



**LAJNA IMA'ILLAH
UNITED KINGDOM**

「Spotlight on: Hijab」

Tabligh Refresher Course
November 2023

Presentation by the National Tabligh Department



CONTEXT

Across the European Union, the headscarves worn by some Muslim women have been widely contested for years. This debate has now spread to other nations, including some Muslim-majority countries.



Some politicians claim hijab bans would tackle **religious oppression** and **terrorism**, while others argue bans would discriminate against women's rights, and hamper **integration**.



UN slams France's decision to ban French athletes' hijabs at 2024 Olympics

The United Nations' human rights office has criticized the French government for banning French athletes from wearing the hijab at the Paris...

1 month ago



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French shrug off Muslim upset at abaya ban in schools

9 September



REUTERS

Polls suggest four out of five French people back the ban on girls wearing an abaya in school

By Hugh Schofield, Khadidiatou Cissé & Kaine Pieri

BBC News in Paris and London

Why should a teenage girl not be able to express her religious beliefs and at the same time pursue an education at school?

It is a tough question, but one to which the French believe they have an answer.

Saturday, Nov 04, 2023

Outlook

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Hijab Ban: One Year On, Muslim Students In Karnataka Continue Their Fight For Education





National Geographic

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com> › history › article



Why Turkey Lifted Its Ban on the Islamic Headscarf

12 Oct 2013 — **Turkey's** lifting of its **ban** on the **hijab** comes at a time when a number of countries are debating or imposing restrictions on traditional Muslim ...



Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com> › world › middle-east › islamic-...



Islamic headscarf returns to heart of Turkish political debate

5 Oct 2022 — In 2013, **Turkey** lifted a **ban** on women wearing **headscarves** in state institutions under reforms which the government said were designed to ...





In 2022, a high school in the Southern state of Karnataka, India, banned hijabs in classrooms, sparking protests

What percentage of women in India adopt a head-covering outside of the home?

