

ENGLISH

FREE
BOOK

Women Rights

SECOND EDITION



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

Rights of Women

This short introduction barely scratches the surface of the topic of Women in Islam, but is necessary because of the many misconceptions that exist.



Women rights around the world are an important indicator in understanding global well-being.

The rights of women were given to us by Allah. These rights were expressly granted to women more than 1400 years ago and taught by the perfect example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).





Allah says in the Qur'an:

{O you who have believed, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion. And do not make difficulties for them in order to take [back] part of what you gave them unless they commit a clear immorality [i.e., adultery]. And live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them – perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good.}

(Qur'an 4:19)

Equality

Equal Nature of Men & Women



Islam considers a woman to be equal to a man as a human being and as his partner in this life. Women have been created with a soul of the same nature as men.

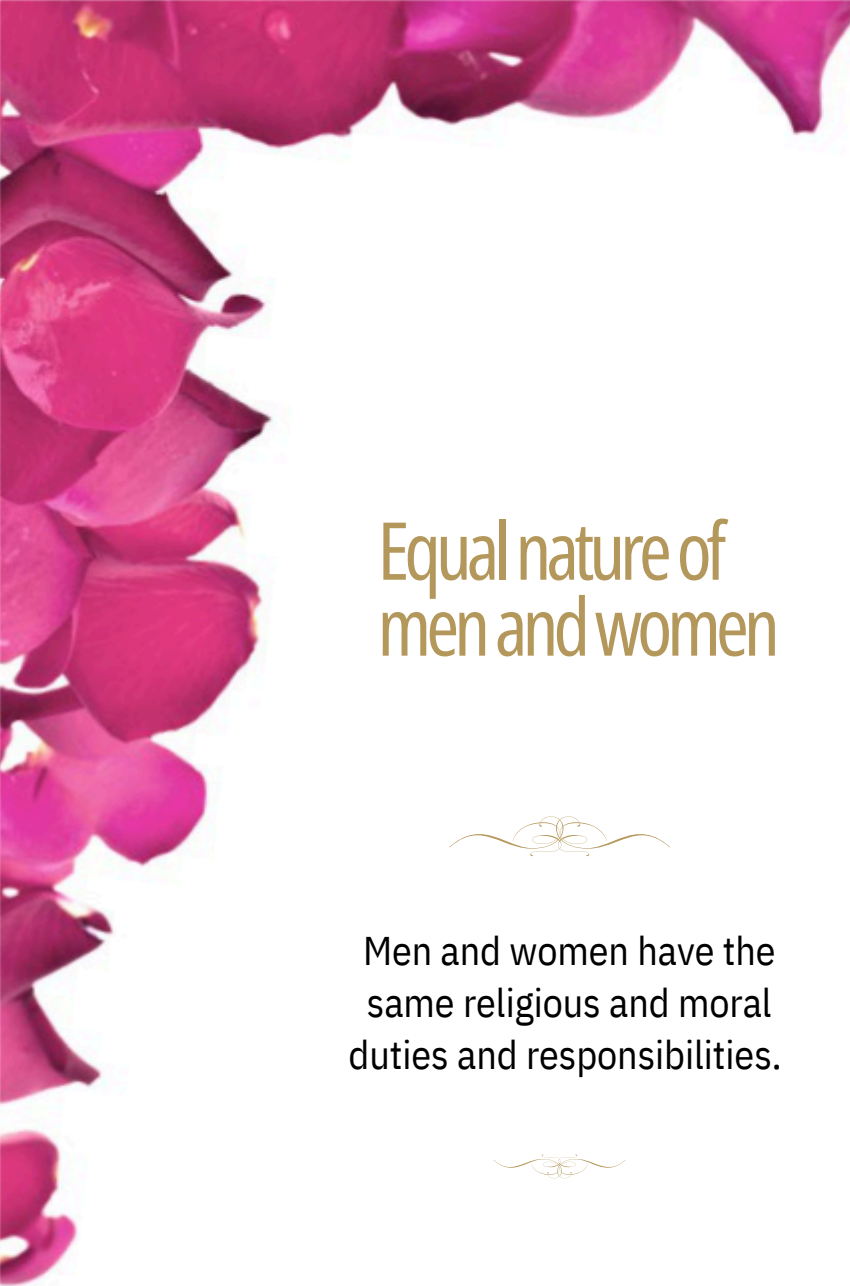




According to the Holy Qur'an,
men and women have the same
human spiritual nature:

*{O mankind, fear your Lord,
who created you from one soul
and created from it its mate and
dispersed from both of them many
men and women. And fear Allah,
through whom you ask one another,
and the wombs. Indeed Allah is
ever, over you, an Observer.}*

(Qur'an 4:1)

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Equal nature of men and women



Men and women have the
same religious and moral
duties and responsibilities.





