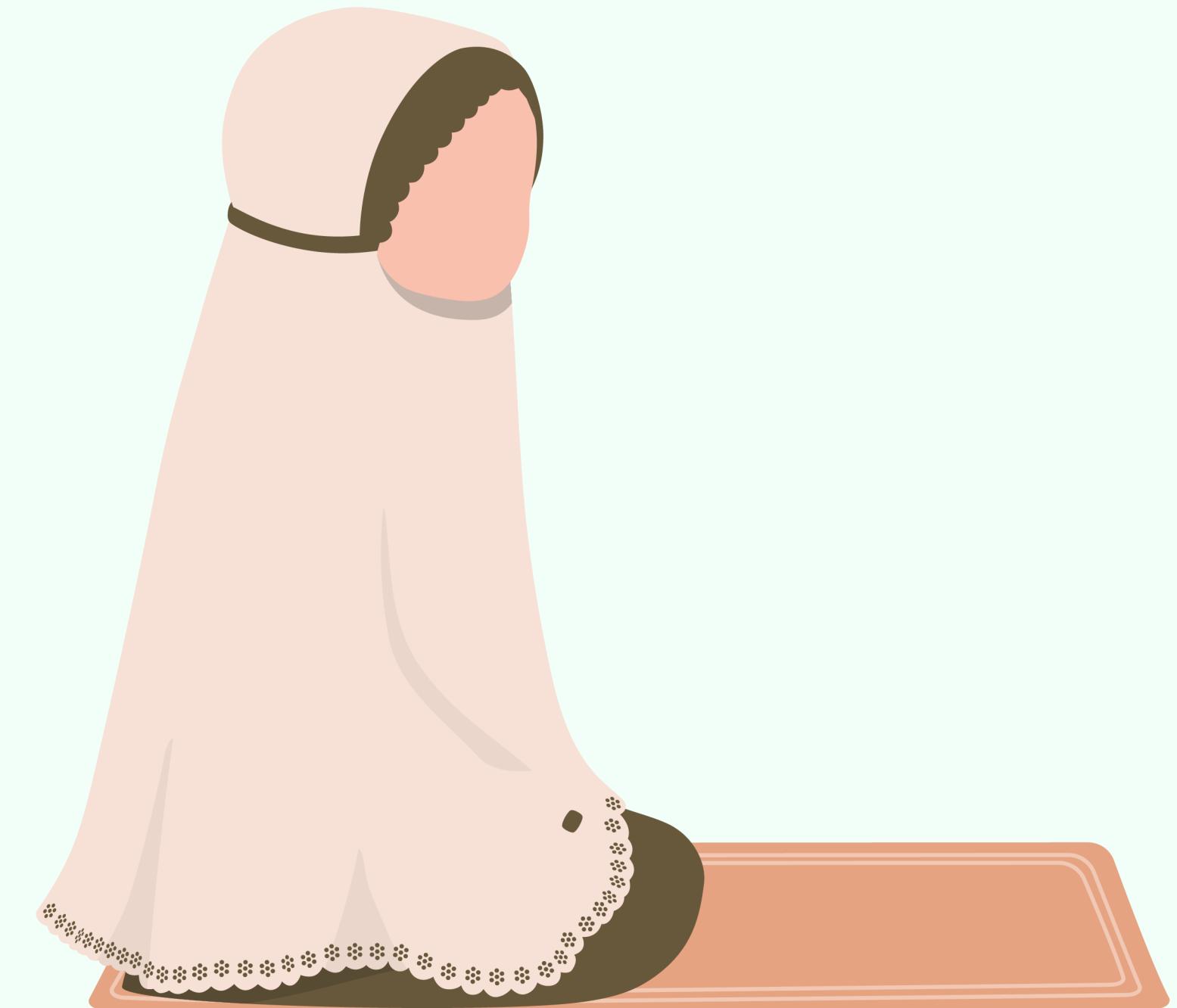


Principles of Prayer Etiquette of Salat & Purdah

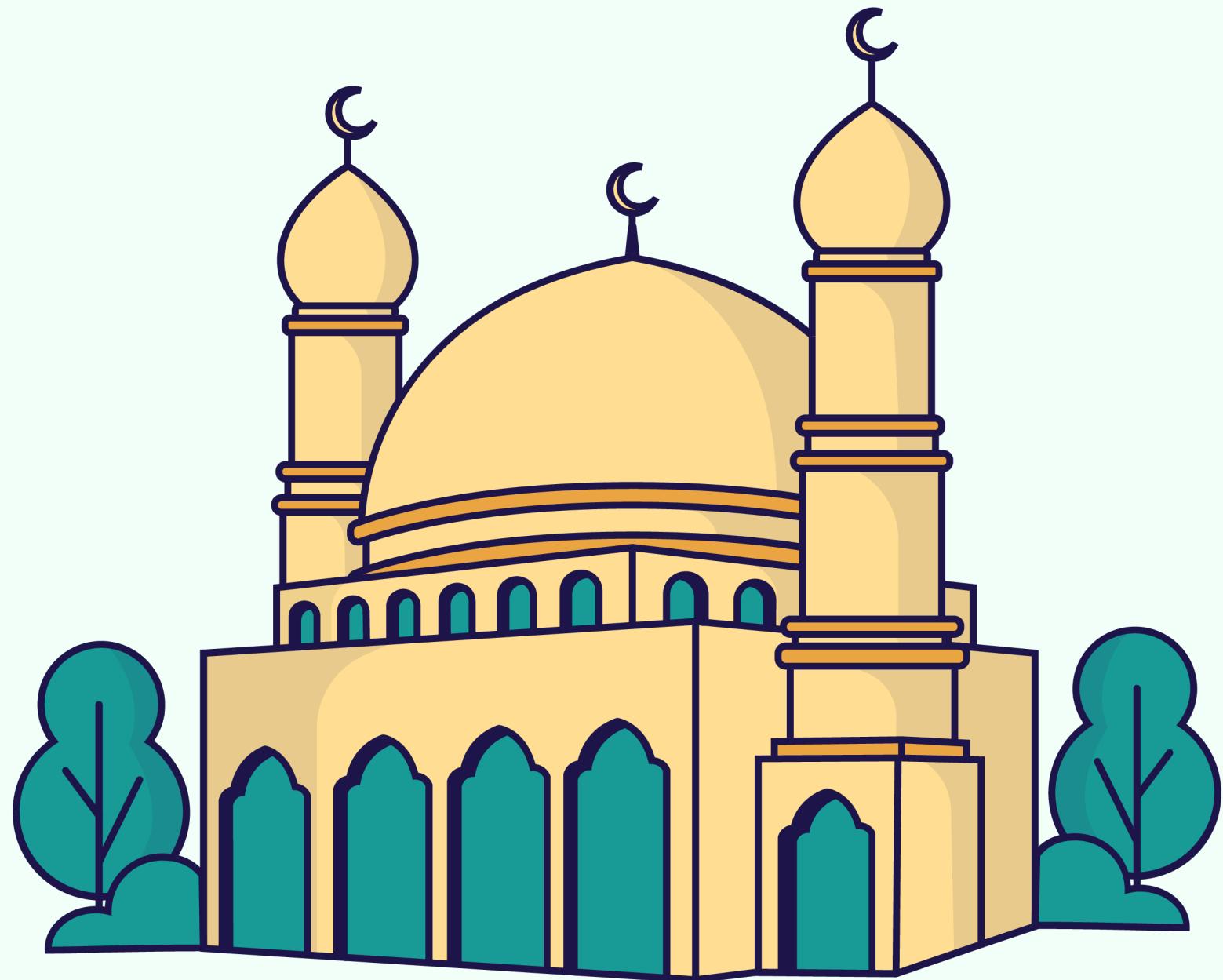
Presentation by
National Tarbiyyat Department,
Lajna Imaillah UK



LAJNA IMA'ILLAH
UNITED KINGDOM

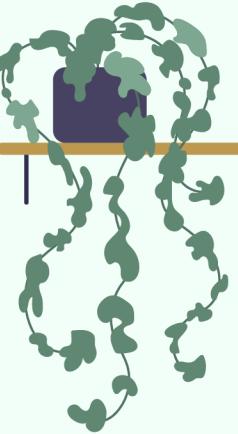


Assalaamu Alaikum Everyone!



This presentation we will be covering the Principles of Prayer, Etiquette of Salat & Purdah

This presentation followed but an interactive group workshop.



