

Muslim Women and Revolutionary Islam

Who says Islam opposes women?

"Islam desires that the respect of humanity be preserved for men and women." —Imam Khomeini

"Shi'ism not only does not remove women from the social scene but rather places them in society in the front ranks of the most elevated of human beings. We accept the progress of the West but not the corruption and that which causes them themselves to cry out." (November 14, 1978)

"Islam wants women and men to have the opportunity for growth. Islam has saved women from that which existed during the Age of Ignorance. Islam has not served men, God knows, to the same extent that it has served women. You have no idea what women were in the Age of Ignorance and what they became with Islam. Now they are acting in a way towards women which is worse than that which existed in the Age of Ignorance. In those days, they treated women as being unimportant but now he (the Shah) says, 'Women must be fascinating. Women must be this or that.' He says things which insults the high station of womanhood. He believes that women should be... He has made a mis-interpretation. It should not be this way. Islam wants women to not be like this. Islam wants women to perform all basic jobs just as men do, not that women should become something that some man desires — paint herself up and mix with men, mix with young people. Islam wants them (women), to move forward. Islam wants to preserve the respect and honor of women. It wants to give distinction to women. They want women to pass from hand to hand. Islam opposes this. Does this mean Islam opposes women? Islam has done a great service to women of which no previous example exists in history. Islam pulled women out of the muddy lagoons and gave her distinction. Does this mean Islam opposes women? To think so is to have been influenced by propaganda. They want to distance you from Islam. They want to eat your property. They want you to move away from the Muslim clergy and eat your property. They want to prevent your consciousness of your culture from developing so that they can eat up your natural resources and keep you in enslavement until the end." (October 30, 1978)

"The regime of the Shah, by expending enormous amounts of money, have bought off some of the western press and in order to deviate western opinion from the real issues, one of the most important of which is the deposition of the Shah and his oppressive family and the curtailing of foreign influence in our country, they have turned to propagation which is empty of the truth. It is the Shah who has prevented the freedom of the nation whether it be that of men or women and who gives no one permission to breathe. It is the Shah who wants to corrupt our youth by allowing films to be shown which are colonialist conspiracies and our young boys and girls to be removed from their purity and far from understanding the unfortunate problems of their country. The cinemas of the Shah are

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centers of prostitution and places of developing people who are unaware of their 'self', unaware of the prevailing chaos in their country. The Muslim nation knows such centers to be in opposition to the health of the country. Even before the Muslim clergy say anything, they know these to be things which must be destroyed.

"It is the Shah who corrupts women and who wants them to grow up as dools. Religion opposes this tragedy and pain not by means of speaking of the so-called freedom of women and having them participate in the useless recent referendum which proved the absurdity of the Shah for everyone. Women arose along with the men and asked for their freedom and independence, condemned the Shah and as a result we bore witness to the killing of 600 liberated women of ours at the hands of the Shah." (September 14, 1978)

"Women are free to choose any form of activity and in determining their destiny and their covering by following the precepts. Present experience with the anti-Shah regime's activities show that women have more than ever before found their freedom in the covering which Islam provides. We oppose films which are programs for corrupting the ethics of our young people and our Islamic consciousness of our culture but we accept programs which educate and help the ethical and intellectual development of society." (November 1, 1978)

"At the present time, the Muslim women of Iran participate in the political struggle and the demonstrations against the Shah. I have been informed that women in the cities of Iran hold political meetings. From the point of view of Islam, women have the same rights as men do — the right to education, work, ownership, vote, being elected. In all areas where men have rights, women also have rights. There are things which are forbidden to men because they may lead to corruption and also for women there are areas which are forbidden to women because they may lead to corruption. Islam desires that the respect of humanity be preserved for men and women. Islam does not want women to be play things in the hands of men.

"That which has been reflected in the West that women in Islam are treated harshly is incorrect. It is invalid propaganda which has come from biased people, for in Islam, both men and women have the right to determine their own destiny. If there are differences, they exist for both and the differences relate to their nature." (November 30, 1978)

"If Islam is realized, you will see with what equality it relates to Christianity and other religions." (December 2, 1978)



Imam Khomeini has inspired the Muslim woman of the Islamic Republic to come to know their Islamic duties as well as seek their rights as Muslims.

o sisters from Lahijan, Qasvin and representatives from the Armenian community.

*In the Name of God
the Merciful, the Compassionate*

Divine monotheistic traditions from the moment they first appeared in humanity, unfortunately met with opposition on the part of the arrogant. They were not able to be established as they should have. This is particularly true of the religion of Jesus, peace be upon him. They said things that were not worthy of Jesus Christ. Worse still was the kingship who attached themselves to Christianity but were not Christians. They then prevented the message of Jesus from being realized. If the message of Jesus had reached the Christians, if the message of Moses had reached the Jewish people and if the message of the Prophet of Islam had reached the Muslims, in the way that they had wanted, none of the difficulties that humanity faces today would exist. Now you see what a country which claims to be followers of Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, what crimes they commit in the world by relying upon the ideology of Jesus! Leaders of Islamic countries, in the name of being Muslim, what crimes they have committed in the name of Islam. You saw how Muhammad Reza claimed to be Islamic and he printed Qurans and pretended to be attached to Islam, but in actuality he treated Islam in such a way that you all saw and people like Carter act in the name of Christianity and in opposition to the teachings of Jesus, commit much oppression and crimes in the world. Religions from the beginning have been faced by those who rebel against the commands of God in the world. From the beginning of religion, the rebel or rebels against God's commands existed. Today we have an Islamic country in the real sense. If Islam is realized, you will see with what equality Islam relates to Christianity and other religions.

When Hadrat Ali, peace be upon him, heard that a woman was being struck by an officer, and she may have been Jewish, he became troubled and said that if a person dies in such a situation, it is worthy. If Islam is realized as God the Most High wants in Iran and in other areas, the doors to oppression will be closed. Other regimes will not be able to commit oppression. Pray that those who are causing trouble around our country and who have faith in no religion be reformed or destroyed, that a real Islamic rule be established and may God bless all of you.