

## 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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LOVE FOR ALL HATRED FOR NONE

## Economic Status of Women in Islam

Of all the great faiths, Islam has been foremost in assigning to women a position of economic independence. Islam makes it clear that a woman is entitled to possess wealth and property of her own, whether it is inherited or earned, and has full rights over it. The Holy Qur'an states:

*"Men shall have a share of that which they have earned, and women a share of that which they have earned. And ask Allah of His bounty. Surely, Allah has perfect knowledge of all things."*

(4:33)

This verse establishes that a woman has the right to manage her own wealth. Islam gave women these rights of economic independence much earlier than they were available anywhere else in the world. For example, it was not until 1300 years later, with the enactment of the Married Women's Property Act 1870, that women in the West acquired such rights.

Islam further protects the economic status of a woman by requiring a husband to give her a dowry at the time of marriage. This becomes part of her exclusive wealth, and her husband has no right over it, unless she wishes to share it with him. The Holy Qur'an states:

*"And give the women their dowries willingly. But if they, of their own pleasure, remit to you a part thereof, then enjoy it as something pleasant and wholesome."*

(4:5)

One of the most prominent rights granted to women with the advent of Islam was the right to an inheritance. A Muslim woman is entitled to inherit from the deceased in her role as mother, wife, daughter or sister. The Holy Qur'an makes clear that:

*"For men there is a share of that which parents and near relations leave; and for women is a share of that which parents and near relations leave, whether it be a little or much — a determined share."*

(4:8)

## Women and the Veil



In Islam the veil (hijab) is part of a Muslim woman's faith. It establishes dignity and respect for women, so that they are recognised in society as individuals who are honoured for their intelligence, personality and academic achievement, rather than for their physical beauty. The hijab is not meant to differentiate between men and women, rather it liberates women and enables them to excel within all dimensions of society. The Holy Qur'an asks both men and women to observe a form of modesty. It first addresses men:

*"Say to the believing men that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Surely, Allah is well aware of what they do."*

(24:31)

Then addresses women:

*"And say to the believing women that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts, and that they display not their beauty and embellishments except that which is apparent thereof, and that they draw their head-covers over their bosoms, and that they display not their beauty and embellishments thereof save to their husbands..."*

(24:32)

Muslim women are proud to wear their hijab. Rather than being a restriction, the hijab is actually a supreme right and protection offered to Muslim women.

*"...It is often alleged that Purdah takes away women's rights. However, we know that this is not the case and the truth is that Purdah and Hijab actually establish the true dignity, independence and freedom of women. Hijab does not only give women physical security but is also a key means of giving them spiritual security and purity of heart."*

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper)

UK, 26th October 2014

# THE STATUS 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

## The Status of Women in Islam

*"Islam is that Religion which liberated women and established their true status and honour"*

*His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) the fifth Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, UK, 25 February 2017*

The Islamic teaching regarding the status of women is perhaps one of the most misunderstood. Muslim women are often perceived as repressed and deprived of their rights. The media is ripe with images of the stereotypical Muslim woman as fully covered and dominated by her husband, with little more status than a slave. The truth is that for 1400 years, Muslim women have been enjoying rights and an esteemed status for which many western women are still struggling.

True Islam honours and empowers women. It enables them to both excel and contribute to family, society, the economy and the good of the nation and be judged by God equally.

## Spiritual Status of Women in Islam

Prior to the advent of Islam, women had no real status in society, not being respected as a wife, mother or daughter. In fact, daughters were considered worthless and were often killed at birth by some tribes. Women were given little or no education and had no say in religious matters, being regarded as limited in spirituality and intellect.