Doubts Regarding Prayer

His Holiness (aba) said that in the face of trial or failure, those who are weak of faith or the less knowledgeable think that either their faith is false and there is no truth to it or that God will not have mercy on them and take them out of their sufferings; they feel that God is cruel to them due to their circumstances. They feel that despite having prayed, their circumstances are not improving.

His Holiness (aba) said that such questions and doubts arise in the minds of those who are more inclined to the world. Many such people write to His Holiness (aba) as well, expressing their negative opinions. Instead, one ought to reflect on themselves and evaluate how well they are fulfilling the rights of God, and what the standard of their worship is.

The Principles of Prayer & the Need for Humility & Steadfastness
Friday Sermon delivered at Masjid Mubarak, Islamabad, Tilford, UK
16 December 2022

National Tarbiyyat Department, Lajna Imaillah UK

Prayer Must be Performed in Times of Comfort and Distress

Who said that it is due to the mercy of Allah that one is fearful during times of comfort just as he is fearful during times of distress. He who does not forget God Almighty during times of ease is not forgotten by God Almighty during times of hardship. However, those who spend their time of ease in enjoyment and only resort to prayer in hardship, their prayers are not accepted. When the punishment of God comes, then the doors of the acceptance of prayers are closed.

Promised Messiah (a.s)

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Praying to God Requires Reverence

Praying to God Almighty demands reverence. When people ask something of their king, they make sure to revere him. It is for this reason that we call upon the attributes of Allah and praise Him in Surah al-Fatiyah. We call him worthy of all praise, Rahman (Gracious) and Rahim (Merciful). Rahim means that he does not allow for true effort to go to waste.

Furthermore, we address God Almighty as the Master of the Day of Judgement, for He will be the Judge on that day.

*Rahman
Rahim*

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Promised Messiah (a.s)

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The Etiquettes of Prayer

When the Promised Messiah (as) was saying this, a person in the audience asked what need the prophets had for such a prayer. Why did the Holy Prophet (sa) have to offer such a prayer? He was always on the right path. The Promised Messiah (as) said that the prophets would offer this prayer to attain a higher rank. In fact, a believer will offer this prayer in the hereafter as well; just as there are no limits to God Almighty, there are no limits to the progress a believer can make.

His Holiness (aba) said that these are the principles and etiquettes of prayer that should be kept in view whilst praying. If one does this, then they are able to experience the closeness of Allah the Almighty and learn how to pray for their needs before Him.

The Etiquettes of Prayer



Regarding prayer and its etiquettes, His Holiness (aba) quotes the Promised Messiah (as) who further states that prayer is an extraordinary thing. However, it is unfortunate that those who ask for prayers and those who offer prayers in this era are unaware of the ways to attain the acceptance of prayers. In fact, they are far removed from the philosophy of prayer. Some reject prayer from the get go, while others move away from prayer because they are oblivious to the methods of having their prayers accepted. Such people have brought others toward atheism. For successful prayer, one should be patient and steadfast and not think ill of God. It is often seen that when a supplicant is about to attain the object of his prayer, he tires and gives up. Owing to this, they reject prayer and eventually renounce their belief in God. They claim that if God actually existed, then He would have surely accepted the many prayers they offered. Such a person should ponder over their lack of faith and persistence, because that is the true cause of their failure. One must not be hasty and strengthen their faith.

One must Persevere and not Haste in Prayer

Many people never witness the result of their prayers because they are unaware of the stages of prayer that must be crossed. They become hasty and are not patient. God Almighty works gradually. It has never happened that a person marries today and has a child the next. Although God Almighty is All-Powerful, yet he has instituted laws to govern the world.

Promised Messiah (a.s)

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One must Persevere and not Haste in Prayer



Everyone is aware of the many steps that must be taken to have a child, many of which are painstaking and difficult.

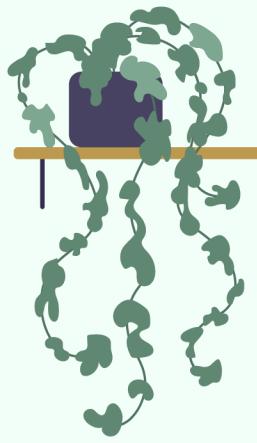
Up until four months of pregnancy, nothing is certain. Doctors (according to the technology at that time) could only take scans after 12 weeks.

