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EDITORIAL:

Who are you? What are you? Are you a leader or a follower? Do you follow society or does society follow you? Are you scared to be different or proud to be you? Do you stick to your guns? Or do you say what people wanna hear? So the question is... ARE YOU A SHEEP?

"...I ain't no sheep, orite!..." is what y'all sayin' yeah?

So tell me, are you proud to be a Muslim or embarrassed to be labelled one? Do you stick to your Islamic beliefs at home as well as when you're at college/uni/work? Or are you too weak to even make your non-Muslim friends and colleagues aware of your Islamic principles? When Islam and Muslims are put on the spot are you quick to answer any misconceptions? Or are you quick to escape to the loo? Are you a walking, talking advert for Islam? Or do you just follow Islam just at home, or on Fridays or at the mosque? Do you ignore the hoo-haa of secular society and still live peacefully as a practising Muslim? Or are you too busy making society happy and forgot about Islam?

So let me ask you again: Are you a sheep?

If you ain't a sheep then when secular society cries 'we don't need religion.... there's no God...', you stick to your belief in God and the faith of Islam and not just agree with society.

If you ain't a sheep then you won't compromise on basic principles such as Halal and Haram. You will drink, eat, dress and socialise as Islam says and not as society, colleagues or culture promotes.

If you ain't a sheep then Islam won't embarrass or burden you but you'll be happy and proud to be seen and known as a Muslim and happy to talk about Islam if necessary.

If you ain't a sheep then your role models won't be the likes of Ronaldo and Gerrard, Eminem or 50 Cent, Aishwarya Rai or Shahrukh Khan but just Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Now... please tell me you ain't a sheep?

You're a Muslim so be proud of it. Don't feel awkward or embarrassed about it. Your Islamic identity should be an honour not a burden.

You're a Muslim so make sure you know your Islam so you can practise it and reap its benefits. Following the example of the great Prophet Muhammad(pbuh) is a privilege.

You're a Muslim so when you're asked about your faith then make sure you can answer the questions.

You're a Muslim so don't just go with the flow and follow the rest. That's easy. Be yourself and practise Islam. Let people follow you!

Just make sure you're not one of those who just talks about Islam 24/7...coz nobody likes a religious freak. Don't push Islam in people's faces and remember nobody likes a walking, talking fatwa machine, if you know what I mean. Everyone should know and see you as the good guy. Someone who is approachable. Chilled out. A person with manners and respect for others. Tolerant. This in itself will present you as a good advert for your faith.

You see Islam gives you an identity. A way of life. A peace of mind. Success here and in the hereafter. Now isn't that cool to be a part of? Or are you happy to be a sheep?

Are you a sheep?

Sajid Iqbal
editor@therevival.co.uk



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The Cover is a composite of several different images and has been created to illustrate a point.

emails to the editor

Salamun alaik,

What do I think of the mag... great stuff masha'Allah. It's very hard hitting covering topical issues in a manner which will engage your target audience- spot on Masha'Allah.

The niqab article was in particular a very good read and in fact I'm going to leave a few issues in our staff room at school coz the way the sister countered J.Straws comments was very effective and I think my colleagues will finally understand the wisdom behind it.

Rayhana Oxford

Asalmz

I just read the magazine, which my bro got in Old Trafford and I must say masha Allah it is the best one I have ever read.

A very well done to your team.

Keep up the good work and most of the effort u all r putting in writing about issues that are happening in the community today.

asalmz
Abida Timol
Manchester

Salaam

...I don't like the use of excessive slang. what you should be promoting is good use of language and vocabulary. I know you do it because you think young individuals can relate to that. But we don't all speak like that!!!! I certainly don't. I don't like slang, I'm from Manchester but I do not have an accent as I choose to speak correctly. The English language is as beautiful language as any other any should be displayed so to young individuals.

The next issue is the use of Punjabi and Urdu words in the article such as, GHADI and CHAPPAL. do you assume that all young Muslims are from a Pakistani background? No that is not the case there are Arabs, Gujratists, Bengali's, Indians, Sri Lankans, Malaysians, Africans (such as some of my family) etc. who are not represented by this magazine. I read your Slogan to be THE VOICE OF THE MUSLIM YOUTH. clearly not the case as you seem only to cater to people of a Pakistani background. This is not the entire Muslim Youth you talk of.

Farah Iqbal
Manchester

Asalaamu alaikum to the revival team!

Well my brother just brought home the newest issue of the revival magazine and what can I say, it's wicked :-) MashaAllah I like the leaned back style that in it's casual tone puts forward some extremely vital points that all us young western Muslims most definitely need to know. Alhumdulillah! So my main reason for e-mailing is to say a BIG jazakAllah for putting together such a cool magazine.

Aaminah Ali
Slough

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Hello

I feel the magazine is a great start and has even more potential. I think it could do with adding more topics as more people would be able to relate to the context of the magazine. However I appreciate that it is early days and you need a lot of writers and reporters to cover a large range of topics. I also feel that the layout of the magazine can seem like it is too much work to read, as there is many pages just full of writing, which can sometimes look like an essay rather than a quick read on the tube. People are more attracted to eye catching headings and images rather than large pieces of information no matter how brilliant the context.

Daniel Adam
London

Salam

I have recently read your magazine The Revival and thought it was really good. It covered issues regarding the youth of today as well as explaining really well the message of Islam. I thought the issue regarding the London bombing was covered really well as Muslims in the UK have been put under a lot of pressure from society and media because of it. I actually picked up the magazine from my university where it was being distributed.

Soni
London

As-salaamu-alaikum,

I live in a small town in Surrey, we do have an Muslim community, however it is incredibly small! Therefore, I have not been able to get hold of a copy of The Revival. I learnt about the magazine, through the Internet, as well as word of mouth (I studied in East London!). I was very impressed by the range of issues you deal with. I have always felt that there was a gap in the market within Islamic media, particularly in regards to the Muslim youth. This is something which I feel you have successfully catered towards. It is amazing to see that you have such a vibrant magazine. I also took a peek at The Revival Forum, and it is really pleasing to see so many comments! I will hopefully be subscribing to the magazine!

Tanya Quddus
Surrey

Salaam

The magazines are very eye-catching and definitely attract the Muslim youth. I hope Ali wanabe and Jamal return soon! It's not the same without them!! But Masha'Allah it was really informative.

Safora Akhtar
Halifax

If you have any comments, suggestions or you just disagree with any opinion or analysis expressed in The Revival please send your email to: editor@therevival.co.uk

You can also write to us at: The Revival. 370-372 Manchester Road. Oldham. OL9 7PG

WHAT'S HE CHATTIN' ABOUT?

There are many words we read and hear but aren't too sure what they mean. So The Revival attempts to define some Islamic terms most commonly used:

1. Hijrah

Hijrah means emigration. The Islamic calendar starts from the year Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) emigrated from the city of Makkah to Madinah, in 622 C.E.

2. Barzakh

Literally means partition or barrier. In Islamic terminology it usually means the life in the grave, because the life in thegrave is the interspace between the life on earth and the life in the Hereafter.

3. Dawah

Propagation of Islam through word and action, calling the people to follow the commandments of Allah and His Messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

4. Fard 'Ain and Fard al Kifayah

Fard 'Ain is an action which is obliga-

tory on every Muslim like your 5 daily prayers, fasting in Ramadan, Zakat, Hajj etc.

Fard al-Kifayah

It signifies a collective duty of the Muslim community so that if some people carry it out no Muslim is considered blameworthy; but if no one carries it out all incur a collective guilt; eg attending the funeral prayer.

