

A3: Developing UN sponsored guidelines for empowering Muslim women through improved access to finance and property

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Muslim women's access to finance, property and land varies across the world but significantly lags behind men in most countries. Apart from the intrinsic importance of women's economic rights, and its significance for investment, livelihoods and opportunities, this has a range of further societal impacts from women's personal security to public participation. The UEL Centre for Islamic Finance, Law and Communities (CIFLAC) has been in the forefront of working on developing these rights and capacity development through normative research, action learning and collaborative interpretation. In the current phase, CIFLAC is supporting an innovative women-led, multi-stakeholder and human rights based approach towards United Nations sponsored guidelines for women's empowerment for peace and development.

This paper reviews the dynamics of engaging with the complex issues of Muslim women's economic rights, the process of legitimation through a range of Muslim and universal women's groups and mechanics of practical action planning through UN guidelines by obtaining political backing. The presentation will critically review how global campaigns can enhance Muslim women's participation, business diversity and competitiveness and community cohesion, with a brief review of the United Kingdom practice.