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## Editorial

This particular issue of *Intellectual Discourse*, Vol. 26, No. 2 (2018), will be a novelty. Articles have been divided into two sections; articles in the first section are grouped under the title Special Articles, while the remaining articles are grouped under Research Articles. There are twenty research articles in this issue; four of which are Special Articles, and the remaining sixteen are Research Articles. In addition, we have included four book reviews, one research note, and a conference report.

The focus of the Special Articles is on the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world. According to an estimate made in 2018 by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), there are now 68.5 million refugees who have been forcibly displaced. In addition, there is an astonishing 40 million IDPs in the world. Considering the seriousness of their plight, the first four articles are devoted to a discussion of the challenges IDPs face every single day.

The first article is titled “Politics of Forced Migration and Refugees: Dynamics of International Conspiracy?” by M. Moniruzzaman. Rather than following a conventional mode of analysis of various reasons behind the refugee crisis in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and Syria, he advances the argument that the mass migrations from Iraq and Syria were artificially created by crises instigated by the military and economic strategies of the world’s hegemonic powers. In the second article, “Roots of Discrimination Against Rohingya Minorities: Society, Ethnicity and International Relations,” AKM Ahsan Ullah, and Diotima Chatteraj take up the statelessness status of the Rohingya Muslims, the second largest group of stateless people in the world following the Palestinians. An article based on interviews with the Rohingyas, the authors emphasise the importance of citizenship for the Rohingya Muslims. Without citizenship, the Rohingya Muslims are unable to access any entitlements from the government. The authors lament the fact that there seems to be no joint efforts by the international community to put

pressure on the Myanmar government. In the third article, “Exploring Ways to Provide Education in Conflict Zones: Implementation and Challenges,” Kamal J. I. Badrasawi, Iman Osman Ahmed, and Iyad M. Eid focus on an important issue for refugees – the challenge of educating their children. The paper presents two case studies on Syrian and Palestinian refugee children in Malaysia. After considering their needs and the challenges they face in terms of educating the refugee children, the paper recommends that though attempts are being made to meet the educational needs of children of the refugees, more facilities should be provided to them to meet their educational requirements. In the fourth paper entitled “Political Settlement Analysis of the Blight of Internally Displaced Persons in the Muslim World: Lessons from Nigeria,” Ibrahim O. Salawu and Aluko Opeyemi Idowu analyse the case of IDPs in Nigeria, and the lessons which may be drawn from this particular case. According to the authors, various actions taken by the Nigerian government can be blamed for the creation of the IDP problem in Nigeria. They are of the opinion that the Nigerian government should try dealing with the IDP problem in Nigeria by political means.

In the Research Articles section, the first article is written by Rohaiza Rokis. Titled “Women’s Work Empowerment through “Re-upcycle” Initiatives for Women-at-home,” the author takes up the important issue of recyclable items. The author, in this article, proposes women’s active participation in re-upcycling habits to maintain the ecology, which is under constant threat. In the next article, “The Islamization of the Malaysian Media: A Complex Interaction of Religion, Class and Commercialization,” by Shafizan Mohamed, and Tengku Siti Aisha Tengku Mohd Azzman, the focus is on the Islamization of media in Malaysia. The authors found that while the Islamic content in Malaysia’s media have grown in size, it is unfortunate that they have not grown in value. The next article, “Rise of Central Conservatism in Political Leadership: Erbakan’s National Outlook Movement and the 1997 Military Coup in Turkey” is written by Suleyman Temiz. In this article the author analyses the complicated relationship between the civilian authority and the military. In particular, the author critically analyses the relationship between the National Outlook Movement and the Turkish military when Necmettin Erbakan’s government was forced to step down on 28 February 1997, after a meeting of the National Security Council, and his Welfare Party was later outlawed.



Next, Maskanah Mohammad Lottie, and Hartono turn our attention to higher education institutions in Indonesia. In an article titled “Language Policy and Practices in Indonesian Higher Education Institutions,” the authors highlight institutional practices in student enrolment into, and graduation from, English programmes in Central Java, Indonesia. Based on interviews with academics from universities, the majority of whom are administrators, policy-related issues of the English language are identified in this paper. The authors’ findings include difficulties in communication faced by English majors and the juxtaposition of state and private universities in terms of student recruitment. Rahmah Bt Ahmad H. Osman, and Naseeb Ahmed Siddiqui in their article “A Novel Critique on ‘The Scientific Miracle of Qur’ān Philosophy’: An Inter-Civilization Debate,” analyses the scientific miracle of Qur’ān. In order to counter negative narratives against this, and to reveal the true status of prophet of Islam, arguments are presented in this article from the Qur’ān and Ḥadīth which are incontrovertible. In an article titled “Duties and Decision-Making Guidelines for Sharī‘ah Committee: An Overview of AAOIFI,” Muhammad Nabil Fikri Bin Mhd Zain and Muhammad Amanullah review the duties and decision-making guidelines of the Sharī‘ah Committee prescribed by the AAOIFI in 2010.