- a. 26%**
- b. 45%**
- c. 61%**



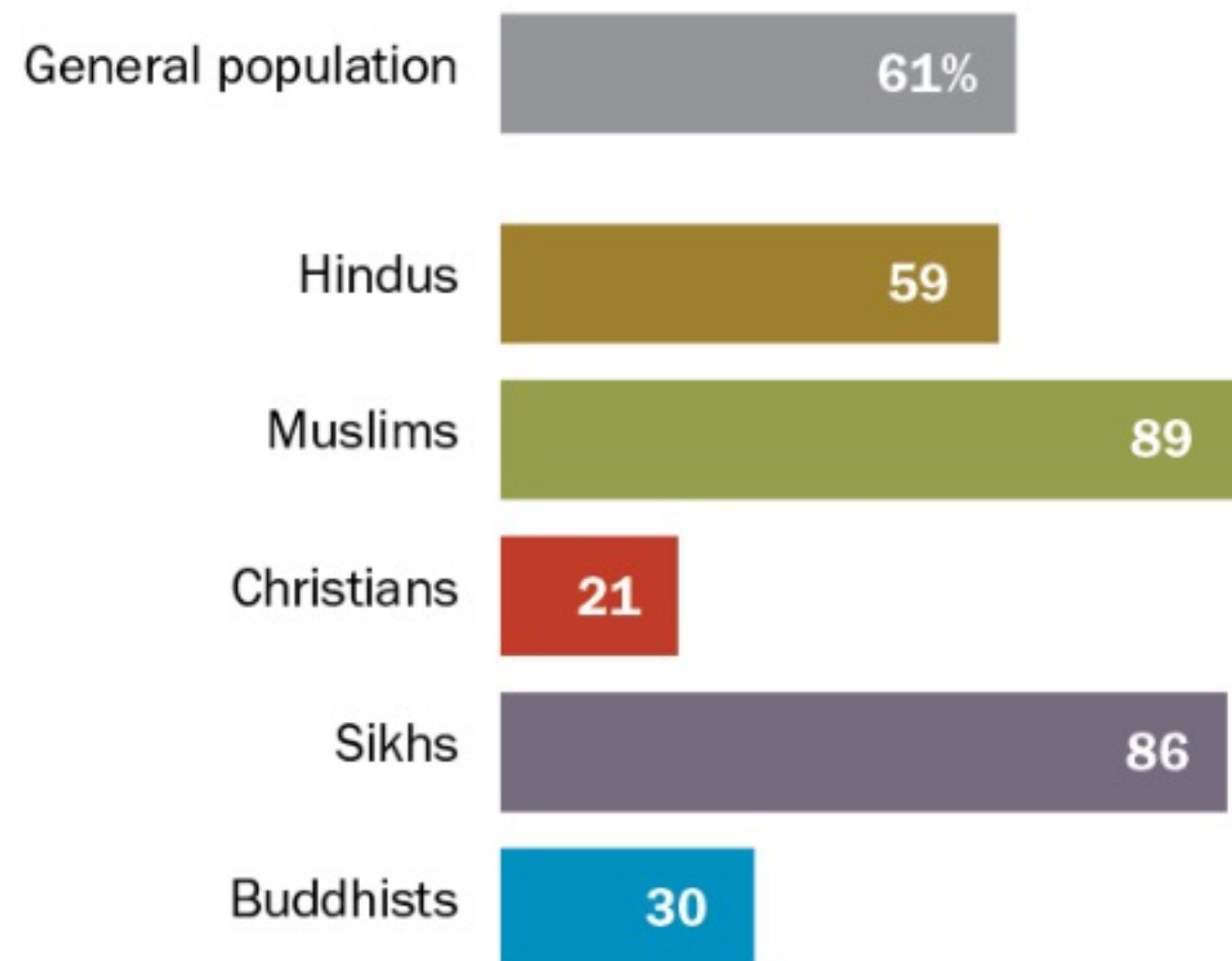


ANSWER

61% (PEW Research 2020)

Six-in-ten Indian women say they wear head coverings outside of the home

% of Indian women who say they keep the practice of covering their heads outside their home





Which Muslim Country recently
banned Niqab in Schools (Sep 23)?

- a. EGYPT
- b. MALAYSIA
- c. INDONESIA





ANSWER


EGYPT

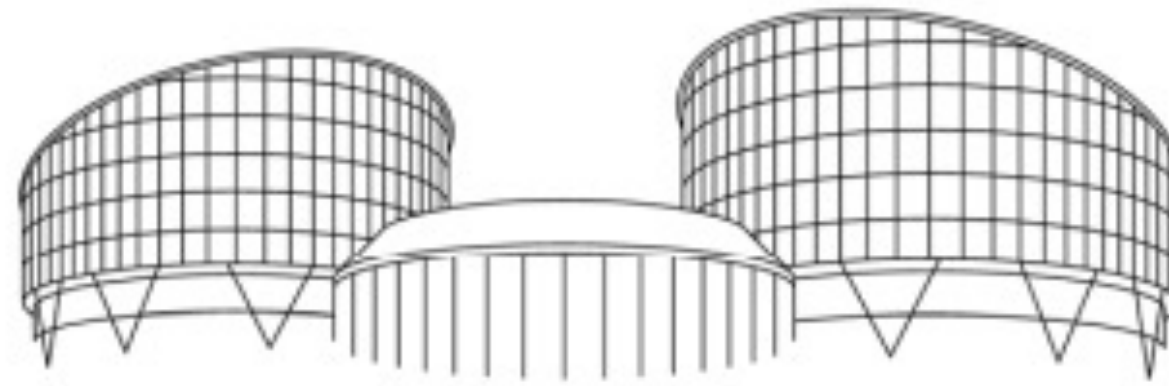




The Debate...

Do these laws interfere with the basic human right to freedom of religion? Is hijab a 'political' symbol or a personal, religious choice?





EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion) of the European Convention on Human Rights:

"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.

2. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."



WHO SAID...

“burqa bans are incompatible with international law guarantees of the right to manifest one’s religion or belief and of freedom of expression.”

President Emanuel Macron (France)

The United Nations Special
Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion
or Belief, Ahmed Shaheed

Boris Johnson (UK)





ANSWER

The United Nations Special
Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion
or Belief, Ahmed Shaheed






Words of Huzoor (aba)



When asked about an EU law through which an employer could fire an employee who wore the hijab, without giving any reason:

“Voices are being raised against this law. If an employer can do this, then it is against human rights. Tomorrow, if they say to a Jewish man that he cannot wear the kippah on his head, or to a Sikh that they cannot wear a turban, then they are denying their rights. That is why this law is completely wrong.”



Virtual Mulaqat with Swedish Lajna, November 21, 2021



Words of Huzoor (aba)

“On the one hand, they talk about ‘human rights’ and on the other, they deny the Islamic rights of women”

Virtual Mulaqat with Swedish Lajna, November 21, 2021



What are some of the
reasons given by
governments to ban
hijab?





Security Concerns

Integration

Separation of Church and State

Preserve Secularism

Combating Extremism

Promoting Nationalistic Culture and Values

‘Upholding Women’s Rights’





Words of Huzoor (aba)

“Nowadays, in the name of women’s rights, there is a great commotion around the issue of Purda (veil) in Western countries. The pretext is women’s rights or elimination of terrorism or even baseless criticism of Islam. In the Holy Qurān, Allah the Exalted has explained various aspects of how and when to adopt Purda.”





WHAT ISLAM SAYS

Islam promotes Modesty and Chastity as central tenets of faith for **both men and women** in order to establish and preserve a peaceful society. Recognising the nature of both men and women.

The Holy Qur'an first addresses 'believing men' to be chaste and restrain their gaze before it addresses women



Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Say to the believing women that they restrain their looks and guard their private parts, and that they display not their beauty or their embellishment except that which is apparent thereof, and that they draw their head coverings over their bosoms...”

