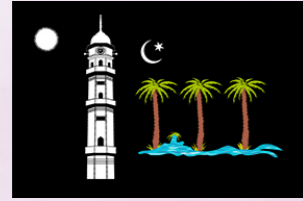


The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association



The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, known as Lajna Ima'illah, is an auxiliary organisation of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. It provides women a structure to develop and enhance their religious and academic knowledge, acquire health and fitness skills, manage trade and industry affairs and develop their financial abilities. The aim of Lajna Ima'illah (literally translated as maids of Allah) is to raise awareness amongst women of their important status according to the teachings of Islam and their great responsibility within the religious organisation. It is also to focus on their duties towards mankind, their contributions to the society in which they live and raising the future generations.

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VoiceofIslam.co.uk



www.mta.tv (Sky channel 708)



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LOVE FOR ALL HATRED FOR NONE

Fostering Respect, Peace and Tolerance in Society



Ahmadi Muslim women endeavor to live their lives according to the true teachings of Islam. Across the world, they have excelled in their roles as daughters, wives, mothers, doctors, scholars, lawyers, teachers and fully integrated, contributing members of society. They are working alongside men in hosting and organising international events raising thousands for UK charities. They are actively engaging to promote respect, peace and tolerance in society.

"The efforts of our women along with our men are equally necessary for attaining the objective of our creation"

Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him) the second successor of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) who established the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association in 1922

INSIGHT

"I was born in Spain and raised as a Catholic. I converted to Islam in 2013. Before I converted, I was unaware of the important role Islam has given to women. I worked as a teacher and as a nurse, spending time with family and friends yet unaware of the potential I could reach as a woman. As an Ahmadi Muslim woman, my life now has a clear purpose and I now have a defined role. The focus of my time has changed, I now spend my time in the service of God, conveying the true teachings of Islam through writing articles, delivering lectures and collaborating on radio programmes. Islam has taught me to serve my faith but also to serve my community and as such I regularly help my neighbours and work within my local community to strengthen relations, build bridges, and promote mutual respect and tolerance which all contribute to a more peaceful society."

Marisa Butterworth, a Convert to Islam

An Education Seeker



Islam encourages women to seek an education, teach, research and serve God's creation using their scholarly knowledge to lead and impart wisdom.

The Holy Qur'an invites us to increase our knowledge without differentiating between men and women.

"O my Lord, increase me in knowledge"
(20:115)

The Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also emphasised the importance of seeking knowledge.

"It is the duty of every Muslim man and every Muslim woman to acquire knowledge."
(Ibn Majah)

The Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) first wife Hazrat Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) was an accomplished businesswoman and the first person to accept Islam. After her death, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) married Hazrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) who was one of the first and most prolific scholars in Islam.

"The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said that: "half the religion of Islam could be learned from Hazrat Ayesha."
(Al-Badayah wa Al-Nahayah, Vol III, p.129)

Hazrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) had a brilliant mind and was in intellect and wisdom so superior that she was given the title, 'Horizon of the Ladies of Islam'. She was not only free to express herself, her judicial decrees were accepted by the Khalifas, (or successors), of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) on a variety of matters. She taught the companions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), both men and women, who would seek her advice on a number of topics. Her work led directly to the development and methodology of jurisprudence and scholarly interpretation.

FACT

In 859AD the oldest existing, continually operating and first degree-awarding educational institution in the world, the University of Al Quaraouiyine was founded in Morocco by a Muslim woman.

Ahmadi Muslim women today are excelling in a wide variety of academic and intellectual pursuits. They serve as doctors, teachers, scientists, engineers and lawyers, supporting their community and at the same time serving their faith.

"Although Islam says there is a difference in the physical make-up of men and women and also in their responsibilities, in terms of intellect, just as man has been given intelligence, woman too has been given intelligence. Just as men have been commanded to acquire education, women have also been commanded to educate themselves. As such, Allah the Almighty has granted equal capabilities and means for both men and women to progress and advance. He has granted them both intellect, so that they utilise their wisdom and activate their mental faculties and strive to excel one another."

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) Germany 3rd September 2016

INSIGHT

"I am a member of Newham College, an institution that was founded in 1871 to allow women to study in Cambridge University, one of the world's greatest centres of knowledge and learning, at a time when they were not welcomed, and the female mind little respected. However, as a Muslim woman, I have a different perspective. I belong to a religion whose first revealed word was "recite", whose Sacred Text enjoins the pursuit of knowledge both worldly and spiritual and whose founder, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), championed the education of women and girls many hundreds of years before. Ahmadi Muslim women believe knowledge, though in itself a treasure, should be used to serve mankind and as members of society, we hope to contribute to the rich tapestry that is modern British cultural life."

Tooba Khokhar,
a Student at Cambridge University

THE ROLE OF



WOMEN IN ISLAM

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY



The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad- The Promised Messiah and Mahdi (peace be on him)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was founded in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him) of Qadian, India (1835-1908). He claimed under Divine guidance to be the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi, whose advent was awaited by the major religions of the world. His mission was to revive the peaceful teachings of Islam and engender in people's hearts the love of God and the duty to serve mankind. The Community is now established in 212 countries and is led by a system of Khilafat (spiritual leadership).

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) is the Community's fifth Khalifa and is based in London. He leads his global Community and inspires it to serve humanity with the spirit of kindness and humility that is integral to Islam. In accordance with the teachings of Islam, he upholds the rights that Islam has given to women and highlights that Ahmadi Muslim women can have true freedom, true enlightenment and true liberty.



