



NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 6
June 2023 | Dhul Qadah - Dhul Hijjah 1444

“Do not be weak or despair, for you shall have the upper hand, if you are (true) believers” (Aal ‘Imran, 3:139)

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“None of you (truly) believes until he loves for his brother that which he loves for himself.” [Al-Bukhari] [Muslim]

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023 REGISTER NOW!

July 3rd - August 18th

For Students ages 5-13

Promoting a strong sense of Islamic identity

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2023 THANKSGIVING UMRAH

Register Now

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Community Family Dinner

**Monthly Family Dinner
June 16th, 7:00 PM**

Bring your family and friends to spend an evening with your community!

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The Festival of Eid at Youth of Ummah

Fun, laughter, celebration, food, gifts & games. It was truly days of festivities for all involved with...

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IONA Summer School

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Qur'an, Hadith, Arabic, Sirah

Announcements

SUMMER SCHOOL 2022



Registration is open for IONA's summer school. The school began on Monday, July 3rd and will end on Thursday, August 18th, in sha' Allah. Children ages 5 to 13 may enroll. School hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Qur'an, Hadith, Arabic, and Sirah will be taught. The tuition per child per summer is \$400. The tuition for two siblings is \$650 and \$900 for three siblings (brothers and sisters only). There is a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. Please note that proper Islamic dress is required for both boys and girls. Girls must wear a navy Jilbab and a white scarf and boys must wear navy pants (or blue jeans) and white shirts or t-shirts. Shorts are not allowed. Register now, limited seats are available. Registration forms may be obtained from the IONA Center and submitted to the Principal, Sr. Souad Soubra, who is available on

Sundays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the IONA Center. You may also register online at ionamasjid.org

For more information, please call: 248-872-2169 or e-mail Sr. Souad Soubra at suelturk@gmail.com



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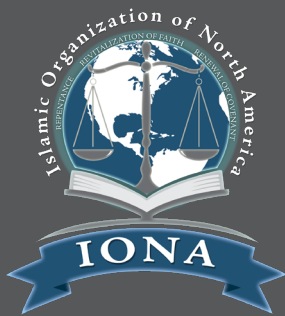
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SYNOPSIS OF AMEER MUSTAPHA'S FRIDAY KHUTBAH

Human Rights and Justice in Islam - Part 1

“Verily, We sent Our Messengers with clear signs and sent down with them the Book and the Balance so that people may stand forth in Justice.”

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with nearly two billion Muslims from every corner of the world. The Quran states that the very purpose of God sending prophets and messengers and scriptures to mankind is to see people uphold justice. *“Verily, We sent Our Messengers with clear signs and sent down with them the Book and the Balance so that people may stand forth in Justice.”* [Quran, 57:25]

What is justice? As a term used in Islamic jurisprudence, justice is the granting of everyone his or her due right. Islam does not stop short at human rights. Everything in this vast universe, including God's beautiful creation has certain rights. One right of the environment, for instance, is to protect it from pollution and other harmful wastes. Cutting down trees for no good reason is injustice. Killing animals for fun is injustice. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, told of a prostitute who provided a thirsty dog with a drink. Such a deed made her entitled to be freed from Hell. A pious woman, on the other hand, imprisoned a cat and found pleasure in tormenting the cat while depriving it from food and therefore was deprived from the pleasures and delights of Heaven.

Plants, birds, air, animals, oceans, and rivers are just a few of God's creation that have rights. Consequently, humans, the best of God's creation who were granted intelligence and wisdom, have certain human rights. As stewards in this mortal world, they are entrusted and responsible for giving each creation its due right.

The question then is, who defines the rights of these creations? The Creator of all creation, God almighty, enjoys the sole authority to dictate the rights of everything that exists including human rights.

An Introduction:

It is believed that the concept of basic human rights was established from the Magna Carta of Britain some 600 years ago. Factually, the human and civil rights were hardly known before the seventeenth century. The concept and ideas of human rights that were presented by the philosophers and thinkers in the 17th century weren't adopted

until the end of the 18th century in the proclamations and constitutions of America and France. The, “We hold these truths to be self-evident,” doctrine in the Declaration of Independence is deeply rooted in the concept of Human Rights, which Islam presented 14 centuries ago. Islam addressed the individual and social aspects of the human race over 1,400 years ago and provided best practices to ensure justice is served.

Basic Human Rights - The right to life:

The right to life is the first and foremost basic right. This right begins at the moment of one's inception prior to coming into this world. Unless a pregnancy threatens the life of the mother among other valid exceptions, abortion is forbidden in Islam.

In the pre-Islam era, infanticide was a common practice. Islam abolished the killing of infants be it directly after birth or through abortion. *“And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Indeed, their killing is ever a great sin.”* [Quran, 17:31] Islam recognizes the right of the unborn babies.

