

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

Fiqh

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