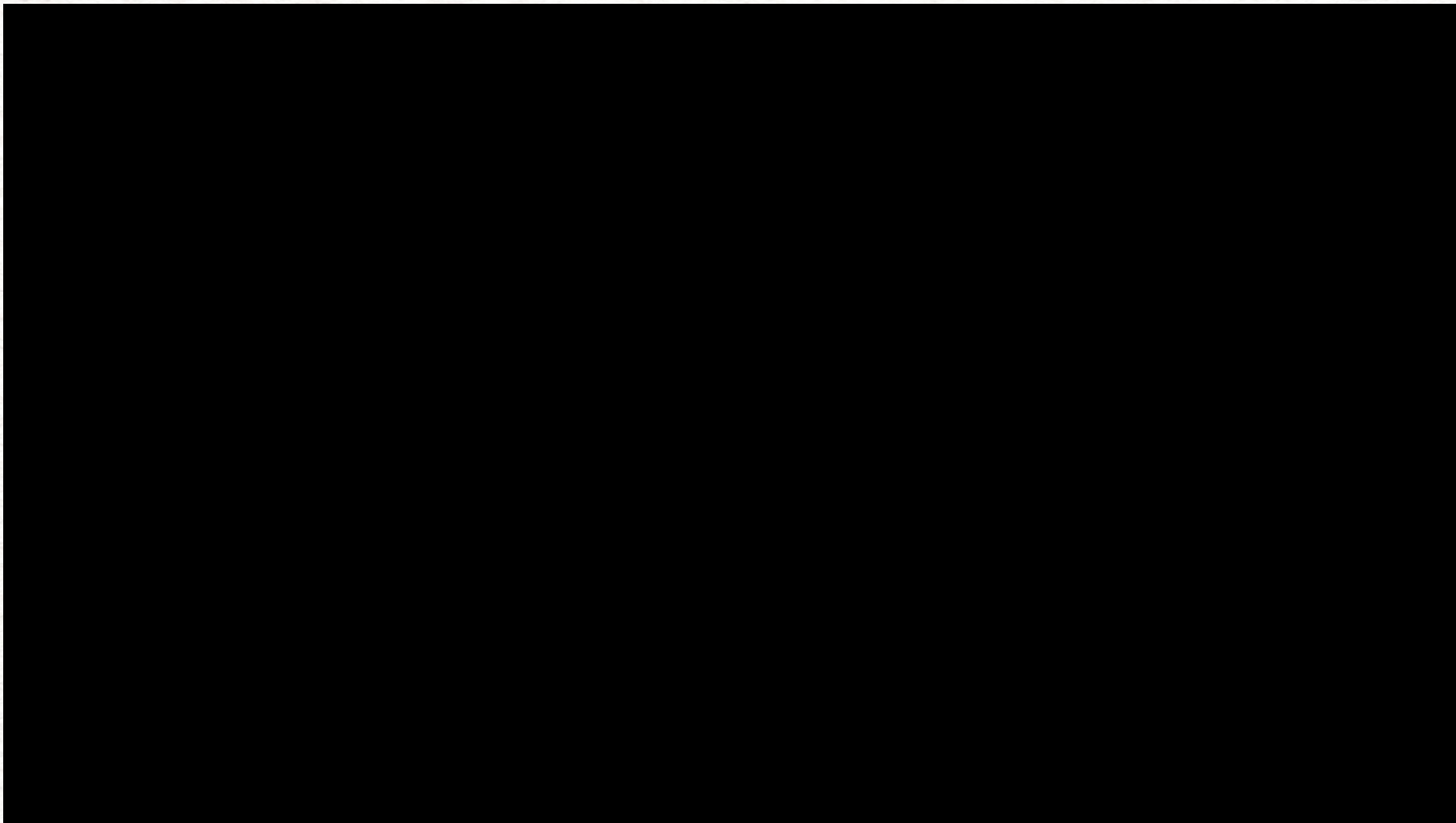
(Chapter 24, Al Nur, Verse 32)

Islam has prescribed a dress code to the women to protect their purity and modesty.

The veil is a kind of protection for ladies from any harm, not only physically but also morally and spiritually. This dress code of modesty acts as a barrier between two sexes and allows a woman to mix within society with dignity.



Words of Khalifatul Masih V (aba): On Hijab






WHAT ISLAM SAYS

The veil represents a woman's devotion to God, not her subservience to men. By wearing the veil, a woman is willingly adhering to God's commandment and the teachings of Islam which grant women full rights and status.

Any deprivation of women from their Islamic rights and status that can be witnessed in certain countries is not due to following the Islamic teachings; it is rather a result of traditions and cultures that are prevalent in these countries.






The Concept of MODESTY

The wearing of a veil, or hijab, is not unique to Islam. It has cultural and religious roots dating back to the ancient Greek/Roman societies, as well as Judaism, Christianity, and Hinduism.

The covering of one's head and dressing modestly were symbols of elevated status and righteousness. Throughout history, a fundamental aspect of an educated/civilized society has been modesty. The only difference is the **manner and degree** to which different societies interpreted 'covering' of oneself







Words of Huzoor (aba)



“The concept of Haya (modesty) and Purda (the veil) is not only presented by Islam. It is a very old concept. Christian nuns cover their heads with veils like the Hijab and wear full-length sleeves. They used to wear this attire in the past and do so even now because it is the requirement of Purda. Thus, it is an excuse to say that society has become modern. Other religions have deteriorated and changed. People have started meddling with their religious books and this has always happened whereas Allah the Almighty has proclaimed that He will protect the Holy Qurān. Therefore, we also need to protect the commandments given in it. Inculcate this awareness in the girls that we have to protect the commandments given by Allah the Exalted.”