Each human being shall face
the consequences of his or
her deeds.

*{...And their Lord responded
to them, 'Never will I allow to
be lost the work of [any] worker
among you, whether male or
female; you are of one another...}*

(Qur'an 3:195)



Responsibility



Islam awards women human rights and upon women is to fulfill the rights of men just as it is upon men to fulfill the rights of women.





This is mentioned in the following verse:

*{...And due to them [i.e., wives] is
similar to what is expected of them,
according to what is reasonable.
But the men [i.e., husbands]
have a degree over them [in
responsibility and authority]...}*

(Qur'an 2:228)

Social Aspect



As a Daughter

In pre-Islamic Arabia, killing of female infants was very common and very often the moment a female was born she was buried alive. Islam not only prohibits female infanticide, but it forbids all types of infanticide, irrespective of whether the infant is a male or female.

{And when the girl [who was] buried alive is asked for what sin she was killed.}

(Qur'an 81:8-9)





Islam prohibits any kind of killing, harassing and humiliating of the female. Allah says in the Qur'an:

{... and do not kill your children out of poverty; We will provide for you and them. And do not approach immoralities – what is apparent of them and what is concealed. And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed] except by [legal] right...”}
(Qur'an 6:151)

Arabs 1400 years ago used to bury alive their newborn girls out of shame. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) forbade that practice, and taught that the education and raising of daughters was a virtuous act. He said:

“Whosoever supports two daughters until they mature, he and I will come on the Day of Judgement as this (and he pointed with his fingers held together).”





E d u c a t i o n

Knowledge is one of the important pillars upon which the structure of Islam is raised. Both men and women must acquire the appropriate education to perform this duty in accordance with their own natural talents and interests.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

“Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim.”

(al-Bayhaqi and Ibn Majah)

The word “Muslim” here is inclusive of both males and females.





As a Wife

Marriage in Islam is based on mutual peace, love and compassion, and not just the mere satisfying of human sexual desire. Among the most impressive verses in the Qur'an about marriage is the following:

{And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.}

(Qur'an 30:21)





The Prophet Muhammad instructed
Muslims regarding women:

“I commend you to be good to women.”

*“It is the generous (in character) who is
good to women, and it is the wicked who
insults them.”*

*“The most perfect believers are the best in
conduct and best of you are those who are
best to their wives.”*





As a Mother

The Qur'an elevates kindness to parents (especially mothers) to a status second only to the worship of God.

{And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], 'uff,' and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, 'My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought

me up [when I was] small.'}

(Qur'an 17:23-24)





*A man came to the Prophet
Muhammad and said,
“O Messenger of Allah! Who among
the people is the most worthy of my
good companionship?” The Prophet
said: “Your mother.” The man said,
“Then who?” The Prophet said:
“Then your mother.” The man further
asked, “Then who?” The Prophet
said: “Then your mother.” The man
asked again, “Then who?” The
Prophet said: “Then your father.”*





Economic Rights

Muslim women have the privilege to earn money, the right to own property, to enter into legal contracts and to manage all of their assets in any way they please. They can run their own businesses and no one has any claim on their earnings, including the husband.

The Qur'an states:

{And do not wish for that by which Allah has made some of you exceed others. For men is a share of what they have earned, and for women is a share of what they have earned. And ask Allah of His bounty. Indeed Allah is ever, of all things, Knowing.}

(Qur'an 4:32)





Women & Inheritance

Before Islam, inheritance rights were confined exclusively to the male relatives. The Qur'an abolished all these unjust customs and gave the close female relatives inheritance shares:

{For men is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, be it little or much – an obligatory share.}

(Qur'an 4:7)



The division of inheritance is a vast subject
with an enormous amount of details
for the benefit of the female.

(Qur'an 4:11, 12,176)

The Islamic inheritance rules, despite their
apparent discriminatory nature, when
implemented in letter and spirit and construed
holistically, provide a solid starting point for
women – and other members of the family – in
asserting the full range of their property rights.



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