5. Fatwa

A legal verdict given on a religious basis. The sources on which a fatwa is based are the Holy Qur'an, and the Sunnah of the Prophet.

6. Halal and Haram

Halal: Lawful as defined by Allah the Almighty.

Haram: Any act or deed which is prohibited by Allah and will incur His wrath and punishment.

7. Iblees

In Islamic terminology it denotes the jinn, who refused the command of Allah(swt) to prostrate before Adam

out of vanity. He also asked God to allow him a term when he might mislead and tempt mankind to error. This term was granted to him by God whereafter he became the chief promoter of evil and prompted Adam and Eve to disobey God's order. He is also called al-Shaytan (Satan).

8. Ijma

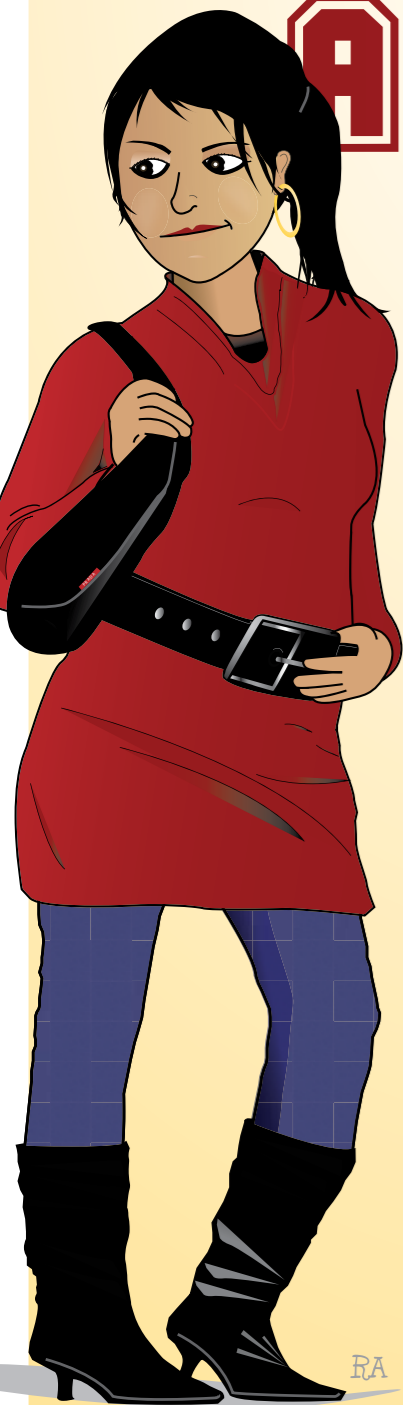
Ijma refers to the consensus of eminent scholars (mujtahidun) of Islam in a given age. Ijma comes next to the Quran and the Sunnah as a source of Islamic doctrines.

9. Qiblah

Qiblah signifies the direction to which all Muslims are required to turn when offering their prescribed Prayers, namely towards the Ka'bah, in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

10. Taqwa

Fearing Allah(swt) as He should be feared. A major sign of being a faithful Muslim. See Qur'an, Aali 'Imran (3:102-103), Al-Hashr (59:18-19).



ALIYAH

By Sara Salim and Imaani Aslam

JAMEELA



Aliyah: Listen yeah, I ain't saying nuffin' about you or anything, but I got plans for me. I'm gonna show all these people that they can't boss me about and control my life. I ain't thick, I can make my own decisions you know. You get me?

Jameela: Err...no not really.

Aliyah: Girl you really are thick today ain't ya? You sure you ain't dyed your hair blonde too? Don't tell me you ain't noticed how Muslim girls are treated? Look at us, we're all chained to the kitchen sink, we take orders from lazy men and our life revolves around snotty kids. What kinda life is that? I'm telling you, that ain't me.

Jameela: Well it's great that you're thinking about your future and what you wanna do in life but Sis you can be ambitious and successful and still be a Muslim too you know.

Aliyah: Yeah, whatever!! Us girls can't do jack. You just get married and have kids. Well if people think I'm gonna ruin my figure popping out a dozen kids then they're proper thick. Just imagine the stretch marks, eurgghh!! I don't fink so!

Jameela: (Laughs) You got it wrong Sis. That's not what being a Muslimah is all about...

Aliyah: Yeah right. You just keep telling yourself that, but I'm gonna do something about it. Tell me yeah, how many Muslim women do you know who really are something? In Islam girls can't do jack...

Jameela: Woah! Just hold on a sec there. Sis you got that so wrong. You're confusing our culture with our religion. Islam doesn't restrict women any more than it restricts men. The Quran was revealed for all of us, both men and women.

Aliyah: So how comes yeah, the guys are all allowed to go to uni, but everyone kicks up a fuss when a girl wants to go.

Jameela: I really don't know because that's not what Islam teaches. Both men and women are equally encouraged to seek knowledge. In fact, look at the example of Aisha...

Aliyah: Which one? There are bare Aisha's. That saddo on my street or the one going out with Zaki? I'm telling you, that guy is way too fit for her. I mean have you seen that girl's tash? Someone give her a piece of string please!!

Jameela: Erm...I'm talking about Hadrat Aisha (r.a), one of the wives of the Prophet (pbuh). She was one of the greatest scholars of Islam AND she used to teach men.

Aliyah: You serious?

Jameela: I'm serious Sis. You're confusing culture with Islam.

Aliyah: OK, I get that, but what's the point of a good education if you ain't allowed to work? I know bare gals who are qualified doctors and lawyers but ever since they got married all they do is stuff their face all day long and watch chat shows on telly.

Jameela: See, there you go again. Where in Islam does it say women aren't allowed to work? A woman in Islam has every right to work and earn her own money. In fact, for the benefit of our Muslim community women are encouraged to work. We are in real need of more Muslim lawyers, journalists, MPs, doctors...I'm sure a lot of us Muslim sisters would feel more com-

fortable going to see a Muslim female doctor, than some male doctor who doesn't understand us.

Aliyah: I don't know, not all doctors are bald and Indian. Some of them doctors off that Holby City are quite fit you know. Don't pretend you don't know what I'm talking about, I can tell by your face you do, hahahahaha. You're just makin' all this up now ain't ya?

Jameela: Hadrat Khatija (ra) was a business woman, Hadrat Aisha (ra) was a top scholar – in fact Nusaybah (ra) even fought on the battle field and women used to nurse the injured in the time of the Prophet (pbuh). If you don't believe me read up on it yourself. It's all about seeking knowledge, eh?

Aliyah: Girl, don't tryna be clever ok. Basically what you're saying is I don't have to be a housewife, I could have a job and that.

Jameela: That's right, a woman doesn't even have to perform the household chores, however the husband does have to fully provide for everything his wife needs. That leaves her to spend all the money she earns on whatever she wants.

Aliyah: You mean I can spend all my money on shoes and designer handbags, and my man's still got to spend his dough on me too? Wait till I tell lky this – that tramp always makes me buy his chicken n chips, and he makes me top up his mobile – he's a real stingy dog.

Jameela: Another issue in some Muslim families is how some mothers spoil their sons rotten by running around after them and not letting them do anything for themselves. That's why young Muslim boys grow up treating women as second-class citizens.

Aliyah: No wonder that uncle from down the road always walks 10 steps ahead of his wife – he thinks he's the don. I thought aunty walked behind him coz he looks better from behind, hahahahaha.

