

Marriage in Islam



The Roles and Rights
of a Wife

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

OUR FOUNDER

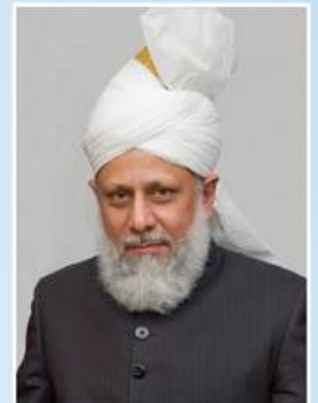


Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad- The Promised Messiah and Mahdi (peace be on him)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was founded in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him) of Qadian, India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days and the awaited one of the world's religions (the Messiah and Mahdi). 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 213 countries and it spearheads a global peace campaign to champion respect and human rights for all.

OUR LEADERSHIP

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper) is the Community's fifth Khalifa. His Holiness encourages the development and progress of women at a time when it is often alleged that Islam does not grant equality between genders. In accordance with the teachings of Islam, he upholds the rights that Islam has given to women and highlights that Ahmadi Muslim women have true freedom, true enlightenment and true liberty.



His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (May Allah be his Helper)

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION UK



The flag of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, known as Lajna Imaillah (Community of the servants of Allah)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association was established in 1922 by the second successor to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him), His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him). It is an empowered women's organisation whose main goal is to promote religious and secular education amongst women and to support those lacking in these areas and help them in the spirit of sisterhood.

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

Marriage is a fundamental commandment in Islam, with detailed guidance found in both the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith (the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)).

Marriage plays a central role in establishing the basic unit of human society—the family. Islam encourages marriage for its various benefits, including moral, spiritual, social and psychological well-being.

Moral Well-being



To provide a legal union which safeguards society from moral and social degradation.

“And those who find no *means of* marriage should keep themselves chaste, until Allah grants them means out of His bounty”

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 24, Verse 34]

Social Well-being



To provide a stable and righteous environment for raising children.

“Raising children with religious morals and spirituality is a very important task and if you manage to do it effectively, it means that you have protected your future generation”

[His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper), 19 February 2023]

Spiritual Well-being



To create an environment of peace and love within the family, helping achieve the ultimate objective of a Muslim's life: the worship of God.

“When a man has married, he has completed one half of his religion”

[The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) Mishkat]

Psychological Well-being



To enable a man and a woman to live together and experience love and happiness, within Islamic law.

“The relationship between a husband and wife should be like two true and sincere friends”

[Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him) Malfoozat, Vol. 5, Page 417-418]

EQUAL AND EQUITABLE ROLES IN MARRIAGE

The Holy Qur'an makes it clear that men and women are created equally.

"He it is Who created you from a single soul, and made therefrom its mate, that he might find comfort in her"

[The Holy Qur'an Chapter 7, Verse 190]

It beautifully defines the equality of the relationship between a husband and wife:

"They are a garment for you, and you are a garment for them"

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2, Verse 188]

Islam regards a husband and wife equal in providing support, comfort and protection for one another. Clothing is worn for adornment and protection. In the same way, a husband and wife should protect each other's honour, morals and make each other feel secure with understanding and support.

Islam also recognises that such equality does not mean that men and women are the same. It notes their different physical and emotional strengths and in view of this, takes an equitable approach in setting out their key roles in life.

Islam respects the different capacities and abilities of men and women and provides them roles that are best suited for them.

"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), 24 September 2017]

Men are assigned the role of breadwinner and provider of the family. They are also given the responsibility to be the guardian of their household.

"A man is not made the guardian to dominate his family, rather he is made guardian in order to fulfil the rights of his wife and children"

[His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper), 6 June 2021]

These are the primary roles of men and women, but that does not mean their other roles should be dismissed. As their primary roles are being fulfilled, women can work in a profession of their choice if they wish to earn a personal income. Similarly, Islam instructs that men should play their part in the proper upbringing of children and providing their family the best treatment.

