and Legal Studies (AKCILS) in Kano State since 2012. She is the Chairperson for Da'awah Committee of the Kano State Chapter of Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN).

5.



Sheikh Muhammad Khamis Muhammad

Chief Imam and Lecturer in Kaduna

Islamic scholarship and leadership.

Sheik Dr. Goni Muhammad Khamis Muhammad holds several significant roles within the Islamic community in Kaduna and Nigeria at large. He is the Chief Imam of Tudun Wada Central Mosque, Yan Lilo in Kaduna, a key religious position that involves leading prayers and delivering sermons to the local community.

Dr. Khamis also serves as a lecturer at Kaduna State University, contributing to academic discourse in Islamic studies, while his legal expertise is applied in his role as Legal Adviser for Izala Society or *Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah* (Society for the Removal of *Bid'ah* and Re-establishment of the *Sunnah*) popularly called JIBWIS Kaduna South.

Additionally, Dr. Goni Muhammad is recognized for his contributions to Quranic education in Nigeria. He holds the prestigious title of National Chief Judge for Quranic Recitation Competitions, a significant responsibility that involves overseeing and adjudicating at national recitation events. His leadership extends to various community and religious platforms, which further solidifies his influence in both religious and educational spheres.

His work has also drawn public attention, including coverage by media outlets such as BBC Hausa, highlighting his prominence within both local and national contexts. Dr. Khamis's commitment to Islamic teachings and his involvement in fostering religious knowledge and unity underscore his standing as a respected figure in Nigerian

6.



Hajiya Hadiza Umar
Secretary General of FOMWAN
Kaduna

Hajiya Hadiza Umar is a seasoned media professional with a bachelor of science degree in International Studies in 1991 from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Her career in broadcasting has seen her rise to prominent roles, including Assistant Director of News and Current Affairs at the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) and General Manager of Supreme FM 96.1. She also worked with Voice of Nigeria in various capacities, such as News Editor, Translator/Presenter, and Administrative Officer. She is currently the Secretary General of Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) in Kaduna State.

In addition to her professional roles, she has participated in numerous workshops and training programs, both locally and internationally, on topics such as economic empowerment, security awareness, journalism, and gender issues. She has also been actively involved in volunteer work, including serving as the Media Adviser for the Wadata Media and Advocacy Center (WAMAC) Project under the MacArthur Foundation and as the former Chairperson of Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) Youth Wing, focusing on campaigns against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and drug misuse. Additionally, she works as a State Project Officer for FOMWAN under the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action (JISRA).

Hajiya Hadiza is recognized for her strong leadership and communication skills, excelling in news writing, editing, radio broadcasting, and community advocacy. Her passion for humanitarian services and community support has been a driving force in her work, making her a valuable contributor to both the media and social development sectors in Nigeria.

7.



Sheikh Marooph Raji Kolawole
Chief Imam and Zonal missioner of
NASFAT society

Sheik Marooph Raji Kolawole is a prominent Islamic scholar and the Chief Imam/zonal missionary for Nasrul-Lahi-il Fathi Society of Nigeria (NASFAT society), Kaduna. His journey in Islamic leadership is deeply rooted in his passion for Islamic studies, which he pursued alongside professional qualifications in marketing and business administration. His career started in the sales sector, where he developed his skills in communication, problem-solving, and conflict management, which eventually led him to leadership positions in Islamic organizations. His contributions include writing Islamic literature, leading mosque activities, and guiding NASFAT society's religious and community initiatives.

Throughout his career, Sheik Marooph has been dedicated to personal and professional growth. He has attended numerous training programs in leadership, media skills, gender equality, and Islamic jurisprudence. His academic research has explored topics such as applying marketing concepts in the banking industry and Islamic themes. As a respected Islamic leader, he has inspired his community through his teachings and has served in leadership roles at the National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS). His expertise in mosque management, Islamic spiritual operations, and conflict resolution has made him a sought-after advisor in various religious and community settings.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Sheik Marooph has been instrumental in community development projects, focusing on education, healthcare, and economic empowerment. His commitment to social justice and humanitarian causes has earned him great respect among both Muslim and Christians in Kaduna State.

8.



Sheikh Bashir Tahir Usman
Islamic Scholar in Kaduna

Sheik Bashir Tahir Usman is a scholar, international diplomacy expert, public speaker, and educationist. His father; Sheik Tahir Usman Bauchi is among the most prominent and respected scholars and elder statemen. Sheik Bashir has earned multiple degrees, including a Master's in International Affairs and Diplomacy and a PG Diploma in Public Administration from Ahmadu Bello University.

Throughout his career, he has made notable contributions in addressing social inequities, leading educational reforms, and advocating for sustainability. Sheik Bashir has initiated various educational programs, such as awards for student innovation, accountability frameworks for better governance, and scholarship schemes for academic excellence. His expertise extends to policy influence in mitigating the adverse effects of globalization, deforestation, and global warming. His published research focuses on topics like faith-based organizations, international diplomacy, and Islamic teachings.

Sheik Bashir is also a respected author and researcher, with publications in notable journals on topics such as the Fethullah Gulen Movement's impact on Nigeria and the effects of violent extremism on Islamic propagation. His research explores intersection of Islam and contemporary challenges.

BRIEF NOTE:

The above eight (8) MOLs formed a Technical Working Committee (TWC) in Kaduna and Kano for the implementation of the state-focus action plans towards championing the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

There are four (4) additional members representing the government which were also part of the delegates that attended the peer-to-peer study tour in Egypt which are as follows:

1. The Honorable Commissioner of Religious Affairs of Kano State
2. The Honorable Commissioner of Human Services of Kaduna State
3. The Honorable Commission of Women, Children and Disabled Affairs, Kano State
4. The Director General of Kaduna State Bureau of Interfaith.