Jameela: The good thing is we're all capable of changing this attitude. If all us girls educated ourselves about our religion we wouldn't have this problem would we? Coz then we could bring up our kids not on the basis of some backward culture, but the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. Allah has given women, not men but women, the greater control over raising children. We complain it's men who oppress us and hold us back but it's really our own lack of knowledge. Our Prophet (pbuh) and his household are the perfect role models for us to look up to and follow. On many occasions the Prophet (pbuh) helped out with the housework and often mended his own clothes.

Aliyah: You're joking...

Jameela: I'm not.

Aliyah: Wait till I tell mum, she always makes me clean my brother's room. I swear he's such a tramp, his room stinks like them cheesy Wotsits and other crap. The guy ain't ever heard of a Hoover.

Jameela: Yeah, all that is wrong, but that's the culture NOT Islam.

Aliyah: OK then, if Islam is so fair to women and that, then why the hell are women always forced to marry someone they don't even know? Them forced marriages are always on the news. Even my mate 'Tasha was asking me "how can you sleep with someone that you don't even know", even though she's always sleeping with guys she don't know. She's such a....

Jameela: Again Sis, you're mixing Islam with culture! Forced marriages have got NOTHING to do with Islam. There are some sick, ignorant people out there who don't know anything about their religion and use Islam to justify their views. However, this is a serious problem that is faced by women AND men in many different cultures all around the world.

Aliyah: OK then clever clogs, since your so clever and that why don't you try telling me why the hell Islam orders women to cover up but not men? That's so unfair.

Jameela: Women are ordered to cover up in Islam for their OWN protection. When a woman wears a hijab she isn't treated as a sex object – guys don't flirt with her, they keep their hands to themselves and they won't check her out.

Aliyah: I still think it's unfair that guys don't have to wear one. Maybe if that sexy Suleman from college wore one, I wouldn't check him out so much...hahahahaha.

Jameela: Sis, guys too have to dress modestly. They must always be covered from their navel to their knees and must also behave in a decent manner and keep their gaze lowered.

Aliyah: Someone needs to tell that to them nasty builders with their hairy backs. I almost bring up my Weetabix when I see their flabby bellies every morning... eurgghh!!

Jameela: So Sis, now do you understand that Islam is NOT a sexist religion?

Aliyah: Well, kinda...but it still don't explain why the hell Abdul got away with dating that spotty girl with the tash from his class. His dad caught them in the park together and he didn't say jack! If that was his sister she'd have been beaten up and married off to the first minger from the pind!

Jameela: In Islam the punishment for sin is equal. Both men AND women will be punished for their sins. So even if some parents are full of double standards, always remember that Allah treats everyone the same. Again, this is a cultural issue not Islam.

Aliyah: Girl, you know your stuff don't ya?

Jameela: If you read up on Islam you'd also know this stuff and wouldn't have a problem with your Islamic identity. Some uneducated Muslim men might try to oppress us women, but Sis Islam doesn't oppress anybody.

Aliyah: Yeah...I get ya. I best go and get my hair sorted before my Dad sees it and goes ape. And then I'm gonna tell lky to start treating me with some respect. As a Muslimah I deserve bare respect innit?

Jameela: That's true Sis, but to be a true Muslim you gotta play the part too, but we'll chat about that some other time.

Aliyah: You can chat all you like missy, but there's no way I'm dressing like any of them ninjas or wearing a tent. My lky would run a mile!

Jameela: Asalaam Alaikum Sis, I see you've dyed your hair again?

Aliyah: Yep. Looks good don't it? What do you think?

Jameela: Erm...I think you may have overdone it with the blonde highlights, not too sure if it suits your skin tone... but hey, what's with the make-over anyway?

Aliyah: Well, you're looking at the new me. I've decided I'm through with all this being a Muslim girl thing. Now people know that I ain't one of those girls they can order about. I've decided I ain't taking no crap any more.

Jameela: Well that's great, respecting yourself is really important, but what's taking crap got to do with being and looking like a Muslim?

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PROVOKED

By Alveena Salim

What would you do if you were subjected to extreme physical, sexual, and emotional abuse by the one who claimed to love you? What would you do if your husband came home one night drunk and abusive? What would you do if he sexually abused you coz you accidentally burnt his shirt? What would you do if your husband thought it was ok to use you as a punch bag for ten years? Would you accept your fate? Or would you be provoked into hurting your husband the way he hurt you?

These were some of the dilemmas faced by Aishwarya Rai when she played the role of a victim of domestic violence in the film 'Provoked'. Directed by Jag Mundra, the film is loosely based on a true story.

So what is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is any kind of emotional, mental, physical or sexual abuse within the family. Emotional and mental abuse can include humiliation, blackmail, neglect, false accusations and intimidation. The abuser may also control the victim's access to money, education, food, clothes, healthcare, and may also deliberately isolate them from their family and friends. Domestic violence is about controlling someone by instilling fear in them. Often the severe affects of emotional abuse are dismissed, however this form of abuse has serious consequences that can result in low self-esteem, depression, mental breakdown and even suicide.

Domestic violence is more common than you'd think and it isn't exclusive to any

gender, ethnicity or religious background. Statistics show that more than 2 women are killed every week by a violent partner in the UK alone. However much the Muslim community would like to ignore this issue and pretend it doesn't exist, it's about time we faced up to it. The Muslim community can't be in denial any longer. We need to accept that some Muslim women are abused by their Muslim husbands.

So why don't Muslim women just report domestic violence?

Many Muslim women do not speak out for fear of bringing shame to the family's 'izzat' or honour. The stigma attached to divorce also makes it difficult for women to break out of an abusive relationship. Some women may have been made to believe they are to blame, while a lot of women put up with the abuse for the sake of the children, hoping the husband will one day change and the abuse will stop. Some victims may not even speak English or do not know how or where to seek help. Also, trust issues prevent them from opening up. Only recently it emerged that some Muslim women feared raising sensitive issues with their GP in case the information somehow got back to their families.

Victims of domestic violence

Sabrina, 26.

From the first time he hit me I knew instantly that things would get a lot worse from that day on. Unlike you see on the TV or hear about, my husband was never apologetic or begged me to forgive him.

He always seemed very satisfied with himself for having 'put me in my place'. One night after slapping, punching and kicking me he grabbed hold of my throat. It was in that moment when I was choking and struggling to breathe that I realized how bad things had got, and that for the sake of my life I needed to leave him. Over the years he had reduced me to nearly nothing with his controlling and obsessive behaviour and had made me feel worthless. Coming so close to death, and the fear of realizing that my husband could actually so easily kill me made me for the first time in years actually value my life. I had to admit to myself that my marriage had failed. Out of everything, that was the most difficult and heartbreaking thing ever.

Fatima, 22.

The abuse was mainly emotional and mental and had become an everyday part of my marriage. It had started with him restricting which family members and friends I was allowed to be in contact with, but he soon began to dictate my every move. It was as though he was constantly testing my love and respect for him. In the beginning I always did as he asked me to because I loved him and wanted to make him happy. But then it seemed he wasn't ever happy with anything I did. It was as though to prove I loved him I had to give up my life to him. He felt that as his wife I was his property, so he could treat me however he wanted, whenever he wanted. If I didn't do as he said, he felt I was disrespecting him and would become abusive. I never spoke to anybody about the problems we

were having, because I felt so ashamed of how little regard my husband had for me. When my parents realized something was wrong and tried to talk to him, he argued that they had no right over me anymore and he could treat his wife as he wanted. It was on my parents saying that I separated from him.