THE RIGHTS OF A WIFE IN MARRIAGE

During pre-Islamic Arabia, women had no right of consent at the time of marriage and this union did not uphold their dignity. Marriages consisted of an agreement between the man and his future wife's family. In domestic affairs, women had no rights over their children or themselves; in fact, they could be sold or abandoned by their husbands at will. They also had no right to seek divorce.

Islam changed the role of a wife from being little more than a servant to being an equal with her husband on all levels.

The Right to Dowry



Islam requires men to provide a dowry at the time of marriage. This becomes part of the wife's exclusive wealth, and her husband has no right over it, unless she wishes to share it with him.

"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"

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 4, Verse 5]

The Right to Inheritance



A woman is entitled to inherit from her husband, and from other near relatives.

"For men 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 little or much – a determined share"

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 4, Verse 8]

The Right to Work after Marriage



"Nowhere does Islam say that women should be confined to the home as is sometimes alleged[...] Islam does not restrict them from fulfilling their potential, rather they can pursue those professions through which they can benefit humanity and serve mankind"

[Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper), 25 February 2017]

The Right to Seek Divorce



Islam permits divorce, though it is considered to be one of the most displeasing acts in the sight of Allah. If there is no prospect of reconciliation, then Allah commands that one should separate in the best manner and part with dignity and respect.

"And if they separate, Allah will make both independent out of His abundance; and Allah is Bountiful, Wise"

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 4, Verse 131]

IMPORTANCE OF KIND TREATMENT TO WIFE

Allah Almighty has engendered love between husband and wife. We learn this in the Holy Qur'an: **"...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..."**

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 30, Verse 22]

LOVE

HONOUR

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught the importance of treating wives with kindness: **"The best of you is the one whose treatment towards his wife is the best and my conduct towards my wives is the best from among you"**

[The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) Tirmidhi, Vol 1, 46, 3895]

The Holy Qur'an draws attention towards living amicably with one another and exhorts men to overlook weaknesses and shortcomings of their wives: **"...and consort with them in kindness; and if you dislike them, it may be that you dislike a thing wherein Allah has placed much good"**

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 4, Verse 20]

PROTECT

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was so concerned about the treatment of women, that in his last sermon he spoke to the Muslims about their rights:

"O people! Some rights of yours are due upon women and some rights of theirs are due upon you. Act mercifully towards your wives. You have married them believing in God to be Omnipresent and Omniscient, and they have been made lawful for you under the directions of God Almighty. Hence, you have offered them protection under the obligation of God Almighty."

[Sahih Sitta, Tabari, Hisham and Khamis, English Translation: Life of Muhammad (sa)]

ARRANGED MARRIAGE vs FORCED MARRIAGE

What is a “Forced Marriage”?

Forced marriage is not an issue that is specific to any religion, ethnic group or culture. Every major faith condemns forced marriage. Freely given consent is a prerequisite of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriages.

How does this differ from an “Arranged Marriage”?

The term “arranged marriage” is often referred to in the media as being synonymous with forced unions, leaving many to falsely believe that women are devoid of choice. However, this perspective is a stark misinterpretation of the Islamic approach to arranged marriages. Islamic teachings are clear that both the man and woman must freely consent to their marriage.

The Holy Qur'an states:

“...then marry of women as may be agreeable to you...”

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 4, Verse 4]

The life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) provides notable instances that counter the notion of forced marriages.

“A girl came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and mentioned that her father had married her against her will, so the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) allowed her to exercise her choice”

[Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab an-nikah, Hadith 2096]

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper) has highlighted the importance of free consent in marriage:

“When it comes to marriage, it is essential that the bride consents freely and happily without any form of coercion or pressure. Forced marriage is completely wrong and a grave violation of Islamic teaching”

[His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (May Allah be his Helper), 24 February 2018]

“AND WE CREATED YOU IN PAIRS”


[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 78, Verse 9]




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