Every human being is free to live and pursue a dignified and respectful life as human life is sacred in Islam. The Quran is clear on murder; if anyone kills another human being it is as if he or she has slain the entire human race. *“Whoever kills a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind ... And whoever saves a life it is as though he had saved the lives of all mankind.”* [Quran, 5:32] God almighty warns, *“Do not kill a soul which God has made sacred except through the due process of law.”* [Quran, 6:151]

The Prophet Muhammad declared homicide as the greatest sin next to polytheism. He said: “The greatest sins are to associate something with God and to kill human beings.”

Islam vehemently condemns the murder of any person irrespective of religion. Every human without discrimination on the basis of skin color or gender has the right to life and safety.

Additionally, all people, irrespective of who they are or where they come from, are equal. The concept of equality is enshrined in the Declaration of Independence as it

Continues on page 6

SISTERS CORNER

Talking To Your Daughter About Marriage? Here are 7 Things to Consider

Marriage plays a significant role in the lives of many Muslims. A loving and functional spousal relationship is highly valued to fulfill religious and emotional needs, establish a family unit and uphold the teachings and principles of Islam.

Allah (S) says in the Quran: “And of His signs is that He (S) created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them, and He (S) placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for people who give thought.” [30:21]

Marriage allows Muslims to form a deep bond of love, companionship and emotional support with their spouse. It is seen as a means of finding comfort, solace and a lifelong partner to share life’s joys and challenges. So as parents, how do we go about helping our children find their partners in life, or even just provide them with the proper guidance in their own search? How do we know when they are ready?

We often feel a sense of responsibility to guide our children on the path of marriage. Equipping them with the necessary means to select a suitable spouse when the time comes is crucial, requiring many conversations from when they’re young and starting to mature to the stage in their life when they are ready to search for a spouse.

We may start instilling Islamic values, principles and teachings related to marriage from an early age. We should introduce basic concepts of marriage, such as the importance of finding a compatible partner with similar values and beliefs. These discussions can start during the teenage years, when parents may discuss the purpose of marriage, the importance of developing a strong Islamic foundation, and the significance of making wise relationship choices. How do we help our youth prepare for marriage? Consider premarital counseling.

We can address dating, modesty and the Islamic perspective on love and attraction. As their children reach adulthood and express an interest in marriage, Muslim parents often engage in more focused conversations about the practical aspects of marriage. We may discuss the process of finding a suitable partner, the importance of compatibility, the significance of pre-marital counseling or education, and the responsibilities and expectations associated with marriage.

Muslim parents understand the importance of discussing marriage with their children, and these conversations are tailored to each child’s age, gender and readiness to find a spouse. Muslim fathers will talk with their sons differently than with their daughters.

Likewise, Muslim moms will have conversations with their daughters similar in some ways but also distinct from those with their sons.

When Muslim mothers talk to their daughters about marriage, several important aspects must be considered. Mothers should talk to their daughters openly but confidently about modesty and respect for themselves while emphasizing the importance of making informed decisions when selecting a partner. Conversations must be conducted positively and in an empowering way so she feels secure in her decision-making abilities.

Talking With Daughters About Marriage

Here are some points that might be discussed during conversations:

1. Understanding the purpose of marriage:

Muslim mothers often emphasize the importance of understanding the purpose and significance of marriage in Islam. They may discuss how marriage is seen as a means of companionship and love, mutual support and family building based on Islamic principles.

2. Islamic values and compatibility: Mothers may emphasize the importance of seeking a partner with similar Islamic values and beliefs. They may encourage their daughters to consider potential suitors’ religious devotion, character, moral values and compatibility in terms of goals, aspirations and lifestyles.

3. Balancing personal choice and parental guidance: If you as a parent are actively involved in your daughter’s search for a spouse and marriage decisions, make sure to encourage your daughters to participate actively. They may discuss the importance of open communication, getting to know potential partners, and ensuring that the decision is ultimately based on mutual consent.

4. Importance of education and personal development: As mothers, we should emphasize the importance of education and personal growth for our daughters before and after marriage. We should encourage our daughters to pursue their educational and career aspirations, develop their talents, and become independent individuals who can contribute positively to their families and society.

5. Cultural and family considerations: Muslim mothers may discuss cultural and family



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THE FESTIVAL OF EID AT YOUTH OF UMMAH

Fun, laughter, celebration, food, gifts & games. It was truly days of festivities for all involved with Youth of Ummah's various programs.

At Jr. Seekers, 60 children did secret Eidi exchanges with their friends in addition to playing various fun games and ending with having yummy treats.

