

ABOUT ISLAMIC SPIRITUAL CARE AND COUNSELLING

To assess the needs and possible models of Islamic spiritual care and counselling, MUIS initiated the following engagements with various experts:

- i. Visit to Dallas, Chicago and New York (US) from 27 Apr to 06 May 2025 to engage with key Muslim organisations like Yaqeen Institute, IMAN (Inner-city Muslim Action Network) as well as educational institutions like American Islamic College, Hartford International University of Religion and Peace to learn more about pastoral care and Muslim chaplaincy models;
- ii. Participated in the Muslim Chaplaincy Conference in Switzerland held on 22-27 June 2025 involving selected mosque asatizah as well as presentation by FITRAH on their in-care and aftercare programme for inmates and ex-offenders;
- iii. Engagement with Dr Kamal Abu Shamsieh, founder of Ziyara (California-based organisation offering Spiritual Care Training) held in Singapore from 20-23 Aug 2025; and
- iv. Participated in the Malaysian Spiritual Care Conference at UiTM held on 26-29 Aug 2025 involving selected mosque asatizah.

2 The engagements provided valuable insights into established Islamic chaplaincy models. These studies, along with observations from countries with well-developed chaplaincy programmes, demonstrate the effectiveness of professional Islamic spiritual care services when properly structured and contextualised. These programmes feature:

- Comprehensive training frameworks for Islamic chaplains.
- Professional standards and ethical guidelines.
- Structured supervision and continuing professional development.
- Integration with mainstream healthcare and social service systems.
- Evidence-based approaches to spiritual care delivery; and
- Cultural competency in multi-religious settings.

3 Drawing from these engagements, Islamic spiritual care and guidance can be summed up as a therapeutic approach that integrates Islamic principles with professional counselling methods to support individuals' holistic wellbeing through spiritual, emotional, and psychological healing.

4 As part of the ongoing engagements, MUIS will be hosting Dr Joshua Salaam in Singapore from Thu 20 Nov 2025 to Tue 25 Nov 2025 (see **Annex D** for Dr Joshua Salaam's full profile). Dr Salaam will share expertise on US chaplaincy programme

structure and implementation methods, propose suitable chaplaincy models for Singapore's multicultural Muslim community, and create greater awareness of Muslim chaplaincy and Islamic spiritual care work among key stakeholders. He will also provide greater clarity on implementing Islamic spiritual care in Singapore's context, and help key stakeholders develop enhanced understanding of pastoral care principles and intervention techniques relevant to Singapore's multicultural environment.