Shazad Khan, 25, was unhappy with his marriage because he had been rushed into it, and he soon began kicking and beating his 19-year-old wife. Leeds Crown Court heard that Ms Rani's injuries, similar to those of a car crash victim and worse than any the Home Office pathologist had seen in his 16-year career, were so severe that she would have been in constant pain and ill for at least three weeks before she died. Khan was convicted for murder and jailed for life.

So what does Islam say about domestic violence?

Islam strongly condemns domestic violence. Abusive men totally disregard the Islamic teachings of kindness, mercy, gentleness and compassion towards their wives and ignore the example of the Holy Prophet (saw) who never in his entire life lifted a finger to punish his wives. The Prophet (saw) said: "The most perfect believer in faith is the one whose character is finest and who is kindest to his wife." (Tirmidhi and Nasa'i).

The Prophet (saw) also said: "How can any one of you beat his wife as he might beat a camel, and then expect to embrace her at night?" (Bukhari and Muslim)

In the Prophet's (saw) last sermon he again reminded men to "be kind to women – you have rights over your wives and they have rights over you."

There are many verses in the Quran that make it clear that the relationship between a husband and wife must be of love, affection, kindness and mutual respect. 'And

among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.' (30:21)

What can we do to end domestic violence?

The first thing our Muslim community needs to do is acknowledge this problem exists and understands the reasons behind it. A lot of Muslims due to cultural reasons, think it's normal and perfectly within their rights as husbands to beat their wives. Due to their weak faith and lack of Islamic knowledge and Muslim company they don't know that this abuse is unacceptable. It is also why few women speak out against it. They may have witnessed their father treat their mother in the same way so accept it as a way of life. This is even more so the reason to speak out against this abuse, before their own children learn the same attitude.

Muslim men and women need to improve their knowledge of their own religion so that they are aware of all their rights in Islam. Also, families MUST make sure that their loved ones are safe and happy in their homes. Extended families need to stop covering up and should have a zero tolerance approach towards abuse.

Imams must be protectors of women's safety and should speak out about this issue in their Friday sermons. Imams should also be prepared to act as a mediator and offer support and counselling to the family if necessary. Mosques should have Muslim female counsellors available to speak to victims of domestic violence. Most mosques, Imams and Muslim organisations fail to provide any sort of shelters Muslim women can go to.

Some Muslims ignorantly believe that Islam gives husbands the right to beat their

wives. The Prophet (saw) said in his last sermon "do not oppress and do not be oppressed". So NO ONE should put up with any kind of abuse. If you are being abused, don't lose faith in Allah (swt) and know that He will and DOES hear and answer our prayers. No one can get away with abusing others. Those who oppress others are harshly punished – if not in this world, than definitely in the hereafter.

If life at home becomes unbearable and you feel that you are unable to confide in family, friends, the local Imam or your GP then contact the organisations below. Victims of domestic violence must also be prepared to speak out against their abusers. There should be no shame, embarrassment or cultural stigma attached to speaking out against abuse.

24-hour National Domestic

Violence helpline: 0808 2000 247

NSPCC Helpline

Tel: 0808 800 5000

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Khalid ibn al Walīd(R.A.) narrated the following Hadith:

A man came one day to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and said to him, 'Oh Messenger of Allah! I've come to ask you a few questions about the affairs of this Life and the Hereafter.'

The Prophet (pbuh) replied: 'Ask what you wish'. The Bedouin asked:

Q: I'd like to be the most learned of men.

A: Fear Allah (swt), and you will be the most learned of men.

Q: I wish to be the richest man in the world.

A: Be content, and you will be the richest man in the world.

Q: I'd like to be the most just man.

A: Desire for others what you desire for yourself, and you will be the most just of men.

Q: I want to be the best of men.

A: Do good to others and you will be the best of men.

Q: I wish to be the most favoured by Allah(swt).

A: Engage much in Allah's (swt) praise, and you will be most favoured by Him(swt).

Q: I'd like to complete my faith.

A: If you have good manners you will com-

plete your faith.

Q: I wish to be among those who do good.

A: Worship Allah (swt) as if you see Him(swt). If you don 't see Him(swt), He(swt) can see you. In this way you will be among those who do good.

Q: I wish to be obedient to Allah(swt).

A: If you observe Allah's(swt) commands you will be obedient.

Q: I'd like to be free from all sins.

A: Bathe yourself from impurities and you will be free from all sins.

Q: I'd like to be raised on the Day of Judgement in the light.

A: Don't wrong yourself or any other creature, and you will be raised on the Day of Judgement in the light.

Q: I'd like Allah(swt) to bestow His mercy on me.

A: If you have mercy on yourself and others, Allah(swt) will grant you mercy on the Day of Judgement.

Q: I'd like my sins to be very few.

A: If you seek the forgiveness of Allah(swt) as much as you can, your sins will be very few.

Q: I'd like to be the most honourable man.

A: If you do not complain to any fellow creature, you will be the most honourable of men.

Q: I'd like to be the strongest of men.

A: If you put your trust in Allah (swt), you will be the strongest of men.

Q: I'd like to increase my provision.

A: If you keep yourself pure, Allah (swt) will increase your provision.

Q: I'd like to be loved by Allah(swt) and His Messenger(pbuh).

A: If you love what Allah(swt) and His(swt) Messenger love, you will be among their beloved ones.

Q: I wish to be safe from Allah's (swt) wrath on the Day of Judgement.

A: If you do not lose your temper with any of your fellow creatures, you will be safe from the wrath of Allah (swt) on the Day of Judgement.

Q: I'd like my prayers to be responded.

A: If you avoid forbidden actions, your prayers will be responded.

Q: I'd like Allah(swt) not to disgrace me on the Day of Judgement.

A: If you guard your chastity, Allah (swt) will not disgrace you on the Day of Judgement.

Q: I'd like Allah(swt) to provide me with a protective covering on the Day of Judgement.

A: Do not uncover your fellow creatures faults, and Allah (swt) will provide you with a covering protection on the Day of Judgement.

Q: What will save me from sins?

A: Tears, humility and illness (note:illness or any form of hardship is also a cleanser of sins if one bears it with patience)

Q: What are the best deeds in the eyes of Allah (swt)?

A: Gentle manners, modesty and patience.

Q: What are the worst evils in the eyes of Allah (swt)?

A: Hot temper and miserliness.

Q: What alleviates the wrath of Allah (swt) in this life and in the Hereafter?

A: Concealed charity and kindness to relatives.

