

Welcome

As-salaamu ‘alaykum,

Thank you for your interest in publishing with the Institute for Muslim Advancement and Renewal (IMAR), a project of Tarbiya Institute. At IMAR, we aim to uplift voices in our community that bring transformative thinking to all levels of readership. We welcome a variety of writing styles and storytelling techniques, both fiction and nonfiction, that contribute to the renewal of thought, the restoration of purpose, and the reimagination of life in light of divine guidance.

Vision

IMAR is a think tank dedicated to producing ideas and solutions rooted in the Islamic tradition. We take the timeless principles of Shariah and connect them to the urgent challenges and pathologies of our times. Our work translates abstract ideals into accessible products such as books, essays, podcasts, and programs that nourish Muslim and non-Muslim audiences alike with clarity, purpose, and guidance.

Methodology

We believe in a trickle-down approach, where ideas produced at higher levels of thought permeate everyday life and improve interactions, communities, and societies:

Think Tank → Essays & Books → Podcasts → Khutbahs → Halaqas → Community Programs → Children’s Programs → Public Conversations → Policy & Advocacy → Tangible Change

About Us

The Qur’an tells us in Surat al-Bayyinah that “the People of the Book were not to part from their ways until there came to them clear evidence.” That evidence manifested itself in the advent of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the incandescent teachings he brought to the world.

At IMAR, we take inspiration from this “clear evidence” (al-bayyinah), engaging our time and place with ideas, policies, and cultural norms that protect families, preserve dignity, and uphold justice.

We draw on Islamic principles such as:

- The prohibition of extramarital affairs safeguarding the family unit.
- The ban on alcohol protecting against domestic violence, drunk driving, and public indecency.

- The emphasis on honoring kinship bonds ensuring social stability.

These guidelines are more than abstract ideals, rather they are mechanisms that produce healthier, safer, and more compassionate societies.

The very word i‘mār (إعمار) calls us to this higher vision of flourishing. Derived from the root ‘A-M-R (ع-م-ر), it conveys life, building, habitation, and longevity. In the Qur’an, God commands:

“It is He Who has brought you forth from the earth and has entrusted you with its development and cultivation” (Qur’an 11:61).

At IMAR, we reclaim flourishing as principled and God-conscious advancement, fusing Islamic thought with modern disciplines—philosophy, sociology, politics, economics—to critique, transform, and revive our society. Inspired by thinkers like Ibn Khaldun, we see our work as part of a civilizational project: a renewal that stewards the earth with justice, mercy, and meaning.

Authors should publish with IMAR if you believe in this mission. We encourage writers whereby if it is not a microphone they are holding as orators and speakers, then let it be the pen in their hand.

Genres We Welcome

We accept a wide variety of manuscripts, including:

- Academic monographs
- Reflective essays
- Children’s books
- Creative nonfiction & memoirs
- Fiction inspired by Islamic teachings and accessible to non-Muslim audiences (e.g., works in the spirit of Lord of the Rings but rooted in Islam)

Support & Perks for Authors

At IMAR, we are not an average independent publisher. Our interest lies in cultivating authors as voices of renewal. When you publish with us, you join a collaborative ecosystem of thinkers, writers, and community-builders. Our support and perks include:

Editorial & Creative Support

- Dedicated editorial team: Work with editors who understand both Islamic tradition and contemporary readership.
- Manuscript development: Guidance on structure, clarity, and accessibility while preserving intellectual depth.
- Proofreading and copyediting to ensure polished, publication-ready work.
- Cover design & typesetting: Your book will be professionally designed for both digital and print formats.

Marketing & Publicity

- Book launch and events: Hosted at mosques, coffeehouses, universities, and cultural spaces.
- Podcast features: Appear on IMAR's podcast to discuss your work with engaged audiences.
- Social media campaigns across Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp networks to amplify reach.
- Community spotlighting: Your story and vision will be featured in IMAR newsletters and publications.
- Professional graphics & promotional materials created by our design team to showcase your work.

Distribution & Sales

- Wide distribution: Your book can be available through IMAR, events, online platforms.
- Event sales & bundles: Opportunities to include your book in IMAR bundles, symposia, and events.

Community & Networking

- IMAR Authors Circle: Join a network of fellow writers for support, collaboration, and shared promotion.
- Speaking opportunities at IMAR events
- Mentorship opportunities: Experienced authors will help guide emerging voices.

