



# GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF ISLAMIC SCHOOLS

## The Global Need

The world has seen a proliferation of Islamic Schools since the first World Conference on Muslim Education held in Makkah in 1977. While remarkable progress has been made over the past four decades, one project that remains to be realized is the creation of a unified global body of Islamic school associations, organizations, and educators.

Inspired by this need, the Global Association of Islamic Schools (GAIS) was founded with the aim to bring Islamic schools together to build global solidarity and promote a culture of excellence.

As part of the effort to bring about Islamic school renewal, GAIS welcomes partnerships with businesses, organizations, scholars and universities around the world who share the same mission to serve the needs of K-12 Islamic Education.

### WHO ARE WE?

The Global Association of Islamic Schools (GAIS) is a non-profit, voluntary membership association of organisations and individuals whose mission is to be of service to Islamic School Education (K to 12) across the globe.

GAIS aspires to co-create the future of Islamic education by uniting and empowering the K to 12 Islamic School community.

### OUR VISION

GAIS envisions a world where Islamic schools positively impact their communities by educating students to embody Ihsaan - moral, spiritual and intellectual excellence.

### OUR MISSION

GAIS brings Islamic schools together to build global solidarity and promote a culture of excellence. We provide thought leadership, networking opportunities and research-based standards for a holistic and relevant education.

## Our Values

- Our actions are always guided by the **Quraan** and **Sunnah**
- We respect **diversity** and **collaborate** to strengthen our communities
- We are **generous** and have a sense of duty to the *ummah* (*fard kifaya*)
- We always show **compassion** and care for the wellbeing of others
- We display **trust** and embody **integrity** in thought and action
- We remain **resilient** and depend on faith in challenging times
- We serve **selflessly** with **steadfastness** and excellence for the pleasure of *Allah*

**CONTACT US: [mzahmed@gais.network](mailto:mzahmed@gais.network)**

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## A Brief History

The GAIS took root after an online meeting initiated by Br. Zaffar Ahmed who reached out to a group of nine Islamic School Associations across the globe on 22 November 2021. Following an enthusiastic response from this first pioneering gathering, a general working group was formed along with a steering committee, and so started the journey to bring all Islamic School associations, organizations and schools together under the banner of the Global Association of Islamic Schools.

The current steering committee comprises the following volunteers:

### **Zaffar Ahmed**

Principal of Al Falaah College (Durban, South Africa) and past Chairperson of the Association of Muslim Schools, Natal, South Africa, Deputy CEO of AWQAF South Africa.

### **Sufia Azmat**

Executive Director of CISNA (Council of Islamic Schools in North America), Vice President of WISER (Weekend Islamic Schools Educational Resources)

### **Abid Siddiq Omerson**

Trustee at Omerson Educational Trust; Director at Lalqila Restaurant.

### **Ahmed ElHattab**

Director of Development at Sterling Charitable Gift Fund, Member of the Executive Board of the Center for Islam in the Contemporary World (CICW) at Shenandoah University, and Member of the Advisory Board of the Council of Islamic Schools in North America CISNA).

### **Yahya Van Rooy**

Upper-elementary Principal of Next Generation School (Dubai, UAE), Community Development Associate - Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA)

### **Leila Shatara**

President, Council of Islamic Schools, North America. Head of School, Noor-UI-Iman School NJ USA



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## WE ARE FROM



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF ISLAMIC SCHOOLS?

SEND AN EMAIL REQUEST TO  
[mzahmed@gais.network](mailto:mzahmed@gais.network)

# GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF ISLAMIC SCHOOLS

## What is our purpose?

- We bring Islamic schools together to build global solidarity and actively promote a culture of excellence.
- We exist to strengthen Islamic schools globally, allowing them to positively impact their local communities.
- We provide thought leadership, networking opportunities and research-based standards for a holistic and relevant education.
- We harness the collective intellectual capital of member schools for the benefit of all.
- We facilitate, develop and deliver strategic programmes that support and advance professional growth, good governance and strategic thinking.



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## We Believe

- **As independent Islamic schools across the globe, we are connected by our common aim to anchor the hearts and souls of our children in a moral framework inspired by an Islamic value system.**
  - **Personal fulfilment is derived from striving toward a sense of purpose and making connections through service to others.**
  - **A sense of belonging enables people and communities to thrive and flourish.**
  - **Working together for the sake of Allah results in barakah and more positive outcomes.**
  - **Sharing, collaborating and nurturing are necessary for growth and change.**
  - **All individuals have intrinsic worth and should be respected.**
  - **Being open to differences and being cognisant of international-mindedness is crucial for success in an interconnected world.**
- We provide a platform for the sharing of resources, collaboration and mutual growth and development.
  - We provide a forum for teachers to connect with and learn from each other.
  - We provide authentic and unwavering support to member schools through our rich, diverse and varied membership,
  - We bring opportunities for world-class professional learning and advisory services to our members based on continuous research into the specific needs of Islamic Schools.
  - We promote continued professional learning and innovative ideas and practices that inspire our schools to ultimately impact our children and allow them to flourish.

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