50 girls came together all dressed up for Noor Circle's Eid party. They hung out with their friends and played fun games; all while learning about how to hold on to the good habits of Ramadan even after it has passed.



Noor Circle



Jr. Seekers

Mommy & Me had a festive Eid potluck where moms got to mingle and build strong sisterhood while their little ones had fun playtime with their friends. The session concluded by all the little ones leaving with fun Eid goodie bags.

When we make Eid an actual day of celebration like it should be and a big deal according to our Islamic teachings, our children will appreciate it's true worth and will think no less of our Islamic holidays when compared to other non-Islamic ones.



Mommy & Me

Human Rights and Justice in Islam - Part 1 (cont'd)

states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We take pride in such a profound claim and are challenged to live up to it.

Such profound and wise words resonate with the Quranic verse, "O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female (Adam and Eve) and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)." [Quran, 49:13]

The verse introduces two concepts; equality and fraternity. The first part of the verse, "O mankind! We (the royal and majestic We), created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, (Adam and Eve)" represents the equality among the descendants of the first pair of humans, Adam and Eve, irrespective of skin color, race, religion, or gender. They are all equal in the sight of God and must be treated as equal among the human race. No one may claim superiority over another.

The second part of the verse, "...and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other," conveys the concept of fraternity. It is the divine decree to belong to different races and of different skin colors and to speak many different languages. The purpose of this diversity in creation is to be inclusive, to know and learn from each other thus cultivating a sense of fraternity and brotherhood.

No person can be considered superior over another human being. Piety or righteousness is the only criteria to superiority in the eyes of God, which will be determined on the Day of Judgment. Islam transcends all racial barriers and sweeps away all sorts of distinctions from society.

Women's Rights:

God treats both men and women as spiritual equals. The Quran reveals, "And their Lord responded to them (to their prayers), 'Never will I allow to be lost the work of [any] worker among you, whether male or female; you are of one another.'" (Quran, 3:195) The spiritual equality between men and women is reiterated in chapter four, "As for those who lead a righteous life, male or female, while believing, they enter Paradise; without the slightest injustice." [Quran, 4:124]

Muslim women have the same rights as Muslim men in all matters including divorce. She chooses her husband, enjoys property and inheritance rights, conducts her own separate business, has the right to education, maintains her maiden name, right to vote, and more. Haddad and Esposito state, "Muhammad granted women rights and privileges in the sphere of family life, marriage, education, and economic endeavors, rights that help improve women's status in society."

Islam came very forcefully in defense of women in the seventh century. For the first time, women were given their God given rights. They enjoy equal status with their counterpart at every level, be it spiritual, moral or social. Interestingly, a greater percentage of converts to Islam are women.


To be continued



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Talking To Your Daughter About Marriage?

Here are 7 Things to Consider (cont'd)

considerations that play a role in marriage decisions. They may discuss maintaining familial ties, respecting traditions and balancing cultural and familial expectations and personal preferences. These are extremely important discussions to have, especially if there is a possibility of joint family living.

6. Practical aspects: Muslim mothers should discuss practical aspects of married life with their daughters, such as financial responsibilities, household management and raising children. What are their expectations? What should they expect from a husband? What are they willing to take on or give up to help build a family life? What questions are they willing to ask a potential spouse? Mothers may share their experiences and guide them in navigating the challenges and joys of married life.

7. Staying single: If a Muslim daughter expresses her desire to stay single, her mother needs to approach the conversation with empathy, understanding and respect for her daughter's choices. Staying single is a personal choice that shouldn't be tied to religious guilt. This desire is not un-Islamic, and they don't have to feel ashamed for wanting to remain unmarried. Empower your daughter by acknowledging and validating her feelings and experiences.

Society can put a lot of pressure on young women when it comes to marriage, but it's important to let her know that she has the right to make her own decisions. Give your daughter the tools to navigate this challenging time confidently and independently.


Conversations about marriage between mothers and daughters should consider cultural backgrounds, personal beliefs and unique family dynamics. The goal is to foster open communication that supports both individuals' well being while staying true to Islamic principles.

Muslim moms should strive for open dialogue with their daughters about marriage so they can make informed decisions about their future. By emphasizing the importance of education and values, mothers will be able to provide respectful and supportive guidance.

Ultimately, it's up to each Muslimah to decide what path is best according to her feelings while remaining true to Islam's teachings on marriage.

