

YOUR MOTHER FIRST

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ repeated “Your mother” three times to someone who asked him: “Who would deserve my closest support and companionship?”

What did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ say about women?

- “Women are twin halves of men”.
- “The believers who show the most perfect faith are those who have the best character; and the best of the believers are those who are best to their wives”.
- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told his companions whoever raises his daughters properly and takes care of them, he would gain Paradise.
- “I and the person who looks after an orphan will be in Paradise like this, putting his index and middle fingers together”. (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 7/53,5304).
- In a society that supports polygamy without any limit, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ married one wife for twenty - five years until she passed away. He was a loyal husband and family man.
- He urged young men to get married and establish good families. Parents should raise their children properly and take care of them regardless of their gender.
- He encouraged women to seek education and urged them to participate in Islamic events, feasts and prayers. He also asked women to do a formal pledge (as men do) since they were responsible in front of the Islamic law.

Women are in Winners ISLAM

Women got rights they did not have before Islam

Islam carries a universal Message from the Lord of the people (Who created them) to all people. It protects all human rights regardless of people's ethnicity, color, language or gender. Women in particular are highly valued in Islam, as sisters, daughters, wives, and mothers. By the Command of God, women's social and financial rights are protected. They enjoy a high level of security and social justice. Without a doubt the advent of Islam 1400 years ago was a historical turning point in women rights.

- Women have well-defined and clear financial and inheritance rights.
- Women and men enjoy equal rights of education.
- Islam set well defined rights and benefits for the married women, divorced ones and widows. Wives have rights over their husbands and so do husbands.
- Islam banned gender discrimination, child abuse, Female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, spousal abuse and domestic violence.

Women and Islam in a Modern World

Are the Islamic teachings applicable in our modern world? Do they satisfy women current needs? Below is a brief overview for three distressing global problems and how Islam tackles them.

The woman's body is not a commodity



Islam honors women and protects them from being exploited. Prostitution and adultery are strictly forbidden in Islam. The Islamic teachings forbid women from using their bodies or femininity for public entertainment and sexual temptation. Businesses, commercials and advertisements that rely on exposing women's bodies for temptation and attraction are not allowed in Islam.

In addition, sex trade and trafficking are big crimes in Islam, likewise in Christianity and Judaism. The Islamic teachings block out all abominations such as nudity and pornography as well as the means or manners that could lead to sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape crimes, or sexual diseases.

Non-marital relations and illegitimate children



In Islam, there is no sexual relation with women except by marriage. This is a golden rule that can solve worldwide growing problems in relation to illegitimate children as well as children of unknown fathers or parents (waifs). Islam is very strict in preserving genealogy of children and attributing them to their fathers and mothers.

By stipulating marriage, Islam honors women and protects their dignity and rights. It also, ensures that the man will be financially responsible for the child in case the woman falls pregnant.

Marriage stipulates rights for females such as the right for a dowry to ensure that the man is serious in proposing for the woman. In case separation or divorce happens, the woman has a right for alimony (a legal obligation to provide financial maintenance or provision).



Domestic violence and women abuse



Islam promotes genuine relations between men and women based on love and mutual respect. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ emphasized on several occasions the good treatment of females and he described them as delicate and fragile as glass. He taught believers that whenever and wherever gentleness is used, it will add value and will bring good results. In contrary, roughness and indelicate behaviors will spoil every matter. Narrated by Muslim

Domestic violence is a worldwide challenging problem. Africa scored the highest rates of domestic violence and rape crimes in the last decades. In the U.S., it costs the American economy more than \$100 million annually in lost wages, absenteeism and sick leaves. Medical expenses resulting from domestic violence total as much as \$5 billion annually. In Spain, a total of 158,217 women were subjected to violence by men in 2017. It was the worst year on record for violence against women in Spain ⁽¹⁾.

What did women say when converted to Islam?

- In Islam, I am entitled to choice & voice, agency & protection, respect and tender care. Every educated Muslim knows that, and every devout Muslim practices that.
- Islam encourages wives to live to complement their husbands, not to compete with them.
- In Islam, no body carries the sins or mistakes of another and Eve did not cause Adam to sin.
- Searching for the truth was a daunting task. When I embraced Islam, it was as if I am back home. It dissipated the feeling of getting lost.
- I found the Islamic doctrine realistic and the Islamic practice is wholesome and flexible. Islam logically fits the reality of life.
- Islam helped me manage my affairs in a way I am consistently at peace.
- Islam offers women security, stability, power and honor that many women lack in this world.

(1) References:

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/the-worlds-worst-places-to-be-a-woman/>

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/supp_info/general_facts_aboutdomesticviolence.html

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