Shaykh Arif Abdul Hussain

Born in 1964 in Uganda, Shaykh Arif's family moved to the United Kingdom in 1972. The Shaykh studied at Madrassah Syed Al-Khoei, London and graduated with Honours in 1988 and also taught Grammar, Logic, Islamic Law and Usul al-Fiqh at Madrassah Syed Al-Khoei, between 1987-1989.

Shaykh Arif then went to Iran for further Arabic and Islamic Studies and received his training at Hawza Ilmiyyah between 1989-93. He also attended private training and research studies with leading scholars of Qum between 1990 and 1994. At the same time the Shaykh taught grammar, logic and usul al-fiqh in Qum.

Shaykh Arif returned to the UK to establish the Al-Mahdi Institute and has been the Director and Senior Lecturer in Usul al-Fiqh and Islamic Philosophy since 1994. Shaykh Arif received graduate training in Usul al-Fiqh and Islamic Law from 1994-2000 under Ayatullah H. Amini in the U.K. and has also been a lecturer in Qur'anic Studies and Science of Hadith at the Islamic College in London 1999-2000.

The Shaykh's main areas of specialisms are Islamic Law, Philosophy and Theosophy.

Shaykh Mohammed Al Hilli

Born in Kadhimiyya (Baghdad, Iraq) in 1978 Shaykh Al-Hilli's great grandfather, Shaykh Mohammad Rida, was a known Scholar and reciter in Hilla, Iraq.

Shaykh Al-Hilli completed his secondary and higher education studies in London, graduating with a Masters Degree in Pharmacy from the University of London. During this time, he was elected as the President of the Islamic Society for two years, organising many events and promoting inter-faith activities.

Furthermore, Shaykh Al-Hilli led the Islamic Unity Society (IUS) for 5 years. At the same time, he undertook private studies with several respected Scholars in Islamic Studies, and completed his Hawza degree from the International College for Islamic Sciences. Shaykh's formal subjects studied in Islamic disciplines included Theology, Quranic exegesis, logic, Principles of Islamic jurisprudence, Fiqh, history, Arabic Morphology as well as Sciences of Hadith. He is currently a teacher at the Hawza Programme at Islamic College, London. At the same time, he is completing his MA in Islamic Studies.

Shaykh Al-Hilli is a trustee of Noor Trust as well as a member of the Family Affairs Committee UK, whereby Scholars and experts deal with marital issues and disputes in the Community.