The Promised Messiah (as) further states that once a child is born, the mother is also reborn. A mother endures many pains to give birth to the child, and only after bearing pain and hardship does she find happiness in her child. In the same manner, in prayer, one must endure and be patient and not be quick to tire. After remaining persistent, one will witness the result of their prayers.

Sacrificing One's Comfort to Attain Delight in Prayer

Aye, surely there is ease after hardship.
(The Holy Qur'an, 94:7)

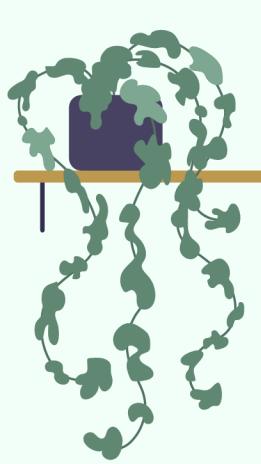
His Holiness (aba) stated that sometimes, people do not put effort into their own prayers and think that their problems will be solved if they request others to pray for them. Such people do not even offer their five daily prayers regularly. In this regard, a son asked for the Promised Messiah (as) to pray for his father. In response, the Promised Messiah (as) advised that he should pray earnestly himself. If he prayed himself, only then would the prayers of the Promised Messiah (as) be of benefit to him.



Sacrificing One's Comfort to Attain Delight in Prayer

When a person takes pain upon himself and forsakes the things that displease God, then such a person will be able to impact their soul. Such hardships endured for the sake of God will impact the soul, and this will allow for the soul to truly supplicate to God. Some people play instruments or dance around as worship. Although these things are enjoyable, they have no impact on the soul. Other nations are oblivious to this because they have not understood the true philosophy of prayer.

Furthermore, the Promised Messiah (as) states that Abraham was loyal and sincere to God, thus he was rewarded with a high rank. Sincerity to God requires a sort of death, and only after accepting that death can one be devoted to God. Idolatry is not limited to worshipping a tree or stone, rather, anything that impedes us from attaining the love of God leads to idolatry. Everyone has made idols within themselves, and it is only when one forsakes everything for God that they are able to free themselves from idolatry.



Purdah

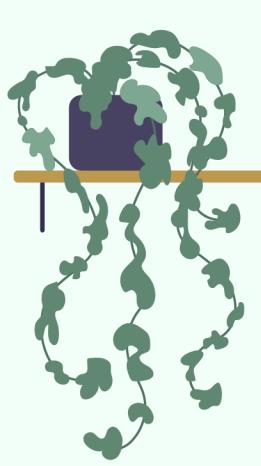
Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said during the concluding session of Lajna Imaillah UK national ijtema 2014:

"Today, I have spoken particularly about Purdah because 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."

Huzoor (aba) further stated:

"For the progress of Islam, all that is commanded by God and His messenger Prophet Muhammad (saw) is essential. The restrictions for modesty are not only for women. In Islam, restrictions are equal for both men and women. God Almighty first taught the way of modesty and purdah to men. He says:

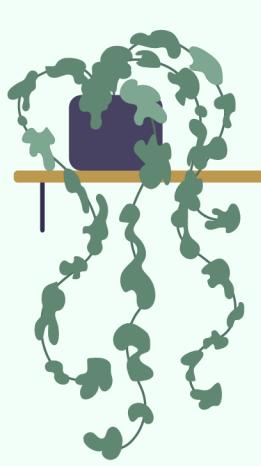
"Say to the believing men that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Surely, Allah is well aware of what they do." [Holy Quran 24:31]



Purdah

God Almighty first commanded faithful men to do ghade basr (lowering of gaze) because it is necessary for purity. If there is no purity, then one cannot find God. Thus, before commanding women to do purdah, men are commanded to refrain from all that which may incite their emotions. They are prohibited from seeing women with open eyes, mixing with women, watching vulgar films, and chatting with Namehram people on Facebook or through Social Media; all these do not maintain chastity. That is why Promised Messiah(as) very clearly spoke about it on several occasions. He said,

“It is the Word of God alone that, by its very clear and open statements, lays down specific and well-defined limits and parameters for all our words and deeds, action and inaction, and teaches us the norms of humanity and the way of purity; it alone emphatically stresses upon the safeguarding of one’s organs—like the eyes, ears, tongue, etc.



