

International Women's Day 8th March celebrates the social, economic, cultural, & political achievements of women. Raising awareness about gender inequality & advocating for women's rights & empowerment.

How does Islam view women? Are they oppressed? Are men superior? Are women forced to wear the Hijab? Do they have any rights/voice?

Islamic VS Cultural misconception that men are superior to women -

“O humanity! Be mindful of your Lord Who created you from a single soul, and from it, He created its mate, and through both, He spread countless men and women. (4:1)

Men and women are biologically different but complementary to one another. Both genders are regarded equal by Allah ﷻ. Islam enjoins respect and dignity without singling out one gender over the other.

“Indeed, We have dignified the children of Adam...” (17:70)

Men and Women are addressed in the Qur'an - "Indeed, the Muslim men & Muslim women, the believing men & believing women, the obedient men & obedient women, the truthful men & truthful women... (33:35)

Umm Salamah heard the Prophet ﷺ call out, **"O people!"** her maid tried to stop her from going, but she replied **"Indeed, I am among the people,"**

The believing men and believing women are allies of one another

The Qur'an instructs us to work together equally as partners, to build a strong family, a fair society, equally supporting one another.

“Men and women are allies of one another: They enjoin what is just, and forbid what is evil, they observe regular prayers, practise regular charity and obey Allah, and his messenger on them will Allah pour his mercy for Allah is exalted in power, wise.” (9:71)

Women can be role models to both men and women

“The Prophet drew four lines on the ground, He said: The best of the women of Paradise are Khadijah, Fatimah, Maryam & Asiya” (Ahmad)

Allah ﷻ recognised the prayers of Asiyah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, sent Salaam to Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا via Jibril العَلَيْهِ السَّلَام, honoured Fatimah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا & praised Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا chastity.

Right to Live: A woman's life is valuable and substantial, as an individual, daughter, sister, mother, leader, member of society.

The Qur'an forbade female infanticide and Zulm

“And when the female infant buried alive is asked for what sin was she killed” (81: 8-9)

Preserve Honour & Protect Their Wealth - "...and for the women a portion of what is left by parents and near relatives what is little of it or much, a portion obligatory" (4:7) "...then do not take away from it anything. Would you take it by slander and a sin open?" (4:20)

No Forced Marriages Or Prostitution - No exploitation, abuse or force especially on vulnerable women.

O you who have believed, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion" (4:19). "...Do not force your slave girls into prostitution for your own worldly gains while they wish to remain chaste. (24: 33)

Foster Parent: Umm Ayman - **Business Woman:** Khadijah bint Khuwaylid

Archivist: Hafsa bint Umar memorized and kept the only written copy of the Quran. **Social Worker and Benefactor:** Zaynab bint Khuzama, AKA

Mother of the Poor. **Public Administrator:** Ash Shifa bint Abdullah – administrator in Madinah and later head of Health and Safety in Basra, Iraq.

Market Inspector: Samra bint Nuhayk al Asadiyya

Soldier: Nusaybah bint Ka'ab – defended the Prophet at Battle of Uhud

Scholar: Rabi'ah bint Muawwad – scholar of fiqh, taught the scholars of Madinah. **Martyr:** Sumayyah bint Khayyāt - the first martyr in Islam