Layla Abdullah-Poulos
Courtesy of Haute Hijab

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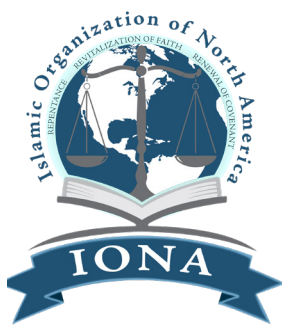
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JUNE 2023

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqamah Timings

Date	Fajr	Iqamah	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqamah	Asr(S)*	Asr(H)*	Iqamah	Maghrib	Iqamah	Isha	Iqamah
Thu 1	4:11	5:15	5:58	1:35	2:00	5:33	6:45	7:00	9:06	9:11	10:17	10:45
Fri 2	4:10	5:15	5:57	1:35	2:00	5:33	6:45	7:00	9:07	9:12	10:18	10:45
Sat 3	4:09	5:15	5:57	1:35	2:00	5:33	6:46	7:00	9:07	9:13	10:19	10:45
Sun 4	4:09	5:15	5:56	1:36	2:00	5:34	6:46	7:00	9:08	9:14	10:20	10:45
Mon 5	4:08	5:15	5:56	1:36	2:00	5:34	6:47	7:00	9:09	9:14	10:21	10:45
Tue 6	4:08	5:15	5:56	1:36	2:00	5:34	6:47	7:00	9:09	9:15	10:22	10:45
Wed 7	4:07	5:15	5:55	1:36	2:00	5:34	6:47	7:00	9:10	9:15	10:23	10:45
Thu 8	4:06	5:15	5:55	1:36	2:00	5:35	6:48	7:00	9:11	9:16	10:24	10:45
Fri 9	4:06	5:15	5:55	1:36	2:00	5:35	6:48	7:00	9:11	9:17	10:25	10:45
Sat 10	4:06	5:15	5:55	1:37	2:00	5:35	6:49	7:00	9:12	9:17	10:26	10:45
Sun 11	4:05	5:15	5:55	1:37	2:00	5:36	6:49	7:00	9:12	9:18	10:26	10:45
Mon 12	4:05	5:15	5:54	1:37	2:00	5:36	6:49	7:00	9:13	9:18	10:27	10:45
Tue 13	4:04	5:15	5:54	1:37	2:00	5:36	6:50	7:00	9:13	9:19	10:28	10:45
Wed 14	4:04	5:15	5:54	1:37	2:00	5:36	6:50	7:00	9:14	9:19	10:29	10:45
Thu 15	4:04	5:15	5:54	1:38	2:00	5:37	6:50	7:00	9:14	9:20	10:29	10:45
Fri 16	4:04	5:15	5:54	1:38	2:00	5:37	6:51	7:00	9:15	9:20	10:30	10:45
Sat 17	4:03	5:15	5:54	1:38	2:00	5:37	6:51	7:00	9:15	9:20	10:30	10:45
Sun 18	4:03	5:15	5:55	1:38	2:00	5:37	6:51	7:00	9:15	9:21	10:31	10:45
Mon 19	4:03	5:15	5:55	1:39	2:00	5:38	6:52	7:00	9:16	9:21	10:32	10:45
Tue 20	4:03	5:15	5:55	1:39	2:00	5:38	6:52	7:00	9:16	9:21	10:32	10:45
Wed 21	4:03	5:15	5:55	1:39	2:00	5:38	6:52	7:00	9:16	9:21	10:33	10:45
Thu 22	4:03	5:15	5:55	1:39	2:00	5:38	6:52	7:00	9:16	9:21	10:33	10:45
Fri 23	4:04	5:15	5:56	1:39	2:00	5:39	6:52	7:00	9:16	9:22	10:33	10:45
Sat 24	4:04	5:15	5:56	1:40	2:00	5:39	6:53	7:00	9:17	9:22	10:33	10:45
Sun 25	4:05	5:15	5:56	1:40	2:00	5:39	6:53	7:00	9:17	9:22	10:33	10:45
Mon 26	4:05	5:15	5:56	1:40	2:00	5:39	6:53	7:00	9:17	9:22	10:32	10:45
Tue 27	4:06	5:15	5:57	1:40	2:00	5:39	6:53	7:00	9:17	9:22	10:32	10:45
Wed 28	4:07	5:15	5:57	1:40	2:00	5:39	6:53	7:00	9:17	9:22	10:32	10:45
Thu 29	4:07	5:15	5:58	1:41	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:00	9:17	9:22	10:32	10:45
Fri 30	4:08	5:15	5:58	1:41	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:00	9:17	9:22	10:31	10:45
Sat 1	4:09	5:15	5:59	1:41	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:00	9:16	9:21	10:31	10:45

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | **Athan is 10 minutes** before Iqamah except for Maghrib
 First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:30 PM



IONA aims at transforming its members and surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members seek His mercy and grace in this life and in the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercise in worship of the Creator, God most glorified. The strength of their belief in God almighty gives them the courage to promote good and forbid evil, and to engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.

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IONA center is always in need of funds in order to keep the Masjid running and maintained at all times. Your continued support is always appreciated.