



Duncan Lewis

AINA KHAN OBE
SOLICITOR & HEAD OF ISLAMIC DEPARTMENT
DUNCAN LEWIS SOLICITORS

LEGAL EXPERT
CURRICULUM VITAE

Expertise in Sharia (Islamic) Family and Inheritance law, and laws of Muslim countries

Expert reports prepared on law of Abu Dhabi, Bangladesh, Dubai, Egypt, Gambia, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, Turkey, including:

- Legality of marriage and divorce conducted in the West and in Muslim countries
- Placement of children with family abroad
- Surrogacy by non-Muslim in Muslim country
- Domestic violence/forced marriage
- Islamic marriage contracts and Pre-Nuptial/Post-Nuptial Agreements
- Islamic marital finance settlements ('Mahr') and their enforcement under English law
- Ismaili adoption
- Inheritance by Muslim from non-Muslim

Will travel to give evidence to court; available on video conferencing/Zoom/Skype; personally curated network of local legal experts in Europe, Middle East, Far East, South Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia

Academic Papers/lectures

- Oxford University
- University of London - London School of Economics (LSE); School of Oriental and African studies (SOAS); Queen Mary College; Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
- Warwick University
- Cardiff University
- University of South Wales
- University of Kent
- University of Sussex
- Harvard University
- Brandeis University, Boston, USA
- Washington University in St Louis
- Villanova University
- University of Milan, Italy
- Max Planck Research Institute, Germany
- Erlingen University, Germany
- Interfaith Legal Advisers Network (ILAN)
- Law and Religion Scholars Network (LARSN)



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Recent Publications

- 'Islamic Alternative Dispute Resolution' (LexisNexis)
- 'How not to get married' (or what happens when you do not know if you are married / divorced / remarried) (Jordans Family Law Journal)
- 'Sharia Councils - a hindrance or a help? Solutions to Marital Captivity' (Maastricht University)
- 'Is my marriage legal?' Dilemmas facing migrant families (Leiden University)
- 'Unregistered Muslim marriages: A ticking time bomb?' (International Conference of the Commission on Legal Pluralism, Mumbai)
- Ditto (Max Planck Institute, Halle, Germany)
- 'Sharia law in Family cases - Solutions not problems' (Milan University)
- 'Religious Arbitration and Mediation in Family Law Disputes'
- 'Foreign Marriage and Divorce' (LexisNexis)
- 'Religious Marriages' (Westlaw), BBC Online, Family Law Week, Solicitors Journal

Advisor to Government and Parliament

- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Defence
- Foreign Office
- Home Office
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
- Department of Education
- Members of the Houses of Lords and Commons

Endorsed by Leading Muslim organisations and Women's Groups

- Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)
- Islamic Society of Britain (ISB)
- Mosques & Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB)
- Muslim Arbitration Tribunal (MAT)
- Association of Muslim Lawyers (AML)
- Al Khoei Foundation
- Leading Sharia Councils & Imams
- Women's welfare groups and activists

Media

- Channel 4 'Dispatches' documentary 'The Truth about Muslim Marriage?' 21 November 2017
- TV and Radio - BBC Radio 4's 'Woman's Hour', 'Sunday', 'Today'
- BBC 2's Newsnight – interviewed by Jeremy Paxman, Kirsty Wark, Emily Maitlis
- BBC TV and radio & Sky News, Voice of Russia, France 24, European TV channels
- Print media and online – Guardian, Times, European and US press



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Honours and Awards:

- OBE in New Year's Honours List 2018 for 'Services to the Protection of Women and Children in Unregistered Marriages'
- Family Law Team of the Year Jordans 2016
- Legal 500 "Aina Khan is a name to note"
- Chambers "Islamic law specialism of Aina Khan"
- 'Services to Law' at British Muslim Awards 2014 shortlist
- 'Innovative Solicitor of the Year' at Jordans Family Law Awards 2012 shortlist
- 'European Muslim Women of Influence' Awards CEDAR 2010 shortlist

Leading Lecturer and Trainer on Sharia Law: regularly presents lectures and seminars at Parliament, universities, barristers' Chambers and conferences, attended by Judiciary, lawyers, activists, academics and postgraduate students from the UK and abroad; MBL Seminars 'Sharia: Solutions not Problems' since 2012 (trained 80+ solicitors on Islamic Family law); Duncan Lewis In-House trainer (trained 45+ solicitors on Islamic Family law); Legal Focus and Legal Network Television.

Positions held: Director of 'Register Our Marriage' campaign, lobbying for reform of Marriage Act 1949; Ministry of Justice Working Group on Muslim Marriages; 'Islam and English Law' committee at Temple Church; Trustee of Temple Legal Centre; Trustee of APWA (All Pakistan Women' Assoc); Honorary Legal Advisor at Central Family Court; Service Delivery Committee of Royal Courts of Justice Citizen Advice Bureau; Co-Chair of Alif-Aleph Jewish/Muslim Interfaith society

Languages: Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, French, written Arabic

Previous Employment

2011 – 2012 Head of Islamic Legal Services, Slater & Gordon solicitors, Chancery Lane, London
2008 – 2011 Head of Family Department, Woodroffes solicitors, Belgravia, London
1994 – 2008 Senior Partner, Aina Khan Partnership solicitors, Upton Park, London

Education:

2007 Accredited to the Law Society's specialist Child Panel and Family Panel
1991 Admitted as Solicitor of Supreme Court of England & Wales
1985 College of Law, Guildford Solicitors' Final Exam
1984 University of E London LLB Honours
1980 Ilford County High Grammar School for Girls

Contact details:

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