

# Women in Islam

Nawal Abdulaziz A Al-Eid,

Assoc. Prof. Dr. - Princess Nora bint Abdul Rahman University, SAUDI ARABIA

nwal\_al3eed@hotmail.com

**Keywords:** woman, islam, rights, marriage, certificate, guardian, marital, husband.

**Abstract.** The issue of "Women Rights" remains to be the focus of attention of many international organizations, activists as well as decision makers. Islam however, had established a solid position for women evidenced by what was mentioned in the Holy Q'uran as well as the teachings of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

It is methodically wrong to judge Islam as a religion by the corrupt practices of some (may be many) of its followers. For example, The US's involvement in IRAQ can never let us forget the great values upon which such country was established.

1. Women enjoy an esteemed place in Islam evidenced by naming one chapter in the Holy Q'uran after them which is "AL-NESA'A" the Arabic equivalent of "Women" as well as another chapter which was named "Mariam" which is Arabic for "Virgin Mary".

2. Women in Islam enjoy supreme treatment throughout the different stages of their life; as a daughter the Prophet (PNUH) promises heaven for the father who appropriately treats and raises his daughters, as a wife the Prophet (PNUH) described those who respect and adequately treat their wives as the "best of men", as a mother the Prophet (PNUH) located her three steps over the father (the Prophet (PNUH) was asked by a man about who deserved his best treatment, the Prophet (PNUH) told him it is his mother, the man asked about who is next, the Prophet (PNUH) told him it is his mother, the man again asked about is next the Prophet (PNUH) told him it is his mother, on the fourth time the Prophet (PNUH) told him it is his father).

3. In Islam the relationship between a husband and his wife is based upon love and cherish, the two balance each other rather than compete against each other. The children in such a relationship shall be warranted a secure, stable and affectionate atmosphere.

4. Islam encourages women to seek education and to excel in their education. The Prophet (PNUH) had advised his followers to address their religious queries to his wife "Aisha" as she excelled in such matters. Female Priests are rarely, if ever, found outside Islam.

5. Islam warrants women's financial stability. Islam (per the Holy Q'uran) requires men, wishing to get married, to pay dowry to women they wish to marry. The amount of such dowry differs dependent upon the man's financial situation. Islam requires men to fully provide for their families out of their own income regardless of how rich their wives are. If the husband and wife decide to get divorce, Islam requires the husband to pay his wife an amount dependent upon his financial situation as a good motion (compensation) for the divorce.

6. The woman in Islam has the right to inherit her father, husband and son (if any dies before her). Her share of such depends upon certain formula well prescribed and applied in Islam.

7. Islam warrants the woman's fiscal independence. What the woman owns belongs to her alone and the husband has no right to claim nor demand any part of it while the husband is required to FULLY

provide for the wife and the rest of the family out of his own income. The woman has full freedom on managing her belongings (cash and otherwise) without interference from anybody.

8. Cheating on one's partner is a crime in Islam. The perpetrator may be punished by a death sentence.

9. There are only two ways to end a marital relationship:

a. Normal divorce: The right of normal divorce lies in the hands of the husband when he feels that continuing to be married to his wife becomes impossible. This warrants that he shall not be tempted to mistreats her or cheats on her.

b. Forced divorce: the right for requesting a forced divorce lies in the hands of the wife when she feels that she cannot continue the marital relationship with her husband for whatever reasons. In such a case she shall be required to pay back to her husband what he paid her as dowry.

10. Women cannot be forced to get married. Their approval must be sought before such marriage can take place. The woman must be covered by a guardian in the marriage certificate. Such guardian can be the father (if present) or her brother or uncle. Such guardian shall act as the guarantor to the terms and conditions agreed upon between the two parties.

11. In Islam, men and women were created as equals but at the same time different. They are equal in peculiarity, self-esteem, need to be respected, and in their rights for education. They however, are different in the way each is physically built. Missions in life that can be accomplished by one cannot necessarily physically suit the other.

12. The woman in Islam (per the Prophet's (PBUH)) teachings) is the man's mother who requires to be always honored and privileged, the wife who needs to be well treated and respected and the daughter who needs to be well raised and cared for. In summary, the woman in Islam is the man's partner throughout his journey of life per the Prophet's (PBUH) teachings.