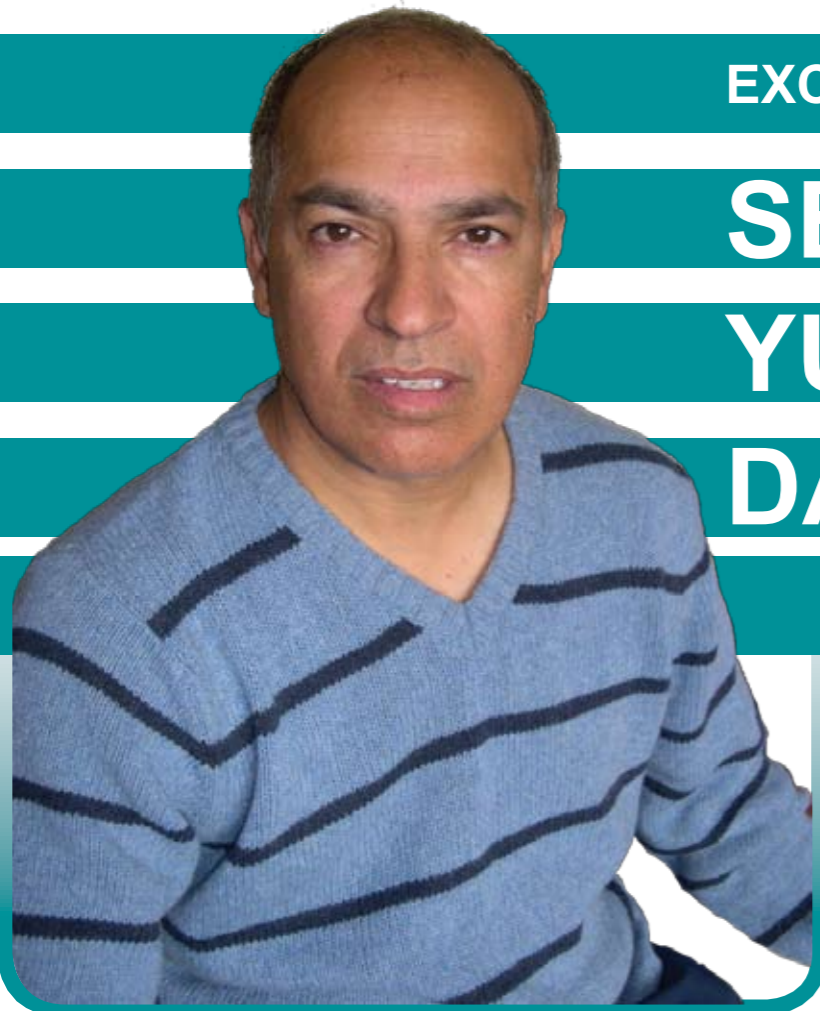
Q: What actions will save me from the fire of hell on the Day of Judgement?

A: Patience in times of hardship and misfortune.

Authentic Hadith related in the famous collection of 'Musnad Imam Ahmad' by Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal (R.A).

NOTE: Regularly read and act upon the above sayings of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and you will definitely get success in this life and the hereafter inshallah.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SERGEANT YUSUF DAR



After the Jean Charles de Menezes shooting and the raids in Forest Gate relations between the Police and the Muslim community have been under the spotlight. Sajid Iqbal, Editor of The Revival, met up with Sergeant Yusuf Dar from the Greater Manchester Police who is the current Chair of the Greater Manchester Muslim Police Association, to discuss the crucial issues facing the Muslim community.

What would you say is the role of the Police? As the view of many people is that "They don't do anything!"

The role of the Police is simply to protect life and property, preserve the peace, prevent and detect crime and prosecute offenders. This is done with the consensus of people.

To say "They don't do anything" is hugely misleading. The Police deal with hundreds and thousands of calls ranging from gas leaks to Serious Incidents. It may be better to ask are we as efficient as we could be. A look at the demands on modern policing shows we cannot deliver everything that is required, for example, lost dogs, trapped animals to crime and road policing.

Do you think Muslims generally have faith in the Police?

I would say that generally the Muslims do have faith in the police but this faith is being severely tested at times. I would also acknowledge that there are sections of the Muslim community who like sections from other communities have lost faith. This is a complex matter and cannot be answered in a few sentences.

An example of the level of faith in the Police was revealed in a recent Gallup survey carried out on Muslims and non-Muslims in London. The results showed Muslims had more faith in local police, the judicial system and the national government than non-Muslims did.

Would you say the Police are against Muslims?

I wouldn't say that the Police service is against Muslims but when you look at some issues like stop searches of Muslims or actions in Anti Terror raids, some individuals may take this as a grand plan against Muslims. Let's remember that the Police serve the crown or government and some of the actions may be due to outside influences.

Are the Police racist? Isn't Metropolitan Police institutionally racist?

I would not say that all the Police are racist but there may be individuals who are racist. You could also say that there are sections

of institutionalised racism still in existence within the service. The Police are not alone in this and this is a wider problem for society to face, for example, look at the recent matters arising out of Big Brother - that clearly indicates a wider problem. We cannot continue with denial as a society. I cannot comment on the Metropolitan police being a racist institute. What I will say is that the Met could claim to be the lead force in terms of some of the work that it has done on diversity.

The documentary 'The Secret Policeman' a few years ago highlighted how racist the Police is as an institution- so why should any Asian or black or Muslim individual have any faith in the police?

Because the service is ever evolving and changing to reflect our society. The Muslim community like others must take an active part in all facets of society and institutions no matter how difficult or challenging the hurdles. We have simply got to make sure that we are not marginalised any further by opting out.

After the Jean Charles de Menezes case how can anyone have faith in the Police?

This was a complex enquiry and I have not read all the findings but looking from outwards in, it had a very bad effect on our image. I would say that if someone is not happy with any findings by all means challenge these within our democratic and legal processes. I don't think the Muslim community was alone in questioning the process; indeed as I understand it many Police Officers were equally critical.

After the Forest Gate raid can you blame Muslims if they hate the Police?

This was another damaging incident but one cannot hate or blame the service in totality. One has to be rational and deal with matters with a cool heart and clear mind. As I said before the Muslim community was not alone in questioning aspects of the incident.



If someone feels they are mistreated by the Police what can they do? What are our rights?

There are many and it would take a long time to explain them. However you can complain about any incident involving the Police through our complaints process by complaining direct to a Police Inspector at your local station. You can take civil action by speaking to your solicitor. You can write to your councillor or MP or even the Police Authority who manage the Police service of your area. These are just some avenues open to you; it does show that there are processes in place.

Do you agree with the policy of racial and religious profiling of Asians and Muslims? Isn't the Police profiling of Asians and Muslims racism and Islamophobic?

I personally don't agree with this profiling but the service needs to examine all its options and use the best and most suitable option. Yes, you could certainly argue that it is Islamophobic.

Do you think Muslims are too quick to criticise the Police?

Yes, the community has to look at itself and also look at better engagement by selecting good leaders that it puts forward as community leaders. We need more of the youth from both sexes to take a more active part. It is always easy to criticise but less unclear when it comes to solutions. I am not saying the Police may not be blame worthy though.

How are Muslim police officers treated in the Police force? As equals or second class?

We have made strides but these have been slow and when one looks at the promotions certainly in GMP they are not acceptable. Also at times the organisation is quick to use the tick box mentality in dealing with such issues. There are many Muslim officers whose potentials have not been realised or developed. I don't feel the Police is alone to this end, for example look at the Media.

Would you advice Muslims to become Police Officers? Do you think it is a good career?

Most certainly, it's challenging and will test you to the limit. There are still many barriers to break but unless we get involved these will never be broken. We need Muslims in key positions to have an impact. It's a good career which has major highs and lows as we deal with a diverse range of issues daily. Don't forget that the Police service now includes staff who are not Police Officers and this is also available as an option.

What do you need or have to do to become a Policeman or woman?

I think you need a balanced and down to earth personality but you have to be a confident individual. Of course there are many qualities but my own view is that these must exist. You can apply and go through the selection process.

As a Policeman don't you sometimes have to spy on fellow Muslims? Isn't that one reason not to join the force?

I would disagree, if your fellow Muslims or non-Muslims break the law and you witness or know this, I would argue that you have a moral responsibility to act. I would also argue that it should not matter whether they are Muslim or not. The test is the same. Muslims are encouraged to have higher values than others.

What's your advice to Muslims regarding the Police and how we should treat them?

Treat them as the Quran says to treat all: equally and with respect. Lets not forget that the Police serve you.

Finally tell us more about the Muslim Police Association?

