

## **Table of Contents**

- ***Sweden's government to fund Islamic imam schools***
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## **Sweden's government to fund Islamic imam schools**

***Facing massive migration of Muslims, government will use tax monies to fund Islamic religious schools.***

Blasting News (25.05.2016) - <http://bit.ly/25XqYg4> - Muslims have been migrating to Sweden in significant numbers since the 1970s, however Muslim immigration has dramatically increased recently as the Middle East descends further into chaos and war. Now, the Swedish government has decided to begin funding Islamic imam training in Stockholm later this year. The government-sponsored religious training program aims to bring in potential Islamic spiritual leaders and train them how to be "locally anchored" imams.

### ***Officials say schools won't become radicalized***

Some in Sweden's government say the move will discourage radical interpretations of that religion by young Muslims. There are presently hundreds of thousands of Muslims in that country and the population is expected to increase dramatically in the short term.

Islam in Sweden will be funded with an annual central government education grant that will be awarded to Sweden's adult education centers. Touted as an Islamic vocational program, Muslims will first learn how to be imams in Kista Folkhögskola, courtesy of Sweden's taxpayers, and is scheduled for rapid growth. The imam basic training course is the first step in a broader Islamic education program to come. The course is presented as an introduction to Islam and will take one year to complete, according to officials. The subsidized religious training offers students the basics of Islamic theology including leadership skills for those who want to become Islamic leaders.

"We will teach Islamic theology and leadership. The first year is only an introduction. Over the next few years, the study program will be broadened and deepened," Abdulkader Habib, the headmaster explained to Sveriges Radio. Muslims leading the program, including Habib, claim the program will not condone violence against infidels and others.

### ***Sweden is preferred destination of migrants***

Meanwhile, approximately 163,000 Muslims applied for asylum in Sweden last year, making that country the highest per capita destination for Middle East migrants in all of Europe. On the other hand, up to 300 Swedish residents made their way to Iraq and Syria to fight alongside the Islamic State (IS), this according to the International Center for Counterterrorism (ICCT).

Officials hope that teaching a local brand of Islam will water down radicalism that has led to extreme global violence, including within Sweden. Intentions notwithstanding, Islamic mosques around the world are said to be routinely used as safe havens for Islamic radicals. Furthermore, it is not at all clear what the government-funded Islamic school will teach about Sharia Law, which is known for cruelty against women and infidels. In any case, the Islamic training funded by Sweden's taxpayers is scheduled to be conducted for the first time at Kista Folk High School come autumn with a curriculum focused on basic training in Islamic theology.

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