

**Foundation for Endangered Languages  
United Nations Association Westminster  
The Institute of Ismaili Studies**

**Celebrating Indigenous Languages – Defending Endangered  
Languages**

Marking  
the 25th anniversary of the Foundation for Endangered Languages  
&  
Launching  
the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022 - 2032

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**8 April 2022  
Aga Khan Centre, London, UK**

**FEL Silver Jubilee**

The Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL), which supports documentation, protection and promotion of endangered languages, is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This past quarter of a century has been momentous both for FEL and for endangered languages. There is now a better understanding worldwide of the importance of language diversity which, like cultural diversity and biodiversity, is of the utmost importance for the preservation human knowledge.

The FEL Silver Jubilee corresponds with the UN proclamation of an International Decade of Indigenous Languages which has started in 2022 and will last until 2032. FEL with other partners will take an active part in the celebrations of the International Decade by organising events and taking part in those organised by other bodies. FEL will seek and continue to collaborate with organisations which share its vision.

FEL is celebrating its anniversary in partnership with the Institute of Ismaili Studies, the Westminster United Nations Association, UNESCO, the Aga Khan Foundation, Survival International, Wikitongues and other organisations which strive to protect and preserve cultures, traditions, and the rights of the indigenous communities worldwide.

United Nations Association Westminster is one of the components of the Worldwide UNA movement which has been, since 1945, raising awareness and promoting the goals of the United Nations in promoting peace, security and development. In particular, it supports the UN sustainable development goals and the Agenda 2030 part of which overlaps with the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) is a higher education and academic research institute which promotes scholarship and learning about Muslim cultures and societies. Its research and

higher education programmes seek to explore the relationship of religious ideas to broader dimensions of society and culture.

This hybrid event, co-hosted by the Institute of Ismaili Studies, will be held from 1:30pm – 6:30pm, at the Aga Khan Centre, 10 Handyside Street, London N1C 4D.

### Program of the seminar

	Programme	People
1:00	Registration, refreshments	
1:30	Screening: UN films on indigenous communities	David Wardrop
2:00	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Foundation for Endangered Languages, its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</i></li> <li><i>The International Decade of Indigenous Languages Not another International Decade!</i></li> </ul>	<p>Maria Bada Hakim Elnazarov</p> <p>Christopher Moseley</p> <p>Salem Mezhoud David Wardrop</p>
2:30 2:45	<p><b>Session 1 The Foundation’s Silver Jubilee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Our Global Achievements over 25 Years, What Next?</i></li> <li>Video: <i>FEL Silver Jubilee. Celebrating Endangered Languages</i></li> </ul>	<p>Hakim Elnazarov, Chair</p> <p>Nicholas Ostler</p>
3:10	Coffee Break	
3:20 3:20 3:30 3:40 3:50 4:05	<p><b>Session 2 Indigenous Languages and Human Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Indigenous Languages at the heart of Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i></li> <li><i>Inspired by FEL: Grammars of Three Arctic Languages</i></li> <li><i>The UNESCO Atlas of Languages in Danger</i></li> <li><i>The Enggano Project in Indonesia</i></li> <li><i>English - Frisian contacts: relations between a global language and an endangered language</i></li> </ul>	<p>Serena d’Agostino, Chair</p> <p>Salem Mezhoud</p> <p>Riitta Valijärvi</p> <p>Christopher Moseley Charlotte Hemmings Tjeerd de Graaf (online)</p>
4:20	Refreshments. Displays and Video	
5:00	<p><b>Session 3 The Future of Endangered Languages Round Table</b></p> <p>State of Endangered Languages Worldwide. Role of Stakeholders (Government, Researchers, Activists, Community members, etc)</p>	<p>Chris Moseley, Chair</p> <p>Nicholas Ostler Hakim Elnazarov David Crystal Salem Mezhoud Radu Voica</p>
5:50	End of seminar	
6:00	<b>Performance:</b> <i>Dance and Music of the Pamirs</i>	IIS Students
6:30	End of event	

## **Speakers**

Serena d'Agostino	Foundation for Endangered Languages and FEL Canada
Maria Bada	Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS)
David Crystal	Emeritus Professor, University of Reading
Hakim Elnazarov	FEL, Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS)
Tjeerd de Graaf	FEL, Fryske Akademy, The Netherlands
Charlotte Hemmings	University of Oxford
Salem Mezhoud	FEL, UNA Westminster, Kings College London
Christopher Moseley	Vice-Chair, Foundation for Endangered Languages; School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) - University College London
Nicholas Ostler	Founding Chairman, Foundation for Endangered Languages
Riitta Valijärvi	SSEES - University College London
Radu Voica	School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London
David Wardrop	Chair, Westminster United Nations Association