

CALL FOR PAPERS

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NURSI STUDIES IN BANGLADESH

“Living in Peace and Harmony: The Risale-i Nur Perspective”

5-6 February 2018

Venue: **University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Organizers:

University of Dhaka, <http://www.du.ac.bd>

The Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture (<http://iikv.org>)

Intellectuals today frequently suggest that the problems besetting us stem from the abandoning of ethical principles and degeneration of morality. Although, science and technology advance in lightning pace, humanity is left behind and the fundamental principles of human values are ignored. Consumerism is grasping people in such a way that people live only to acquire more and more, but the spiritual and moral needs of human ontology are being overlooked. Their homes grow larger, but families get smaller or even disperse. They journey to the depth of space, but they stray from the paths leading to their Creator. Mass communication is all-encompassing, but relations with family and neighbours are minimal. Likewise, news channels have multiplied, but truth and reliability have diminished and disappeared. Information technology has developed to an astonishing degree, but psychological problems, social injustices, global crises, and ecological disasters have also increased. What are the chief causes of these complications? Science should have brought greater understanding of the human being, nature, and the purpose of creation, and assisted in their fulfilment. Is it that science is misunderstood or misused? Is it utilized solely in serving particular interests and material needs? Can it be that the source of these

problems is the absence of faith and spirituality which prevent humankind from committing extremes and inspire them to perform good deeds? Is it the lack of spirituality that causes loneliness, unhappiness, insensitiveness and belligerence that people are currently suffering from? These questions require intensive study, only then, the answers may be found and human being will be able to live with the dignity they deserve. It is evident that numerous civil and social organizations work to resolve these problems, but very often they disregard the core spiritual aspects, consequently the partial solutions they offer hinder the positive development rather than support it. As the world grows smaller, these problems grow larger. They are now obviously a great threat for both the temporal and spiritual future of humanity.

The *Risale-i Nur*, a contemporary commentary on the Quranic message written by a famous Muslim theologian and thinker Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, offers various solutions to these problems through a method. This method is based on acquiring factual knowledge and pointing out its precise utilization; that is, as a means of attaining “the belief by investigation,” and constructing an ethical understanding derived from these principles. You will be delighted to know that this international conference is going to be organized jointly by The Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture and the University of Dhaka on 5-6 February 2018 to get a clear understanding of the objectives mentioned above. Distinguished academics, experts, intellectuals and writers of different persuasions from all over the world will attend the conference to present their research paper on the given theme in the light of *Risale-i Nur*. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the current challenges of modern world in order to create a peaceful atmosphere for assuring a coexistence of all religions as well as ethnical groups in accordance with the guidelines of the teachings of *Risale-i Nur*.

Subthemes

We encourage scholars to consider writing on one of the following general topics from the perspective of the *Risale-i Nur* Collection:

- The Modern World and Current Situation
- The Nature of Knowledge and its Utilization for Human Wellbeing
- The Dimensions of Morality Based on Faith and Knowledge
- The Problems of Racism and Social Injustice, and their Solutions
- The Factors Nurturing a Culture of Violence, and their Solutions

- Solutions for Problems Arising from Multicultural Differences
- Sense of Responsibility and Accountability
- Holistic Approaches to Morality and the Future of Humanity
- Connection between Poverty and Terrorism: Bangladesh Perspective
- Mutual Assistance, Compassion, and Solidarity
- Economics to Resolve Human Problems
- Problems Arising from Modernity and the Solutions
- Problems Caused by Secularization and Views on their Solution
- Solutions Related to the Problems of Political Manipulation
- Solutions for Problems related to Consumerism
- Preserving the Human Rights of Minority
- Compassion and Fellow-feelings
- Solutions for Problems Stemming from Religious Differences
- The Various Crises Affecting Contemporary Societies and their Solutions
- Problems Caused by Religious Extremism and their Solutions

University lecturers, researchers, Islamic scholars are invited to take part in the pre-selection process of the conference. In order to apply for participation in the conference the applicants should follow the instructions below:

a. An abstract of the paper (**maximum 250 words**), should be sent to the Conference Secretariat within **30.11.2017**.

b. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified before **15.12.2017**.

c. Full paper should be submitted before **20 January 2018**. (**maximum 15 pages, 12 font, 1.5 line space**).

d. The research paper should cover one of the above themes of the conference, and **it must not be submitted to any other conference**, seminar or forum.

- e. The paper must be prepared **according to the common rules of research.**
- f. The language of the paper will be either **English or Arabic.**
- g. The paper presenters will be provided with **accommodation facilities** by the organization but there is **no funding for travel** expenses.
- h. Abstract Submission link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSpuSPFJ0anzLMZwKwItIP-HOKkgKvkPFwlx3ZwVYFNO1PvCw/viewform>

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