Glossary

Amir
Leader

Assalamu alaikum
Peace be upon you

Burkha (burqa)
Veil worn by Muslim women from head to toe

Dari
Afghan dialect of Persian

Fatwa
Legal ruling issued by ulema

Fiqah
Islamic jurisprudence

Imam
Person who leads the prayers

Jihad
Effort or struggle to become a good Muslim; holy war to defend or spread Islam

Jirga
Council of tribal elders or notables to discuss political and legal issues and give decisions

Haji
Muslim who has performed the pilgrimage to Mecca

Kafirs
Non-Muslims or unbelievers

Kalimah
Holy verses proclaiming that there is no other God but Allah

Koran or Quran
Holy book of Islam

Madrassa
Islamic schools that teach religious subjects; plural: madaris
**Mehram**
Male blood relative who should accompany a woman, according to strict Islamic law

**Mujahideen**
Holy warriors fighting jihad

**Mullah**
Person who has completed his studies in theology and sacred law at a religious institution

**Pashto (Pushto)**
Dialect of the Pashtuns (or Pushtons or Pathans)

**Pir**
Revered leader

**Ramadan**
Month of fasting in the Islamic calendar

**Shariah**
Canon of Islamic law

**Shura**
Islamic council

**Sufism**
Mystical dimension of Islam

**Talib**
Student; in Pashto, generally denotes student of a religious institution; plural: Taliban

**Ulema**
Islamic scholars; singular: Alim

**Ummah**
Community of all Muslims, the wider Islamic world