Purdah

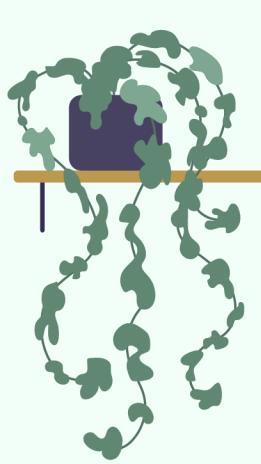
The Holy Qur'an requires that Muslim women dress modestly, cover their heads and wear an outer garment to conceal their beauty from strangers. However, you must understand that this physical covering is the only first step to developing hijab. The true and full observance of hijab/purdah is achieved when "veiling" extends to a man or woman's mind and heart. This means that one should veil or shield his/her mind and heart from impure and immoral thoughts when in contact with the opposite sex. One's thoughts, words and actions should reflect a sisterly love and respect towards fellow beings. This behavior leads to one's own moral upliftment, and also creates an atmosphere where men and women, instead of resenting and degrading each other, treat each other with respect and understanding.

Another verse of the Holy Qur'an states:

"O Prophet! tell thy wives and thy daughters, and the women of the believers, that they should pull down upon them of their outer cloaks from their heads over their faces. That is more likely that they may thus be recognized and not molested. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful." (33:60)

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(Taken from Pathway to Paradise Chapter 2: Women's Issues.



Purdah

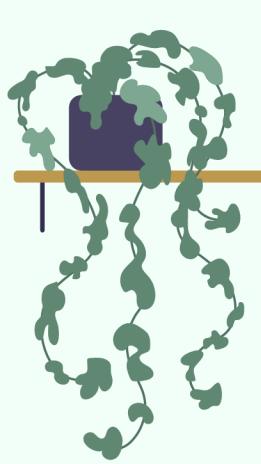
Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad further stated:

"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."

His Holiness gave examples of recent surveys that showed the rampant levels of sexual abuse faced by women, with one survey finding that across all age-ranges, 70% of women said they had faced sexual harassment in public.

Commenting on this, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

"As a result, there have been calls to establish 'safe spaces' for women or to have 'women only' events. Similarly, recently, a new report found that many women and girls in the UK were leaving sports and exercise because they felt uncomfortable and as though they were being sexualised by being forced to wear sports kits that exposed much of their bodies."



Purdah

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad further stated:

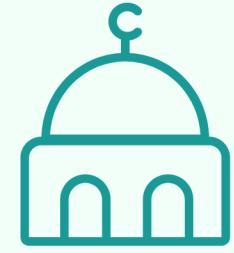
“Thus, you should never harbour any form of inferiority complex or embarrassment regarding Hijab or any other of Islam’s teachings. Instead, you should feel pride in your religious beliefs and be confident in the expression of your faith. Certainly, there is no Islamic injunction or restriction that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

Workshop

40 mins

We would like everyone to group together in groups of 5, please try and have a mixture of ladies, so we can learn from our younger members and our more experienced ladies. You have 30 mins to really have a think through the questions, discussions amongst each other.





Purdah

Discuss factors that may impact on an individual's ability to wear purdah correctly?

Discuss how these factors can be overcomes

Discuss the types of purdah that can be worn

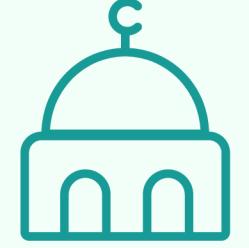
Discuss the following:

Minimum purdah

Complete purdah

Discuss the steps that can be taken to ensure purdah is improved





Etiquette of Attending Mosques

Discuss how we can support mothers with young children to attend the mosque with their children and what tips can we share to help mothers to keep their children calm and relatively quiet?





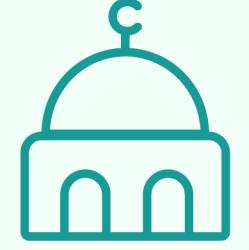
Obligatory set of Prayers to Allah

At work my prayer time is missed what can I do to ensure I manage to offer my prayer at work?

Discuss and identify solutions.

Share what you do





Purdah : Private self-reflection exercise

Am I observing purdah in the correct manner?

Do I dress differently to attend the mosque or for meetings in comparison to when I go somewhere else?

What can I do to go one step further to improve my purdah?

Is my scarf secure and my hair fully covered?

If you are not observing purdah, what do you think is stopping you?

How can I help someone who is struggling with their hijab?