Long-Term Value

- Archival presence: Your work becomes part of IMAR's long-term intellectual and publishing legacy.
- Ongoing collaboration: We see each book as the beginning of a partnership whereby future essays, podcasts, and programs may grow out of your work.
- Publishing with IMAR means you're joining a civilizational project that reclaims the role of ideas in shaping communities, guiding hearts, and transforming society.

Submission Guidelines

What to Submit

Please send us the following materials through our submission form (available on our website):

- Cover Letter including:
 - Title and word count
 - Intended audience and genre
 - Brief synopsis of the work
 - Your bio and background
 - Why your work aligns with IMAR's mission
 - Editing status (Has the work been professionally edited?)
 - Full Manuscript (Word or Google Doc format).

Suggested Preparation

Before submitting, we encourage you to review our Author Suggested Reading List to strengthen your craft and familiarize yourself with the spirit of IMAR's publications.

Review Process

Submissions will be reviewed by the IMAR editorial team for alignment with our mission, accessibility, and potential for impact. We are a growing institute and cannot guarantee a specific timeline for response. However, we will strive to provide feedback within a reasonable period. Selected works will enter into collaborative editing, design, and publication with IMAR.

Appendix

Suggested Reading for Authors

To strengthen your craft and prepare your manuscript for submission, we recommend the following resources. These works will help refine your writing, sharpen your editing eye, and ensure your book reaches readers with clarity and impact.

- The Artful Edit by Susan Bell — A practical guide on revising your own work, balancing creativity with discipline.
- How to Read a Book by Mortimer Adler — A classic text on reading with depth and understanding, essential for writers who wish to think critically.

Style Guidelines: Do's and Don'ts

Consistency and care in presentation are marks of respect for both your reader and your ideas. IMAR values thoughtful manuscripts, so please take note of the following:

- Do's
 - Be consistent: If you use acronyms, stylistic features, or specific formatting, apply them uniformly throughout your manuscript.
 - Check citations and references: Use the agreed-upon style (Chicago/footnotes, unless otherwise noted) and ensure they are complete.
 - Polish your manuscript: Run a spellcheck, read it aloud, and (ideally) have another person review it before submission.
 - Use clear structure: Include titles, headings, and subheadings where appropriate to guide the reader.
 - Respect readability: Write with accessibility in mind, balancing depth with clarity.
- Don'ts
 - Don't submit drafts riddled with typos. Occasional slips are understandable, but manuscripts full of errors suggest a lack of care.
 - Don't be inconsistent. Switching between styles, acronyms, or citation formats undermines professionalism.
 - Don't submit raw, unedited drafts. A manuscript that clearly hasn't been reviewed or revised will not be taken seriously.
 - Don't overload with jargon. Academic or technical terms are welcome if defined, but avoid alienating readers.

Note on Professionalism

We understand that writing is a process. Perfection is not expected, however, serious effort is. Manuscripts that show signs of thoughtful revision and consistency will be prioritized. A good rule of thumb is that if no one else has read your draft before submission, it is not yet ready for IMAR.

Tips for Writing Children's Books

- Keep language simple but not shallow because children appreciate depth and rhythm.
- Respect their intelligence by not talking down; do aim for clarity and wonder.
- Show, don't tell by using action, imagery, and dialogue over heavy explanation.
- Think visually! Imagine how illustrations will support your words.

Center values in story instead of lecturing by letting Islamic themes and lessons emerge naturally through characters and narrative.

Writing with Spiritual Depth and Intellectual Rigor

At IMAR, we seek works that are not only intellectually sharp but also spiritually alive. Our goal is to publish writing that uplifts hearts while also standing up to academic and public scrutiny. Authors should strive for balance in the following areas:

- Spiritual Soundness
 - Anchor your work in Islamic sources (Qur'an, Sunnah, and the scholarly tradition).
 - Infuse your writing with meaning, purpose, and sincerity and avoid writing as mere intellectual exercise without spiritual vision.
 - Allow the work to nourish the soul as much as it informs the mind.
- Intellectual Engagement
 - Be accurate and precise by checking your references, quotes, and translations.
 - Ensure your work is well cited! We check :)
 - Engage with contemporary thought if applicable (e.g. philosophy, sociology, politics, economics, psychology) without losing your Islamic grounding.
 - Aim for clarity and accessibility! Your book should be engaging for readers within and beyond academic circles (if applicable).