



Media for Your Soul

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Monthly News Letter

“Gender Relations in Islam” - by Shaikh Alomgir Ali



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Backdrop

Hysteria took over the media recently regarding the issue of gender segregation in public institutions in the UK. Such hysteria is not uncommon amongst the press these days as there seems to be a rise in sensationalist media reporting over issues which have been accepted by British society for decades, such as the issue of the niqāb, beard and now gender segregation. It needs to be made clear

from the beginning though that this article is not simply a reactionary piece to the islamophobic antics of the media, since the whole discourse has a number of facets to it that cannot be ignored and so must be addressed. We need to be able to see this issue in its true holistic sense and not just view it as a matter of segregation within Islam. It is evident that the matter at hand is beyond the issue of rules pertaining to gender relations due to the following reasons:

1-Allocated seating based upon one's gender has been in operation in Islamic society (ISOC) events for years without any considerable official objection from any institution. It is not a new revelation that Islamic Societies have been using this policy related to seating arrangements.
2- Islamic Societies in universities observe this practice as it is the

general wish of the attendees.

Even if the ISOCs were not to announce this practice, the attendees would naturally sit in a manner where men would sit in a separate area of the hall from the women. It is therefore not a matter of imposition but rather a facilitation of what the attendees actually want.

3-We live in a liberal society where the faith and practices of people are meant to be tolerated. Students do not force or impose segregation upon anyone. The events held by the Islamic Societies are not compulsory to attend and are usually attended by people who support the idea of separate seating. Trying to stop events where people want to sit away from the opposite gender is completely illiberal and in fact counters the very values this society is built upon. **Cont'd ... Page 2**

Special points of interest:

- **Huda is committed to delving into the issues that concern Muslims wherever**
- **Huda academy is your source of authentic knowledge**
- **We value very highly all feed back and critic we receive from our viewers.**

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“Huda Tonight” .. A New 2.00 Hours' Prime Time-Live Show!



Seen above: Huda Tonight's Presenters. Osama Elshamy, Malik Evangelatos, Ali Coleman and Hisham Mandour

Huda Tonight is a 2 hour talk show that covers Muslim world news, timely issues, and light entertaining topics. The show aims to touch base live with the viewers and

provide an edutainment material that is beneficial to people of different interests. Three components or segments shall make e up the program. The first segment presents Muslim World Newscast, whereby the viewers can watch based-image news flashes, in-depth discussed three bulletins, and a feature Story. The feature story is a story that features a topic of specific interest to Muslims worldwide. The second segment of the program shall engage serious talks, which focus on social and life style topics. In this segment, we may feature conversion stories, Muslim associations, conference topics, family issues, political perspectives, and so on. The third segment of the show includes self-help talks, which target guests who seek interventions. In other words, this segment features hosts who are able to provide advice and counseling in the area of individual interests. Potential hosts for this segment include medical practitioners, psychologists, artistic performers, Muslim celebrities, nutritionists, and talents. The show airs form Sunday through Thursday at 10.30 Saudi Time and continues for two hours. We wish you an enjoyable time and **please stay tuned.**

“Gender Relations in Islam” - by: Shaikh Alomgir Ali



Allāh (S.W.T) created men and women similar to one another in many aspects yet different to one another in numerous aspects as well.

No doubt that certain right-wing factions and other groups are working hard to escalate Islamophobic sentiments in an attempt to critique ‘Islamism’ and normative Islām.



They asked the Prophet “What are the road’s due rights?” He replied, “Lowering your gaze, abstaining from anything offensive, returning salutations, enjoining the right (Ma’rūf) and forbidding from evil deeds (Munkar).”

(Carried from page 1)

Based upon the above, one has to naturally ask therefore: why has there been so much coverage of this matter in the media? There can be no doubt that certain right-wing factions and other groups are working hard to escalate Islamophobic sentiments in an attempt to critique ‘Islamism’ and normative Islām.

