

*Women
Rights*



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.



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

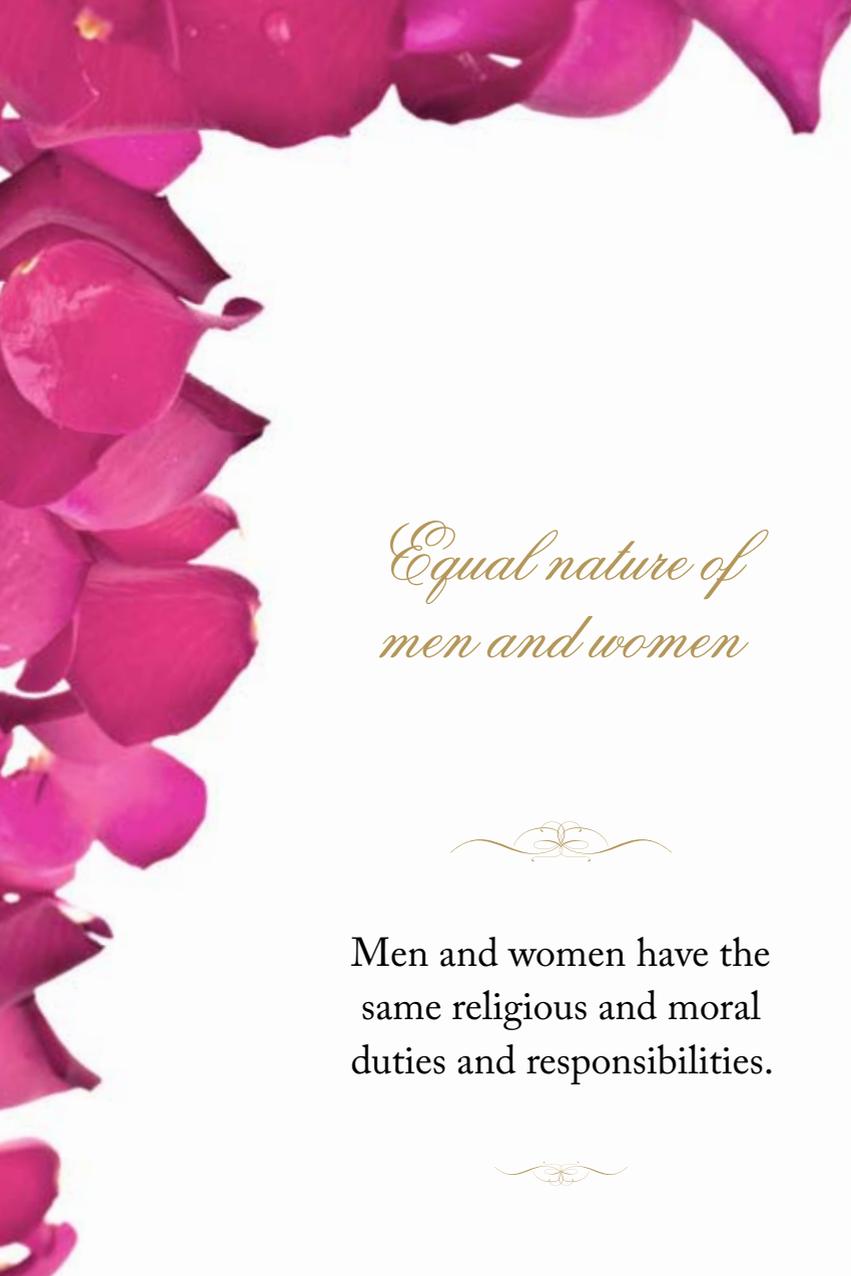
Islam considers a woman to be equal to a man as a human being and as his partner in this life. Women have been created with a soul of the same nature as men.



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)



*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
(saying): 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

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

Arabs at that time used to bury alive their newborn girls out of shame. He forbade that practice, and taught that the education and raising of daughters was a virtuous act.

The Prophet Muhammad said:

"Kill not your children on a plea of want. We provide sustenance for you and for them. Come not near shameful deeds, whether open or secret. Take not life which Allah has made sacred."

(Qur'an 6:151)

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



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)



Education

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 said:

“Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim.”

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 tranquility 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.”

“Treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers.”



As a Mother

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

“Your Lord has commanded that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. If one of them or both of them reach old age with you, do not say to them a word of disrespect, or scold them, but say a generous word to them. And act humbly to them in mercy, and say, ‘My Lord, have mercy on them, since they cared for me when I was small.’”

(Qur'an 17:23-24)





A man came to the Prophet Muhammad and said, "O Messenger of God! 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 her assets in any way she pleases. She can run her own business and no one has any claim on her earnings, including her husband.

The Qur'an states:

"And in no wise covet those things in which God hath bestowed His gifts more freely on some of you than on others; to men is allotted what they earn, and to women, what they earn; but ask Allah of His bounty for God hath full knowledge of all things."

(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 close the female relatives inheritance shares:

“From what is left by parents and those nearest related there is a share for men and a share for women, whether the property be small or large –a determinate 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, where 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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