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**Wasatiyyah (Moderation) as the Principle and Objective of the
Shariah as a Solution for Preventing Violence and Extremism**

**Wasatiyyah (Kesederhanaan) sebagai Satu Prinsip dan objektif
Shariah adalah satu Solusi Mencegah Keganasan dan Ekstrim**

Muhammad Mumtaz Ali,* Muneer Muhammed Rafeeqe**

Abstract

The *Shariah*, the foundation of the scheme of life, seems to be the most misunderstood concept of our time. The *Shariah* is confined to the domain of law in a rigid way and used out of context in an exclusivist manner. This has generated numerous implications to thought and life. It is generally assumed that the violent extremism that we witness in many parts of the world is the result of this misrepresentation of the *Shariah*. The situation demands a textual and contextual reading of the *Shariah's* principles scientifically, especially, the principle of the *wasatiyyah* as an objective of the *Shariah* [*Maqasid Shariah*]. A correct view of the *Shariah* and the principle of *wasatiyyah* will help to remove the misunderstandings. It will also help to prevent the violent extremist and terrorist tendencies. This paper, therefore, aims at examining the principle of *wasatiyyah* based on the textual study of the Principle Sources – the Quran and *Sunnah* – and determines its scope to counter violence, extremism and terrorism. The socio-ethical dimensions and the principle of *wasatiyyah* as principles and objectives of the *Shariah* in relation to extremist trends will be explored and analyzed in this paper. This paper will present the principle of *wasatiyyah* as a solution for preventing the current extremist tendencies among some Muslims. The descriptive and analytical approaches will be employed in this study. Based on the textual study in a changing context, this paper concludes that the principle of *wasatiyyah*, owing its significance in the *Shari'ah*, needs to be highlighted and acknowledged as a major principle and objective of the *Shari'ah* which would be helpful to solve the societal problems besides its significance in private life.

Keywords: *Shariah*, *Wasatiyyah*, violent tendencies, extremism, contextual reading.

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