Gender segregation in Islām

It is important to note that often the terms ‘equality’ and ‘justice/fairness’ are often equated. We live in a world where people acknowledge differences between different age groups, abilities and even gender. Yes, gender! As for different age groups, the young and elderly are given many privileges over others. The more gifted or talented are given greater opportunities in education and work. With regards to gender, men are separated from women in many public schools, hospital wards, public toilets and in sports. Despite all of the above, there are no claims of prejudice or discrimination. Physiologically, physically and in other areas, men and women are also very different. Should these differences not be looked into when determining how men and women should interact with one another? As Muslims we believe that Allāh (S.W.T) created men and women similar to one another in many aspects yet different to one another in numerous aspects as well.

Gender relations in the Qur’ān:

Allāh (S.W.T) created men and women with different roles and responsibilities. Whilst Islām seeks justice to be established between both genders, it also appreciates the inherent differences between both genders which results in both genders having appropriate rulings.

Allāh (S.W.T) says: “So We said, “O Ādam, indeed this is an enemy to you and to your wife. Then let him not remove both of you from Paradise so you would suffer.” [3]

In other places in the Qur’ān there is also mention of the differences between men and women. In chapter three of the Qur’ān (Āla ‘Imrān: 35) Allāh mentioned the story of the wife of ‘Imrān, the mother of Maryam, who was old and barren and had an extreme desire to have children. She made a vow to Allāh (S.W.T) that if Allāh blessed her with a boy she would dedicate him to the temple as a servant and worshiper: “*‘Imrān’s wife said, ‘Lord, I have dedicated what is growing in my womb entirely to You; so accept this from me. You are the One who hears and knows all,’ but when she gave birth, she said, ‘My Lord! I have given birth to a girl!’— God knew best what she had given birth to: the male is not like the female ‘I name her Mary and I commend her and her offspring to Your protection from the rejected Satan.’*” [5]

The mother of Maryam therefore sought to be excused from her vow since she gave birth to a girl who could not really mix with the people in the temple due to the rules of gender relations.

Evidence from the Sunnah

Abū Usayd heard the Prophet (P.B.U.H) say when he was coming out of the mosque, and men and women were mingled in the road: “Draw back, for you must not walk in the middle of the road; keep to the sides of the road.” Then women were keeping so close to the wall that their garments were rubbing against it. [14] It is quite evident from the above narration that the Prophet (P.B.U.H) instructed the women to walk separately from men. If this is the case where intermingling can occur quite naturally and innocently, then the command will become more pertinent in situations where intermingling could last longer and lead to fitnah.

Abū Hurayrah (R.A) reported that the Prophet (P.B.U.H) said: “The best rows for men are the first rows and the worst rows for them are the last rows, and the best rows for women are last rows and the worst rows are the first rows.” [15]

In another *ḥadīth* the Prophet (P.B.U.H) said: “Beware of sitting by the road side.” The people then said, ‘O Allah’s Messenger, we cannot do without those meeting places in which we converse.’ So he said, “Well, if you insist (on that) give the road its due rights.” They asked, ‘What are the road’s due rights?’ He replied, “Lowering your gaze, abstaining from anything offensive, returning salutations, enjoining the right (Ma’rūf) and forbidding from evil deeds (Munkar).” [17]

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) also warned of entering upon someone who is not *maḥram* to the person entering: “Beware of entering upon women.” So a man from the Anṣār said: “O Messenger of Allah! What do you think about the *ḥamu* (brother-in-law)? So he said: “The *ḥamu* is death.” [19]

Abū Sa’īd al Khudrī (R.A) reported that a group of women said to the Prophet (P.B.U.H): “O Messenger of Allāh! The men have taken all of your time therefore dedicate a day just for us”. He (P.B.U.H) promised them a day to meet them, teach them and command them with the affairs of the religion...” [20]

In conclusion, it must be stressed that we understand the context and the contemporary discourse of this matter and that we understand the Islamic viewpoint of it free from our whims and pre-conceived ideas surrounding the issue.

“February Brings You a Punch of New Recorded Programs” .. Sample It!

