

The Department of Law invites you to a guest lecture on:

**The Road to Genocide**  
**- The Propaganda Machine of the Self-Declared**  
**Islamic State (IS)**  
**Is History Repeating Itself?**



**Speaker:** Dr Mohamed Badar, Associate Professor in Comparative, International Criminal Law and Islamic Law, Northumbria University Newcastle

**Venue:** The event will take place in the Phoenix Boardroom

**When:** 21st April, 6 pm

**Register:** There is no charge for the event but please register at: [law@nuim.ie](mailto:law@nuim.ie) by April 18<sup>th</sup>

## Abstract

In the same manner as the Third Reich, the Self-Declared Islamic State (ISIS) uses law, terror and propaganda as ‘techniques of governance’ that serve to advance their political ends: securing themselves in power, preparing and waging war, and fostering the idea of an Islamic State or ‘Caliphate’. ISIS has successfully used the print and radio media systematically for the dissemination of lethal ideas and for the mobilization of the population on a grand scale in order to materialise these ideas. When such propaganda is laced with the *dolus specialis* of the crime of genocide the severity of the mass actions it brings about can be disastrous. There is an abundance of historical evidence to support this notion (for example, the Nazi genocide and Rwandan genocide), all of which highlight the ability of relentless propaganda in terms of creating a poisonous atmosphere in the society, which allows for genocide to flourish. This paper will analyse the hate propaganda used in the online publications of ISIS as well as their radio broadcasts. As ISIS hate propaganda is embedded with primitive Islamic discourse, this analysis will pay specific attention to key terms and labels such as *kāfir* (unbeliever) and ISIS’s wide practice of *takfir* (excommunicating or declaring a Muslim an apostate, which is punishable by death) in their cultural and linguistic contexts. Evidence will then bring to light the fact that ISIS hate propaganda amounts to direct and public incitement of others to commit genocide and the propagandists could thus be prosecuted for this crime at national or international courts.