

A close-up photograph of a typewriter mechanism. At the top, a wooden ruler is visible with markings for inches and centimeters. The number '4' is clearly visible on the ruler. Below the ruler, the typewriter's internal components are shown, including a red fabric band, metal levers, and a curved metal plate. The text 'Freedom of Expression' is overlaid on the image. 'Freedom of' is in a black, monospaced font, and 'Expression' is in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the right.

Freedom of
Expression

SECOND EDITION

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Freedom of Expression in Islam

Islam gives one the right to exercise freedom of expression as long as he does not intrude upon the freedom and dignity of other people. There is no place for the propagation of evil and wickedness in Islam. It does not give anybody the right to use abusive or offensive language in the name of criticism and freedom of speech. Indeed, Islam gives everyone the right to create his own opinion within boundaries. Islamic Freedom of Expression can be viewed under the following categories:



Freedom of Expression on an Individual Basis

As man is a thinking creature, he forms opinion. Based upon this natural inclination, Islam gives the right to freedom of thought and expression to all citizens of the Islamic State, on the condition that it should be used for the propagation of virtue and truth and not for the spreading of evil and wickedness.

The Qur'an teaches us how the Companions of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with them) exercised their freedom to get their right:

{Certainly has Allah heard the speech of the one who argues [i.e., pleads] with you, [O Muhammad], concerning her husband...}

(Qur'an 58:1)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever among you sees an evil action, let him change it with his hand [by taking action]; if he cannot, then with his tongue [by speaking out]; and if he cannot, then with his heart [by at least hating it and believing that it is wrong], and that is the weakest of faith."

(Muslim)

The second Caliph, Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him), encouraged his fellow companions to forward their opinions on different occasions, he said:

'May Allah have mercy on a man who shows me my shortcomings.'

Freedom of Expression on a Societal Basis

A society with freedom of thought will produce creative human beings. Indeed, Allah has granted a Muslim society the right to express their view whenever it is required.

Allah says:

{You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah...}

(Qur'an 3:110)

onhuman beings is the right to give advice torulers in a goodly manner. Referring to it,the Qur'an says:

{Allah does not like the public mention of evil except by one who has been wronged...}

(Qur'an 4:148)

The right to freedom of expression for the sake of propagating virtue and righteousness is not only a right in Islam but an obligation. rights Islam has conferred



Where is the Limit of Freedom of Expression?

In Islam, freedom of expression should not be misguided. Instead, it should be used to nourish brotherhood and fraternity and instil high standards of virtue. A Muslim nation is a 'middle nation,' and Islam has laid down some limits to curb any misuse of this noble right. This action, indeed, will not affect the intellectual freedom which is directly related to creativity.



Where is the Limit of Freedom of Expression?

The Qur'an says:

{O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance...}

(Qur'an 49:6)

*{...let not a people ridicule [another] people...
insult one another...backbite each other...}*

(Qur'an 49:11-12)

From the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad, it is reported that he asked his companions:

"Do you know what back-biting is?" They said, "Allah and His messenger know best." He said, "It is your saying about your brother something which he dislikes." He was asked, "What do you think if what I say about my brother is true?" He said, "If it is true then you have back-bitten him, and if it is not true then you have slandered him."

(Muslim)

The freedom of expression we understand from Islam disseminates at all levels in the society, promoting creativity instead of hypocrisy, fraternity instead of enmity, virtue instead of vice, promotion instead of demotion, and brotherhood instead of hatred.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ISLAM



TeleIslam

A friendly, judgment-free space to ask anything you've ever wondered about Islam. We believe in open dialogue, honest answers, and compassionate conversation. Connect with someone who can help. Scan the QR code or visit: TeleIslam.TheClearIslam.org

You may also contact one of the following organizations:

THE UNITED STATES

Al-Furqaan Foundation - United States

Headquarters: 642 Forestwood Dr, Romeoville, IL 60446, United States

Tel: +1 (630) 914-5015

E-Mail: Info@Furqaan.org

www.Furqaan.org

Please contact our following divisions for specific needs.

a) For a free copy of The Quran:

Furqaan Project

E-Mail: Info@FurqaanProject.org

www.FurqaanProject.org

b) For more information on Islam:

The Clear Islam™

Tel: +1 (866) 54-ISLAM (47526)

E-Mail: Info@TheClearIslam.org

www.TheClearIslam.org

c) If you are a New Muslim and need assistance or guidance:

New Muslim Foundation

Tel: +1 (630) 914-5015 x 240

E-Mail: NMF@NewMuslimFoundation.org

www.NewMuslimFoundation.org

CANADA

Al-Furqaan Foundation - Canada

546- Unit C 420 Main Street E, Milton, ON L9T 5G3, Canada

Tel: +1 (630) 914-5015

E-Mail: Info@Furqaan.org

www.Furqaan.org

Please contact our following divisions for specific needs.

a) For a free copy of The Quran:

Furqaan Project Canada

Tel: (416) 900-5665

E-Mail: Info@FurqaanProject.ca

www.FurqaanProject.ca

b) For more information on Islam:

The Clear Islam™

Tel: (866) 54-ISLAM (47526)

E-Mail: Info@TheClearIslam.org

www.TheClearIslam.org

TO ORDER A PRINTED COPY OF THE CLEAR QURAN® A THEMATIC TRANSLATION BY DR. MUSTAFA KHATTAB, PLEASE VISIT:

USA | MEXICO | SOUTH AMERICA

Furqaan Bookstore

401 W Boughton Rd, Bolingbrook IL, 60440 United States

Tel: +1 (630) 914-5015

E-mail: Orders@FurqaanBookstore.com

www.FurqaanBookstore.com



CANADA

Furqaan Bookstore Canada

Tel: +1 (630) 914-5015

E-mail: Orders@FurqaanBookstore.ca

www.FurqaanBookstore.ca

REST OF THE WORLD

Furqaan Bookstore Türkiye

Tel: +90 (532) 647-9468

E-mail: Orders@FurqaanBookstore.com.tr

www.FurqaanBookstore.com.tr

THE CLEAR QURAN® APPS

A THEMATIC ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE MESSAGE OF THE FINAL REVELATION

APPS PUBLISHED BY: AL-FURQAAN FOUNDATION

WWW.THECLEARQURAN.ORG



NEW

THE CLEAR QURAN®

- Modern & precise translation by Dr Mustafa Khattab
- Othmani & Majeedi (Indo-Pak) script
- Arabic, English, ayah-by-ayah
- Transliteration



NEW

THE CLEAR QURAN® DRAMATIZED AUDIOBOOK

- Voiceovers from renowned scholars
- Dramatized Quran experience
- Thematic English translation



EL CORÁN ESCLARECEDOR

- Modern & precise translation by Sheik Isa García
- Based on classical tafsir and Arabic lexicography
- Reviewed by scholars for greater authenticity
- Easy to read: large font and optimized design



THE CLEAR QURAN® DICTIONARY

- Alphabetically indexed entries of the words
- Lookup words while reading The Quran
- English translation of words with an image