

Lobbying:

Toolkit to encourage the introduction of halal finance for funding University fees

In September 2014, the government undertook to introduce an alternative takaful based university fee funding structure by September 2016 as outlined below*, but have not yet done so, and have repeatedly refused to commit to a date when this model will eventually be introduced.

We feel these delays demonstrate a lack of urgency on the part of the government in addressing the plight of those students currently unable to benefit from a university education.

The Bright and Halal campaign therefore seeks to encourage students to lobby their Members of Parliament to work to introduce sharia finance for funding university tuition fees by September 2018.

Write to your MP

A personal letter (not a cut and paste template) always works best. This website has sufficient information for this letter to be easily composed. The key points to mention are:

- (1) The government consultation in September 2014 indicated an alternative finance university tuition fee model would be introduced in September 2016
- (2) The government's proposed alternative finance Takaful model which, whilst being identical to the current interest based model in terms of cost and repayment terms, utilises a non interest based finance mechanism.
- (3) However, whilst the government initially planned to introduce this alternative finance by September 2016, it has not yet done so, and has not committed to a date when this model will eventually be introduced.
- (4) Please can the government prioritise making this happen by September 2018 and recognise the negative impact on many Muslim students of not being able to benefit from a university education.
- (5) Encourage your MP to submit a written question to the Universities Minister in this regard.

Visit your MP

Find out when your MP is holding a local surgery and visit them to voice your concerns. A face to face meeting is more likely to elicit support compared to an email.

You can find details of your local MP on the following link: www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/

Website: For further information visit www.halalstudentloans.co.uk

Email: For support, please send an email to info@1stethical.com

*2014 Consultation: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/349899/bis-14-984-government-response-to-a-consultation-on-a-sharia-compliant-alternative-finance-product.pdf