Nor Razinah Binti Mohd. Zain, Rusni Hassan, and Nazifah Mustaffha contributed the next article. Titled “Waqf Institutions in Malaysia: Appreciation of Wasatīyyah Approach in Internal Control as a Part of Good Governance,” it looks into the internal control in Waqf institutions in Malaysia. The conceptual approach to Wasatīyyah is provided in brief, and its appreciation in relation to internal control and its components are provided by the authors. Ali Ahmed Zahir, in his article “Muslim Jurists Debate on Non-Muslim Religious Festivals and Its effects on Minority Muslims in the United States of America,” uses qualitative methodology to analyse the fatāwā of permissibility and its effects on Muslims living as minorities in the U.S. This approach provides an insight, through a questionnaire that was conducted by the researchers, into how Muslims in the U.S. perceive the issue of congratulating and/or partaking in the religious festivals of non-Muslims. In “Archaeological Analysis of Arabic-Malay Translation Works of Abdullah Basmeih,” Azman Ariffin, Kasyfullah Abd Kadir, and Idris Mansor assess the contributions made by Abdullah Basmeih Utusan to the Melayu Company, Qalam Press Company, and Prime

Minister's Department in producing translations of academic texts. This literary study investigated and analysed his translated texts in the real life and the virtual world. In the next article, entitled "Takyiif Fiqh and its Application to Modern Contracts: A Case Study of the Central Provident Fund Nomination in Singapore," Mohamed El Tahir El Mesawi and Mohammad Rizhan bin Leman explores its application to modern contracts, taking as a case study the Central Provident Fund Nomination in Singapore. The article concludes that the Central Provident Fund Nomination, in terms of its essential characteristics and objective, resembles the Islamic Will Contract as discussed in books of Islamic Jurisprudence.

Wafa Zoghbor, in her article entitled "Revisiting English as a Foreign Language (EFL) vs English Lingua Franca (ELF): The Case for Pronunciation," assesses the controversial position of the LFC proposal in the literature, focusing on three main dimensions: the LFC's potential to result in intelligible communication, its teachability and its scope of function as an alternative target to the NS models (Received Pronunciation and General American), and the influence of different attitudes on the success of implementing the LFC. Ummu Atiyah Ahmad Zakuan, Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani, Norehan Abdullah, and Zaireeni Azmi in their article "'How did we Choose?' Understanding the Northern Female Voting Behaviour in Malaysia in the 14th General Election," examines the female voters' participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> General Election (GE-14) held in May, 2018, in Malaysia. The main objective of this paper was to examine the main factors which influenced the female voters in GE-14. The findings show that a majority of female voters were influenced by the candidates' social background. Significantly, the authors discovered that preference for political party was of least interest to them when voting. In "Unintended Consequences? The Commodification of Ideas in Tertiary Education and their Effects on Muslim Students," Anke Iman Bouzenita, and Bronwyn Wood reflects how, in contemporary tertiary education in the Islamic world, commodified concepts stemming from a non-Islamic worldview are being proliferated, and what the expected results are for Muslim students. The authors also demonstrate how the agency of the theory of Maqāṣid, the higher objectives of Islamic law, has immersed Islamic thought in reaction to bias in the educational system. In the next article entitled "Ultra Petita and the Threat to Constitutional Justice: The Indonesian Experience," its author, Muhammad Siddiq

Armia, analyses the doctrine in operation in Indonesia where the Constitutional Court appears to have expanded its jurisdiction by not only reviewing or analysing, but also by invalidating or annulling, acts. The article argues that instead of making use of the extra-constitutional Ultra Petita doctrine, the Indonesian Constitutional Court should return to a black letter approach to the law, thereby promoting certainty and coherence. In the final Research Article entitled “Methods of Qur’ānic Memorisation (Ḥifẓ): Implications for Learning Performance,” Mariam Adawiah Dzulkifli, and Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu examine different methods of Qur’ānic memorisation being practiced in Malaysia. The authors point out that evaluation of those Qur’ānic memorisation techniques brings to the foreground the educative value of memorisation as a learning tool, and the implications memorisation methods have in enhancing an individual’s learning performance.

Research Note entitled ““O People of the Book”: An Exegetical Analysis of the Ahl al-Kitāb in Qur’ānic Discourse,” is contributed by Jonathan Alexander Hoffmann. Four book reviews and a conference report have been included in this issue of *Intellectual Discourse*.

This editorial note would not be complete without thanking the following two wonderful human beings, who have worked tirelessly with the editor to bring out *Intellectual Discourse* on time: Bilal Almas Ahmed and Muhammad Saadman.

**Ishtiaq Hossain**  
**Editor**

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