WALIYAT
ONG INTERNATIONALE

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, November 14, 2026

A World First in Sufi Studies: New Research Field Launched on the "Civilization of Sufi *Matrimoine (women's heritage)*"

Building on its first International Congress on Sufism in the Feminine (Rabat, June 10–11, 2026), co-organized with the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, Waliyat International NGO is establishing an unprecedented academic research field, *Civilization of Sufi Matrimoine – History, Societies and Spiritualities*, designed to reveal the spiritual, intellectual and societal imprint of Sufi women.

"The aim is not to write a parallel history of Sufi women, but to recognize the civilizational significance of their *matrimoine* (a specific French term referring to women's heritage) as an essential component of this spirituality," said Carole Latifa Ameer, an art historian, specialist in Sufi heritage and founding president of Waliyat International NGO. "While certain female figures have already been the subject of academic work, women's overall contribution to Sufism remains a largely unexplored field."

By shifting the focus away from the male figures traditionally at the center of the discipline, the new field, which is resolutely multidisciplinary, makes it possible to explore the intellectual, spiritual, social and cultural dimensions of Sufi *matrimoine*, while analyzing the many mechanisms through which women have been made invisible.

To give the field a structure, Waliyat International NGO is rolling out an international network called NOUR MatriS (Network of Organizations, Universities, and Researchers for the Study of Sufi *Matrimoine*), tasked with bringing together researchers, university chairs, cultural institutions and heritage organizations around shared scientific programs.

At a scientific meeting held in Salamanca, Spain, on November 10 and 11, 2026, Carole Latifa Ameer, accompanied by Dr. Karim Ifrak, director of scientific programs at Waliyat, laid the groundwork for a collaboration with the University of Salamanca and its Women's Sufism Committee, coordinated by Professor Rachid El Hour. The meeting also benefited from the active participation of Professor Thierry Malbert, an anthropologist at the University of La Réunion (France), and Professor Francisco Franco-Sánchez of the Chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Alicante (Spain).

Through this initiative, Waliyat International NGO hopes to contribute to a new reading of the history of Sufism and of our societies, one in which women are no longer seen merely as isolated figures awaiting rediscovery, but recognized as actors fully engaged in the creation, development and transmission of knowledge, cultures and spiritualities.

Press contact:
Ms. FatimaEzohra Bacheich - Email: waliyat.ong@gmail.com