One of the most important changes that Islam brought for women was to raise their spiritual status. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah makes it clear that He created men and women as equal beings:

*"He created you from a single being; then from that He made its mate..."*  
(39:7)

This single verse removes any taint of inferiority levelled at womankind. Furthermore, Allah has clearly declared in the Holy Qur'an that a woman has the same spiritual capacity as a man and that she can attain equal spiritual rewards by her own efforts. The Holy Qur'an says:

*"But whoso does good works, whether male or female, and is a believer, such shall enter Heaven..."*  
(4:125)

The Holy Qur'an is unique amongst all scriptures in that it repeatedly emphasises this equality by addressing both men and women, leaving no doubt as to the spiritual status of women:

*"Surely, men who submit themselves to God and women who submit themselves to Him, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women, and truthful men and truthful women, and men steadfast in their faith and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard their chastity, and men who remember Allah much and women who remember Him- Allah has prepared for all of them forgiveness and a great reward."*  
(33:36)

His Holiness has emphasised this teaching by stating:

*"Let it be crystal clear that in no respect is a woman's status less than that of a man."*

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

## Social Status of Women in Islam

The social status of women changed significantly with the advent of Islam. Society was given clear guidance by the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) for the treatment of women in their roles as independent individuals and as a daughter, wife and mother. In all of these roles, Islam has given women respect, honour and dignity.

### DAUGHTER



The pre-Islamic practice in Arabia of killing infant girls at birth for fear of humiliation or poverty was totally abolished by Islam. Islam raised the social status of a daughter from that of being despised and unwanted to being loved and cherished. The Holy Qur'an states:

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also said:

*"He who brings up two girls through their childhood will appear on the Day of Judgement attached to me like two fingers of a hand."*  
(Muslim)

### WIFE



*"...Kill not your children for fear of poverty- it is We Who provide for you and for them- and that you approach not foul deeds, whether open or secret..."*  
(6:152)

After forbidding the killing of children, Islam goes on to teach a father that he must raise his daughters in the same way as his sons. In fact, taking good care of a daughter opens the door to Paradise for a Muslim. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stated:

*"A person who has a baby daughter and does not bury her alive, does not demean her and does not give preference to sons over her shall be given entry to Paradise by Allah the Exalted."*  
(Al Hakim)

Through the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the examples of kindness and respect shown by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to his wives, Islam raised the status of a wife from being little more than a servant to being worthy of utmost respect, regard and an equal with her husband on all levels.

The Holy Qur'an beautifully defines the equality of the relationship between a husband and a wife with this verse:

*"...They are a garment for you, and you are a garment for them."*  
(2:188)

That is to say, just as garments provide protection and comfort for our bodies, a husband and wife should similarly provide protection and comfort for each other in terms of physical relations, dignity, emotional support and love. With this in mind, mutual consent must take place before a marriage bond is formed.

### MOTHER



Islam has given an esteemed and distinguished status to mothers.

The Holy Qur'an repeatedly directs Muslims to care for their parents, especially one's mother.

*"And We have enjoined on man concerning his parents- his mother bears him in weakness upon weakness..."*  
(31:15)

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) emphasised how important it is for Muslims to take care of their mothers and to give full consideration and respect to her needs and wishes.

In a saying of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), when asked, to whom a man should show most consideration, he is reported to have stated: *"To your mother."* When asked a second time, again he said: *"To your mother."* He was asked a third time, again the reply was: *"Your mother."* Only upon being asked a fourth time did he reply: *"Your father."*  
(Bukhari)

Such is the highly revered status of a mother in Islam that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said:

*"Paradise lies at the feet of your mothers."*  
(Ibn Majah)

The relationship between a husband and wife is discussed in affectionate terms in the Holy Qur'an:

*"And one of His Signs is this, that He has created wives for you from among yourselves that you may find peace of mind in them, and He has put love and tenderness between you. In that surely are Signs for a people who reflect."*  
(30:22)

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

*"The relationship between husband and wife should be as between two true and sincere friends. The primary witness of a person's high moral qualities and of his relationship with God is his wife. If his relationship with his wife is not good, it is not possible that he should be at peace with God. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said, "The best of you are those who behave best towards their wives."*  
(Malfuzat, Vol. V, pp. 417-418)

Islam further teaches that women be treated with kindness and generosity and be given equal rights in marriage and divorce. Before the advent of Islam, a woman could not initiate the divorce process even if she was seriously mistreated. Islam granted women the right to seek divorce several hundred years before this right was available to women in the western world.