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UK Government Engaged in Promoting Sharia CSC Press Briefing 29 June 2009

In an [article](#) for the new issue of *Standpoint* magazine, Centre for Social Cohesion (CSC) Research Fellow Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens reveals how the government is actively promoting a crucial aspect of the sharia programme.

In October, the UK government will co-sponsor two events, one in England and one in Scotland, which will promote sharia finance.

England:

The government's UK Trade and Investment organization is co-sponsoring the "[Islamic Finance and Trade Conference](#)" with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB). The MCB has strong connections with the Jamaat e-Islami, an Islamist political party which created the first detailed argument for the creation of an alternative, Islamist financial system. The government recently [distanced](#) itself from the MCB because Daud Abdullah, Deputy-Secretary General of the MCB, put his name to a [statement](#) in support of violent jihad in Israel which explicitly rejects all peace initiatives in the region and makes indirect threats to British Naval vessels involved in stopping the smuggling of weapons to Hamas.

Scotland:

The Scottish government is co-sponsoring "[Etisal 09: Scottish-Islamic Investment Expo](#)" with the Scottish Islamic Foundation (SIF). The CEO of the SIF is Osama Saeed, who [has written](#) that he would welcome the return of an Islamic Caliphate, and [refers](#) to Hamas suicide bombings as "martyrdom operations".

According to Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens:

"Many of those who campaign for an increase in Sharia financial services in the UK are doing so as part of an overall programme to implement sharia law on Muslims in Europe, and to send the message that it is the duty of all Muslims to bank in such a way if they wish to be considered 'proper Muslims'."

"Sharia banking is one of the essential cogs of the sharia system."

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The Centre for Social Cohesion is an independent think tank

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