

The institute's impact is felt in educating others about Islam in the United States and various areas of the Muslim world. Its role is not limited to affecting and reforming the faith and its followers in North America; it plays an international role through its conferences and publications.

IIIT became a supporter of moderate Muslims to confer and publish. It was a magnet to international and North American Muslim scholars who were interested in Islam as a faith and culture. Contributors to IIIT have ranged from Rāshid al-Ghannūshī (leader of Tunisia's Islamic party, Renaissance) and Yūsuf al-Qaradāwī (ideologue of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood) to Emad Shahin and Suhail Hashimi (both editors of this work).

The academic activities in which IIIT engaged were markedly changed following the events of 11 September 2001, in the United States. After 9/11, Muslim organizations in the United States were viewed with suspicion and were placed under tight scrutiny. Dr. al-Alwani left his position at IIIT, and the institute was left to struggle after losing both its academic momentum and its financial resources in the face of legal allegations of involvement with "terrorism." As a result, IIIT is slowly recovering, like other Islamic organizations, and is struggling to restore its academic and scholarly vigor.

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DEINA ABDELKADER

**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANIZATIONS.** Transnational pan-Muslim organizations and institutions, including the Rābiṭat al-ʿĀlam al-Islāmī (World Muslim League), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC, formerly known as the Organization of the Islamic Conference), and Islamic Relief Worldwide, seek to bring together representatives from different Muslim majority states and significant Muslim minority communities. Many of these organizations engage in political and social activism as well as humanitarian aid work, seeking to represent Muslim communities and Islamic causes on the world stage.

**Rābiṭat al-ʿĀlam al-Islāmī (Muslim World League).** The Muslim World League, which is one of the largest operating international Islamic organizations, was founded on 18 May 1962, during a meeting of Muslim religious leaders from over twenty countries in the city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The organization's charter defines its mission as providing education on the religion of Islam and its principles and tenets, while also defending it from "false allegations." According to the charter, the organization sees its activism as part of its members' "obligation towards God," the most important of which is proclaiming Islam worldwide as well as unifying all of the world's Muslims. At its core, the Muslim World League was founded as a missionary education (*da'wah*) organization seeking to educate Muslims about the "correct" interpretation and practice of Islam. It holds observer status in the United Nations General Assembly as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and it is a member of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and