The Need for MODESTY

 UK Parliament Committees

New inquiry: The escalation of violence against women and girls - Committees - UK Parliament

The Women and Equalities Committee has today launched a new inquiry to understand whether men who commit certain types of crime and...

11 Jul 2023



 Al Jazeera

#MeToo movement, it turns out, was just a fleeting moment

#MeToo movement, it turns out, was just a fleeting moment. We still live in a world where sexual harassment is an everyday reality for women and...

10 Aug 2023



The Need for MODESTY

 Essex County Council

Guide launched to make public spaces safer for women and girls

Guide launched to make public spaces safer for women and girls · pioneers local design · creates space for innovation · encourages high-quality...

14 Jul 2023



 West Yorkshire Police

More Than 200 Safe Spaces Now Operating For Women And Girls in Kirklees

Friday August 23, 2023 A drive to provide safe places for women girls and others at risk in Kirklees has passed a major milestone after...

23 Aug 2023



 ReliefWeb

Northeast Nigeria Guidance Note: Establishing Women and Girls Safe Spaces 2023 - Nigeria

What is a Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS)? A safe space (often used WGSS) is a place where all women and girls feel physically and...





Words of Huzoor (aba)

“It is true that in the non-Muslim world, the concept of purdah and hijab has long been criticised. Yet now, certain non-Muslims are actually calling for safeguards that mirror Islam’s teachings. They are coming to realise the need for caution following reports of countless cases of men harassing and abusing women at all levels of society.

“Relatively recently, a survey found that 97% of women aged between the ages of 18-24 in the UK had been harassed by men. Across all age ranges, 70% of women said they had faced sexual harassment in public. As a result, there have been calls to establish safe spaces for women or to have women-only events.






Words of Huzoor (aba)

“Similarly, recently a new report found that many women and girls in the UK were leaving sports and exercise because they felt uncomfortable as though they were being sexualised by being forced to wear sports kits that exposed much of their bodies.

“Thus, you should never harbour any form of inferiority complex or embarrassment regarding hijab or any other of Islam’s teachings. Instead, you should feel pride in your religious beliefs and be confident in the expression of your faith. Certainly, there is no Islamic injunction or restriction that is without reason or logic. Each Islamic teaching is based upon human nature and the means for ensuring societal peace and harmony.”



Additional Resources



[Rational Religion: 'How Islam Pioneered Safe Spaces'](#)



[Rational Religion: 'Why Muslims Wear the Hijab'](#)




Additional Resources

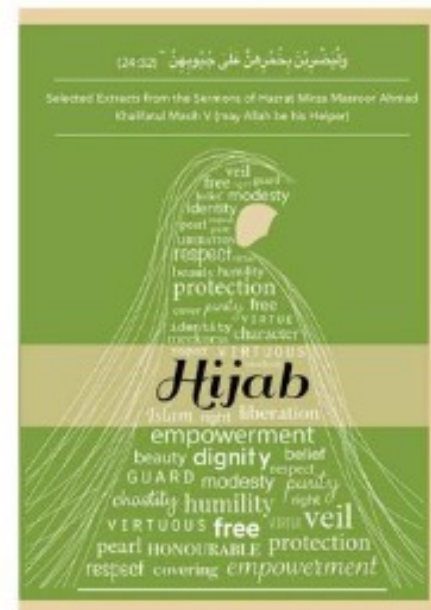


Al Islam



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Hijab


The Veil

by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad,
Khalifatul Masih V^(aba)



‘Introducing’ Hijab

What are some methods/means by which you have broached the subject of hijab/modesty?

- Hijab Stands: provide an opportunity for women to try on hijabs, thus dispelling pre-conceived notions and providing familiarity and knowledge**
 - Leading by example: at school, work, during extracurricular activities**
- 



Jazak'Allah

Please direct any questions to:

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