We are a relatively new association formed with aspirations to have a national framework to support Muslim staff and the community in any avenues where we can. We were the last of the main three religions to be formed, Christianity and Judaism being the others. We are facing testing times like our community as there are sections who clearly do not seem supportive of us from within the service AND also from outside but we will accept this challenge and Inshallah with Allah's help we will overcome this.



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VOICE OF THE MUSLIM YOUTH

DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN THE POLICE?



Yaqub Bekk
21 NW LONDON

Personally, I lost all the faith that I had in the equality of the police force a couple of years ago, when me and my friends were sitting in a car parked by the side of the road, just chatting to each other. Three unmarked police cars screeched to a halt and plain clothed officers literally dragged my two friends out of the front seats (one of whom was black, the other was Asian). They carried out full-body searches on my friends and left me (an innocent looking white guy) sitting safely in the back seat. I could have had cocaine, heroin, or even an AK-47 machine gun on me and they never would have known. They let my friends go (barely apologising for the inconvenience or even giving an explanation as to why they approached us in the first place), said 'good evening sir' to me and went on their merry way.

When I was younger, I was stopped for 'random searches' a few times, but only ever if I was in a group of friends who were predominately non-white. Another black friend of mine was once stopped rudely and searched while he waited for me outside a POLICE STATION, but as soon as the police officers saw me they immediately started speaking to him as if he WAS a complete human being.

So, while I haven't been affected by this directly, I have seen first-hand how racial-profiling etc can GREATLY harm a community's relationship with the police force.

Iran Jaki 22
BIRMINGHAM

The police are there to do a job they are protecting all of us from being bombed. But they shouldn't be given too much powers. The British justice works fine as it is - it's already illegal to blow people up. There's no need for more restrictive laws. Even when the laws are tightened the terrorists find ways of getting around them. But whenever police make 'anti-terror' arrests the media will always big things up beyond recognition and get people frightened. We should wait for the evidence to be presented in a court of law before we judge anyone - be it fellow Muslims or the police.

The Revival has been asking young Muslims from across the UK whether or not they have faith in the Police:

Rabia Shah 20
Stammore NW LONDON

The image of the police has deteriorated over the years; it may be due to the lack of patrol officers, flaws within the system or simply because what they refer to as 'protecting the people' maybe seen as injustice in the eyes of others. Their aim has been to 'make London a safer place' but how much progress has been made? The police force has now been set targets to seek out and identify any potential terrorist plans or activities, but it has now become hunt for prey. Muslims have now been stereotyped and it seems to be that more Muslims are now stopped, questioned or perhaps even searched according to their appearance. Since the attacks on London and 9/11 I believe that Muslims have been forced into the limelight of scrutiny which has affected the perception of the police forces on the communities. I believe that due to such implications, the Muslim community feels threatened or even intimidated by the police, which discourages them to have confidence or turn to them in times of need. Personally, I have not had any experiences with the police but I know that I would not turn to them as a natural instinct. This may be due to the fact that I have little knowledge about my rights, but also because I now have a lack of faith in the justice system.

Aleesha Hussain 22
Derby

After the recent Forest Gate incident I can safely say I no longer have any faith in the police at all. They are racist and don't seem to be ashamed about it anymore. Shooting Jean Charles de Menezes 7 times in the head revealed this and then the Forest Gate raid just proved it. The apologies delivered by the police after both incidents were degrading, offensive, insulting and unashamedly insincere. I feel embarrassed by the actions of our police in the UK. They say they acted on intelligence, well then I also have no faith in the intelligence they use and it makes me question every other action of theirs also.

Farzana Akhtar
19 LIVERPOOL

Yes and no. Yes because in general, they are doing their job properly. You can depend on them to be at your house if you've been robbed and you know that they'll investigate it. In some areas where crimes such as burglary are regularly occurring, police go door to door with advice on how to keep your house safe. But then again, how often is it that they actually find the person who robbed you? Also, racism does occur within the police force. Young ethnic minorities are more likely to be stopped than white youths and most of the time they haven't done anything wrong! So where is the justice in that and how can you have faith in such an institution?



Humaira Shabir
21 Glasgow

Do I have faith in the police? I cannot answer with certainty yes or no. It's good to have the police keeping people in check and looking out for us but you do hear about racism and how the police abuse this, so how is it possible to trust such people? There should be some sort of system in force to make sure this doesn't happen. You also hear Muslims going missing in the news and that the police had some involvement with it, you cannot help but think what have the police done to them?! Having said that not all of the police are bad and we do need someone to control our society. Everyday you see criminals getting locked up for crimes so I guess the police cannot be all that bad!

Shabana Ahmed
20 Newcastle

I know that the police have a very difficult job to do, and I accept as humans we all make mistakes. However, it is the arrogance the police display in admitting their errors and their inability and reluctance to learn from them that has made me lose faith in the police. I know their attitude is because the police in the UK are institutionally racist. I think that if more Muslims joined the police force and represented us, things would be a lot better, but I also think change can be made now within the force, starting at the top with the resignation of Sir Ian Blair.

Nabeem Zafar
24 Oldham

As an institution I am thankful that the police exists. If they shot me dead willy-nilly, I would probably have some concerns, but lets face it, no establishment is perfect. We have to realise there is a murderous threat coming from some Muslims. It needs to be dealt with. It's not easy infiltrating a Muslim group, so undoubtedly there will be situations where the Police has bad intelligence and get things wrong. Like in Forest Gate. But at other times they will get things right.

Maryam Khan 26
Warwickshire

Isn't it ironic that the vast majority of Muslim's these days seem to think the police are corrupt? Well let's be blunt, would you rather go through the legal system here or say Bangladesh or Pakistan or the Middle East? Unfortunately, Muslim countries are not synonymous with the term "justice". They're just Muslim by name yet we Muslims wax lyrical about them, forgetting their legal system has serious problems, and as for cops they are easily paid off if you're rich.



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10 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU DIE

Do you know when you're gonna die? Of course you don't! You could be DEAD next week, next month or next year. So before you go what do you wanna do and achieve in life? What are your dreams and ambitions? What big plans do you have for your life? How do you wanna be remembered?

The Revival presents to you 10 things you should do before you die:

1 Live your dreams!

If there's anything you want to do...and its legit... then do it. If you ever wanted to go trekking across the Great Wall of China, go cruising in a Ferrari, score for Manchester United, go bungee jumping, get a degree, sky dive, start up your own business, be a millionaire, become a scholar or hafiz, write a book, kick George Bush in the Crown Jewels, learn how to drive or swim or learn Japanese. Just do it. Don't put off your dreams. Make them real.

2 See the world

And no, that don't just mean spend a few weeks in your motherland. See the wonders of Allah's creation. Check out the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal, Disney Land etc. Visit Jerusalem, Egypt, Makkah and walk in the cities that are steeped with Islamic history. See the world, from East to West, and appreciate it and let it make you a better and wiser person....and oh yeah HAVE FUN!!!

3 Give back

Do something SPECIAL and AMAZING. Such as sponsor an orphan, plant a tree, start a charity fund, feed the poor, give blood, teach a child how to read or solve someone's problem. That way you'll be remembered positively when you leave this world. Your legacy will live on and most importantly the reward of your selfless good deeds will continue to benefit you till the Day of Judgement.

4 Fulfil your responsibilities

As Muslims there are many things that are compulsory (fardh) upon us like reading our prayers 5 times a day, performing Hajj once in a lifetime, to fast and to give zakat. So make Hajj a priority.... not 'I'll do it when I'm old'. Make up your missed prayers and make a promise not to miss any more... and start from NOW.