NEW



“I-Teen World” - By Muhammad Waseem



“Heart Softeners” - By Sh. Aziz Abdeen



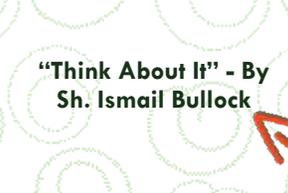
“Your Body Has Rights” - By Maan Khalifa



“Errors & Corrections” - By Sh. H. Alshemaimry



“Knowledge To Action” - By Sh. Mahdy Kaskas



“Think About It” - By Sh. Ismail Bullock



“Adam & Sally” - Huda TV's New Kids Show .. Under Filming!

NEW



“Time to Please Allah”, Dubai Live Show - The sky is your limit!

“A Time to Please Allah”- our signature live show broadcast every Thursday from Dubai and jointly presented by brothers Ismail Bullock and Gabriel Al Romani is doing very well and became the center of attention of Huda TV viewers in their feed back comments on Facebook and phone calls.

The episode of Jan 16th 2014 was an awesome one, its topic was “Growing up in Islam” and the feature guest was Dr. Alamir Smajlovic – a physician and Da’ie living in Dubai. He is a Canadian new Muslim originally from Bosnia as well as his Son Haroon (9 years old) who was born in Canada and living now with his parents in Dubai. Haroon is doing home schooling, studying Islamic Sciences aside conventional sciences and Memorizing 13.5 juz’s of Quran till now masha’ Allah. We say to the program crew: Keep the good work up.



Dr. Zakir Naik has been listed amongst the “Most Admired Persons in Pakistan”



Pakistan		
Rank	Name	Share
1	Imran Khan	21.58%
2	Bill Gates	10.09%
3	Abdul Sattar Edhi	8.39%
4	Pervez Musharraf	4.50%
5	Barack Obama	4.04%
6	Zakir Naik	2.95%
7	Nawaz Sharif	1.71%
8	Malala Yousafzai	1.55%
9	Warren Buffet	1.55%

Dr. Zakir Naik has been listed No. 6 amongst the Most Admired Persons in Pakistan in a survey for ‘The Times’ of nearly 14,000 people in Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, US, Australia, Pakistan, Indonesia, India, China, Egypt, Nigeria and Brazil, conducted by YouGov. Huda TV congratulate Dr. Naik for the admiration of his viewers.

Media for Your Soul



huda

Huda TV ... A Light in Every Home

Picture of this edition



Short video of the edition

Dog Sings to Soothe Crying Baby!

This dog sits by a baby's crib and sings in order to help soothe him of crying.



Camels Never Forget!

They say elephants never forget, but camels could also be strong competition.

A camel identified its previous owner during a parade in Saudi Arabia last month, embracing the man by wrapping its neck around him and restfully closing its eyes. The owner had sold the camel seven months ago, but the animal was still able to single him out from the crowds. Subhana Allah, Animals has also affections! Courtesy: Al Arabiya

Assorted News of Huda TV, Etc...



◆ **Huda TV's new G.M Fouad Alrasheed took office!**

Sh. Fuad Alrasheed – Newly appointed G.M of Huda TV started his official work with the channel and took his office in Riyadh-KSA and eventually flew to London on a scheduled business trip, followed by his first visit to the channel's Branch in Cairo between 01-07 of February. Wishing Sh. Fuad all success in his future endeavors insha' Allah. (Seen G.M with Huda TV staff in Cairo in a welcome Party)



◆ **Congrats Dr. Salah on a new born baby boy!**

By the Grace of Allah, Sh. Muhammad Salah and his wife were blessed me with baby boy by mid of January 2014 and named him "Salman" after the name of the great companion Salman Alfaresy. Huda TV invoke to Almighty (S.W.T) to make him righteous, grant him health and make him a Da'ie to Islam and monotheism like his father. Ameen



◆ **Congrats Mahmoud Wazir on a new born baby boy too!**

Brother Mahmoud Wazir - New Media Specialist, had also been blessed and his wife with baby boy in January 2014 and named him "Omar" after the great Caliph Omar Ibn Alkhatib. Huda TV invoke to Allah (S.W.T) to bless him and make him a righteous, and one of those who call people to monotheism and piety. Ameen