His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper)- Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

An Equal and Equitable Role



The ultimate role of all Muslims, men and women, is to serve their Creator and to encapsulate righteousness in every role they assume.

In Islam men and women stand equal before God. Throughout the Holy Quran, they are given equal guidance and the rewards promised to them for good works are also equal.

"He created you from a single being; then from that He made its mate..."

(39:7)

"But whoso does good works, whether male or female, and is a believer, such shall enter Heaven..."

(4:125)

Having established spiritual equality between men and women, Islam also recognises that men and women are not identical. God created men and women with unique physiological and psychological attributes. They each have strengths and weaknesses which counterbalance one another. Islam embraces these strengths and weaknesses to divide the respective roles and responsibilities of men and women in such a way as to promote the family unit and contribute to a peaceful and harmonious society.

"Islam divides labour between the sexes and it is a great favour of our religion that it has made our respective roles and responsibilities so clear."

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) UK 25 February 2017

Men are assigned the role of the primary breadwinner of the family whereby it is their religious duty to fulfil all the needs of their household. They are also given the responsibility to be guardian of their household. Likewise, due to the fact that a woman's capacities perfectly suit her role in bearing and nurturing children, women are tasked with the primary responsibility for the emotional, educational and spiritual development of children along with the home environment which supports that. This ofcourse does not absolve men from the responsibilities of fathers in respect of the correct upbringing of children, however the primary responsibility of looking after children, Islam assigns to women.

"In the case where women are required to fulfil certain responsibilities, her ability to bear stress and tolerance is far greater than a man's and in certain situations a woman's patience and tolerance is far superior to his. A general example of this is in the upbringing of children where women bear the child crying at night and will wake up several times to breastfeed the infant. No man can compete with a woman in this respect."

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) Germany 3rd September 2016

"The fact that Islam has allocated different duties to men and women does not mean that women do not have the ability to do the work of men or are inferior in any way."

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) UK 24 September 2017

Role as Mother and Homemaker



One of the most important roles that Islam has bestowed upon women is that of a Mother. Mothers are given the highest rank in society, higher than fathers. No society or faith has laid such emphasis on the high status of motherhood. This glorious crown is reserved solely for women – a role that men cannot even aspire to.

"In the establishment and development of any nation or community, the women play a fundamental and vital role, as the responsibility for the training of the future generations lies in the hands of mothers. They are the nation builders."

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) UK 24 February 2018

Islam has emphasised that the primary duty of a mother is to raise the standards of future generations by setting the very highest standards for them to learn from and follow. Islam encourages a mother to invest her nurturing capabilities in raising the next generation with love, righteousness, care and wisdom. This is a crucial role because the future of mankind depends on her doing this well.

"The key for any nation to thrive and progress lies in the hands of the mothers of that nation."

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) UK 25 February 2017

INSIGHT

"I have made the personal choice of being a homemaker while my children are young. While the harsh economic realities of today's world might mean increasing numbers of two income households in Western countries, the importance of raising law-abiding, good citizens of society cannot be underestimated either and it is this fundamental task with which the homemaker is entrusted. I was raised by a single mother in Pakistan and through that experience came to appreciate the extent of the burden carried by the breadwinner of the family. It is a heavy onus that the duty holder must fulfil notwithstanding his or her other challenges. One sees the wisdom therefore in God's commandment in Islam placing this onus on the man, freeing the woman to be able to take care of other important matters that are part of running a household. This division of roles is by no means a forceful confinement of women to the home, British Muslim women today hail from every profession and many choose to pursue their careers alongside balancing their familial duties. By making the man the breadwinner, Islam has in fact given the woman a great convenience, to be free to choose if she would like to work and be free to choose how she would like to spend her earnings. She is not obliged to spend any of her income towards the running of her home. Muslim women inherited these freedoms in the 7th century compared to non-Muslim women who did not win them until as late as the 19th and 20th centuries."

Ayesha Malik, a Harvard Law School Graduate and Homemaker

Professionals Serving Humanity



Islam encourages women to pursue professions through which they can benefit mankind.

Whilst Islam places the responsibility of earning to provide for the family on men, Muslim women are free to work and earn money if they so choose. They have full financial autonomy and are free to spend their earnings as they wish. If they choose to spend their earnings on the family, that is their choice, not an obligation.

"Nowhere does Islam say that women should be confined to the home as is sometimes alleged. For example there are some girls and ladies who excel in studies and achieve extraordinary results and Islam does not instruct that they should waste their talents or skills and only stay at home. Islam does not restrict them from fulfilling their potential, rather they can pursue those professions through which they can benefit humanity and serve mankind."

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) UK 25 February 2017

INSIGHT

"Amongst the many hats that women wear, I have those of being British, a Muslim and a Doctor. Whilst this may seem an unusual combination, it is far from it. Islam is very clear in declaring that loyalty to one's country is a part of faith, and thus, to serve it, is not only a great privilege but a duty conferred upon me by Islam. As a Muslim woman, I go to work with the assurance that having fulfilled the responsibilities of my home, Islam not only permits but encourages me to serve humanity. I do not feel the need to compete with men. I know that in matters of spirituality we are equal but in the physical sphere, Islam has given us different roles. I am first a wife and mother, and then a doctor who goes to work not for a career or a salary, but to serve humanity for the sake of our Creator."

Dr Maleeha Mansur, a Doctor working in the NHS