5 Make your parents happy

Our parents are everything to us. They deserve our respect, love and obedience. Make sure you spend quality time with them. Make them proud and don't break their hearts. Remember, that in Islam if your parents are happy with you, then God will be happy with you. But if your parents are unhappy with you, then God will also be unhappy with you. So before they go- make them proud. After they have gone, remember them, pray for them and fulfil any of their wishes and responsibilities.

6 Study Islam and practise it

You cant leave this world before knowing your purpose of life and how to achieve it. So study Islam. Open the Quran and read it with meaning. Read about the life of the Prophet (pbuh). Make sure you know what Islam is all about and practise it in your daily life. Only this will benefit you here in this world and in the hereafter.

7 Get Married and have kids

It's sunnah. So the sunnah the better. Share your dreams and desires with someone who will help make them come true. Start a family and raise children that are proud of you and look up to you. Be an inspiration to your partner and your kids. The aim is to bring your kids up as good people who understand and practise their faith, who will carry on your legacy and benefit you even when you've passed away.

8 Ask for forgiveness

Think about all the bad things you've done in life and humble yourself in front of your Creator. So before you go don't you think you need to ask for forgiveness? Ask for forgiveness every night. Is there someone that you haven't spoken to in yonks? Were you ever responsible for causing problems between people? Ask for forgiveness today. Remember, Allah won't forgive your sins, unless you're forgiven by those you wronged. Also, forgive those who have hurt or wronged you in any way. Life's too short to bear grudges. Let go of all the stuff that happened years ago, bearing in mind that if you want Allah to forgive you, then you must forgive others.

9 Be a role model

Yep, be a model, no not a super model like Kate Moss but a role model to your family, friends, colleagues, Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Be someone that everyone looks up to and respects. Be someone that people can turn to in times of need. Be someone who people will remember for the right reasons long after you have gone.

10 Pay your debts off

If you're in debt, no matter how big or small, plan NOW as to how you're gonna pay it off. Don't delay! Debt is a pain, and a burden and it takes sheer effort to pay it off. Remember, even if you do Hajj, but owe others money then your Hajj may not be accepted.

So that's The Revival's top ten things to do before you die. You see life is short so make the most of it. Don't waste it. Do stuff that is meaningful and do things which you won't regret. Most importantly, do things which will make you successful HERE and in the HEREAFTER.

So now it's your turn to list the things you wanna do before you die... and then start from today on working towards achieving them.

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Law and Order

Domestic violence is prevalent in all communities and must not be tolerated. No individual should live in fear. 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence over their lifetimes. Men can also be victims of domestic violence. Communities should take positive steps to alleviate domestic violence in the family unit and the wider community.

So what protection can the Law provide to victims of domestic violence? The law applicable to domestic violence is governed by civil and criminal law. As far as criminal law is concerned the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service deal with complaints by way of attendance and prosecution.

In respect of civil law, the Family Law Act 1996 is in place to provide protection for victims of domestic violence in the form of:

- (i) Non molestation orders and,
- (ii) Occupation orders.

Depending on the severity of the circumstances, an application for a Non-Molestation Order can be made by attending court immediately without the perpetrator being present. In such cases the court can make an Interim Order protecting the victim from the perpetrator and set a date for the perpetrator to attend and respond to the application. Applications of this nature can only be made where there is a serious threat or immediate danger of physical harm. Where there is not a serious threat, a notice is served on the other party and they then attend a hearing on a date fixed by the courts to determine the injunction.

If an application for a Non-Molestation order is successful, the injunction will forbid the perpetrator from:

- (a) Using or attempting to use violence against the victim and/or children,
- (b) Threatening, harassing or pestering the victim and/or children,
- (c) Communicating with the victim and/or children except through a solicitor.

The court also has the power to make an Occupation Order requiring the perpetrator to vacate or occupy part of the family home or if an order is made to remove the perpetrator, not to return or go within a set distance of the family home. Before making an order, the court will have to consider the conduct of the parties, the needs and financial resources of the parties and the children, if any. If the court is satisfied that the victim and/or children have suffered actual bodily harm and are likely to do so again, it may also attach a power of arrest to the injunction. This means if the perpetrator were to breach the injunction, the victim could immediately telephone the Police, who must arrest the perpetrator.

When considering occupation order applications, the court also has powers to order the perpetrator to discharge rent or mortgage repayments and outgoings affecting the family home and in some cases the transfer of tenancies.

Issuing proceedings relating to domestic violence can be costly. If the victim is in receipt of benefits such as income support or job-seeker's allowance or receiving low income, they may be eligible to Legal Aid. Legal advice should be sought from Family Law specialist Solicitors who may also be authorised by the Government to carry out legal aid work.

This article is written by Zaffar Iqbal LLB (Hons) Law, Sole Principal, Zacharia & Co Solicitors. Accredited Member of the Law Society Family Law Panel and Member of Resolution – First for Family Law.



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I am addicted to watching porn on the net. I know it's wrong but can't stop myself. What can I do to overcome my porn addiction?



Answer by
Shaykh Salim Ghisa

This unfortunately has become a big problem in today's society. The simple reason is that the Haram is simply too easily accessible.

The reason why Islam promotes a segregated society where men and women are adequately covered and separated, is so that there is as least temptation as possible. However, due to the usage of the Internet and some of the vulgar contents available this barrier has come down. There are many effective measures one can take to ensure that they are protected from this sort of Haram activity.

Understanding the consequences of watching Haram

As Muslims we should be aware that watching something that is Haram means that the eyes have committed fornication and we will have to answer for this in front of Allah. The Prophet of Allah (pbuh) has warned of the consequences where he saw that men and women on the Day of Judgement had hot iron rods poked into their eyes. The reason for this was the non-permissible gaze and vulgar obscenities viewed intentionally by the eyes. (Hadith in detail in Al Mishkat). Therefore one must be aware of the consequences for their actions.

However, whilst all this is understandable a person watching porn will find it very difficult to control their desires when prompted by Shaitaan. This is why some practical measures have to be put in place.

Taking preventative measures

Firstly, one should if possible move the PC into an area where others can see you access the Internet. This will prevent viewing websites which could not be seen in the public domain. I had a person with a similar problem who then moved his PC in to the main sitting room where the rest of his family were also using the room. This stopped him from accessing Haram sites as he knew he could be seen.

The other measure is to put parental control on your Internet access and even better get someone from the family to set up parental control so that you do not know the password. You do not need to explain why you want them to do it just state that

any person could use your PC and you were concerned that it may be used wrongly. This will stop you getting access to porn sites.

Actively finding the root cause of porn addiction

Also, the underlying trend here is a lack of sexual fulfilment. This is common both in married and unmarried people. Therefore, if you are unmarried, to stop you from accessing porn you should either get married or fast during the day to weaken your desires. This was the advice given by the Prophet of Allah (pbuh) when he was asked about young men who could not control their desires. If the person is married then he needs to share his thoughts and desires with his partner so that all his fulfilments can be obtained the Halal way.

Repentance

Finally, one must always remember that they should always actively repent to Allah for their wrong actions. Allah is of course the most forgiving and Merciful. The Prophet of Allah (pbuh) has said that when a person commits a sin and repents truly with the intention of not committing that sin again then Allah will forgive them as if they had never committed that sin. If they repent but then actively keep on going back to that sin then it is as if they have played a joke with Allah.

