

The status of women in Islam

Women have rights upon men similar to what men have upon them, in fairness. The reform Islam introduced, and what the ummah has often forgotten.

CENTREPIECE Surah al-Baqarah 2:228

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Pre-Islamic baseline

The Quran condemned the killing of daughters and established women's rights to inheritance and property. The Prophet (peace be upon him) required a woman's consent to marriage. These reforms confronted serious injustices in the societies around the first Muslims, and they still confront customs that deny women rights Allah gave them.

2. The Prophet's example

Aisha said: he used to be in service of his family, and when the time for prayer came, he would go out for it (Bukhari 676). The Prophet (peace be upon him) mended his sandals, helped with housework, called his wives by affectionate names. He set the standard.

3. The greatest of women

Khadijah, Fatimah, Maryam, Asiyah. Named by the Prophet (peace be upon him) as the leaders of the women of Jannah (Tabarani 1135, hasan). Aisha became one of the most authoritative scholars in Islamic history. The deen never excluded the woman from the highest stations.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to the status of women in Islam.

Suggested closing: If you are a man with a wife, mother, sister, daughter, ask yourself: am I treating her the way the Prophet (peace be upon him) treated his women?

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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