One should, when having the desire to commit Haram perform ablution and pray two cycles of voluntary prayer (nafl) as this will act as a barrier from them and Shaitaan. Allah has stated in the Hadith in Bukhari that 'when a servant of mine prays voluntary prayers (after fulfilling his fardh prayers) then he will continue to draw closer to me until I become the hand that he strikes with, the eye that he sees with, the foot that he walks with, etc...' Insha Allah this will be a way of succeeding against Shaitaan. There are also other ways of controlling one's desires through prayer like praying specific verses of the Quran before going to sleep.

May Allah protect us all from the evil acts of Shaitaan.

Of course Allah knows best



What are the rulings of ghusl(bath)? When does it become compulsory to have ghusl and how should one perform it?

A

Answer by Shaykh Salim Ghisa

Under Islamic Shariah law bathing has three obligations (Fardh) and there are 5 reasons according to the Hanafi Madhab (school of thought) that make it obligatory.

The following three obligations have to be met when bathing otherwise their bathing will not count.

1. Gargle- To clean the inside of the mouth up to the throat, ensuring that water accesses all parts and that it releases anything struck between the teeth etc. If a person is fasting then they must not gargle to the back of the throat but they still have to wash the mouth. If they are not fasting then they must gargle.
2. To clean the inside of the nose so that all the hair inside the nostrils becomes wet. Suck up the water from your right hand and use the index finger and thumb of the left to clean the nostrils ensuring any dried mucus is cleaned out up to the bone of the nose.
3. Wash all of the body ensuring that not a single hair or hair-point remains dry. Making sure that all hair on the head is washed and that any area which is usually covered is washed, such as skin under the earrings, nose studs, rings etc. If a single hair of the body remains dry then the bathing will not count.

The method of bathing is as follows:

- (a) Perform the intention of bathing (Ghusl). Then, first of all, wash the hands up to the wrists three times.
- (b) Wash the private parts, whether there is any impurity stuck on them or not.
- (c) Wash any part of the body which has impurity stuck on it.
- (d) Perform Wudhu as performed in Salaah but do not wash the feet. However, if you are sat on a stool or a stone etc. then wash the feet also.
- (e) Rub water into the body as you would rub oil.
- (f) Wash the right hand shoulder three times.
- (g) Wash the left hand shoulder three times.
- (h) Wash the head and all of the body three times.
- (i) Move away from the place of bathing and if you did not wash the feet when performing Wudhu, wash them now.

Do not face the Qibla when bathing.
Ensure that you rub your hands with water all over the body whilst scrubbing.

Do not bathe where someone can see you. If this is not possible then it is necessary for you to cover the body from the navel to the knees (for men). If this is not possible then perform Tayammum (dry ablution).

Do not talk when bathing or say any prayers.

To bath naked in a careful hidden place (where no one can see) is allowed. It is very important that women are very careful of this.

The aspects of Sunnah and Mustahhab in Wudhu also apply in bathing, except if you are bathing naked then do not face Qibla and if you are wearing a cloth then there is no problem.

When do I HAVE to do ghusl?

There are five actions that make it obligatory for a person to have a bath (ghusl). As a result you CAN-NOT do any form of worship, touch the Quran or even enter the mosque until you perform ghusl. The five actions are as follows:

1. The ejaculation of sperm from it's place with lust.
2. To have a wet dream. Meaning nocturnal emission that is the releasing of sperm whilst sleeping.
3. Sexual intercourse whether it is with or without lust, with or without orgasm, the bathing would be obligatory on both.
4. To become clean from menstrual pause (period).
5. To become clean from blood after child birth.

If sperm was ejaculated from it's place but not due to lust, i.e. it was done by lifting a heavy load or falling from a height, then to bathe is not obligatory, however, the Wudhu is broken.

If semen dropped but was very thin and it came out whilst urinating or on it's own accord without lust then the bath does not become necessary but the Wudhu will break.

To bathe on Fridays, Eid days, on the day of Arafah (9th Dhul Hajj) or when wearing the Ehraam is Sunnat.

Of course Allah knows best



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WAR OF THE CONSOLES

By David Orton



Since the announcement of the Playstation 3 I knew there would be conflict between the "NEXT generation" consoles. All of them look and sound wicked but the only way to really find out how good they are I decided to buy all three!

The first console I bought was the Nintendo Wii at £179. I was chuffed with the price and knew this would be sold out everywhere quickly! As I removed it from its box I realised its small chassis and childish yet futuristic appearance. It definitely has the WOW factor!

It comes with built in wifi (wireless Internet) but lacks some of the graphical flair of its competitors. The Wii has the main selling point as motion recognition. Think Minority report. It's nothing like that.

Its motion control is thought to add a whole new level to games, and get couch potatoes moving (you can hear them groan at the thought!). In Wii sports – to Play tennis, you swing the wii-mote as a tennis racket! Like you were playing tennis! But without all that running around that you would have to do when playing real tennis. You wouldn't wanna do that!

I received "Wii Sports" with the console and was quite happy y'know. But everything is not as cool as it looks. A few things that peed me off were:

1. The controller sensors are agitating to configure.
2. The controller batteries are not rechargeable.
3. The controllers are motion sensitive, yet not always precise.

Yet I could not base my main opinion on one game, so I purchased Zelda: Twilight Princess. Good game but still has the same problems as I mentioned earlier.



Other things in favour of this console are the "channels". The two most important being Internet Channel – which you can use to access the Internet, and "Virtual Console Channel" - which allows you to buy and play selected games from many previous consoles. In May Nintendo also launched its foray into on-line gaming to appease those who do that sort of thing.

The second console I purchased was the Xbox 360 Premium for £279.... that's an extra £100 compared to the Wii! Just imagine how many games you can buy with that? From opening the box everything seemed pretty bland, yet looks were not everything. From playing the first game (Gears of War) I noticed very good graphics and relatively fast gameplay.

I was happy with the remote and picture quality. The price was also not too bad I suppose. Unfortunately the price shot up when I decided to take the Xbox on-line... I had to fork out an extra £90 for a HD-DVD player, £80 for a wireless adapter AND THEN £40 just to play the damn thing!! I was appalled at the abuse Playstation got for the price when I found out Xbox's cost more when you buy the minimal

So, what's the verdict?

It depends on what you want. If you want strong graphics and centralised on-line play then go for the Xbox 360. If you want very strong graphics from a well known brand and have plenty of dosh, go for the Playstation. If you want fun game play that is immersive and allows to kill people without really killing – or play classics Nintendo games such as Mario, Metroid and Zelda. The only place to go is the Wii.



components, which the Playstation features at no extra cost. Yet I still was happy with the Xbox generally apart from the features were not very impressive.

Finally I paid £425 for the Playstation 3. Its an extra £146 than the Xbox 360 and a staggering £246 than the Nintendo Wii, which is enough to buy yourself another Wii console!

When I took it out the box I noticed the almost hypnotising glow and reflection of the chassis and the HUGE ventilation access. Yet i didn't let the looks steer my decision. From turning it on I noticed the immense futuristic and advanced factors of the console. I then saw the on screen interface (similar to the PSP) and thought the Playstation was definitely at first look, very cool.

It has a very small catalogue of games, but more are on the way. The current picks seem to be Virtua Fighter – but only if you are a fan of Virtua Fighter as it is not an easy game, Motorstorm and Resistance: Fall of Man. Currently the graphics are not too different from the 360's, but it is expected by many to eventually look much better.

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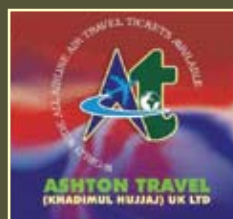
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