O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for God, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, God is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed God is ever, with what you do, Acquainted (4:135).
Be upright

Justice comes first

God defines for us relationships that we automatically hold dear and innately value: ourselves, our parents, and our relatives.

God is telling use that we must side with what is Just

If we think that by siding with self-interests, family or relatives, over justice, one is maintaining family ties and hence is being obedient to God, than WE ARE WRONG.
O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for God, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear God; indeed, God is Acquainted with what you do (5:8).
Justice is to put a thing in its proper place. Which is to say, justice is to give each thing its due – at its due time, its due place, and in its due measure. (Imam Ghazali, 99 beautiful names of God)

This, undeniably, is a high standard of restraint and tolerance that God is demanding for us.

We are required to reign in feelings of revenge and retaliation.

We must never allow animosity or ill will against people to be a cause for behaving unjustly or violating their rights.

The expectation and demand is self-restraint; the second, a proactive establishment of justice towards even those who are hostile and belligerent.
O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted. (49:13)
ISLAM

Takes away all aspects of judgment in the eyes of God except for intentions and actions.

No superiority of one race, tribe, language, etc.

Abolished slavery

Prophet Mohammed’s adopted son was someone who was gifted to him as a slave

The initial call for prayer was given by a former black slave who became one of the celebrated leaders – Bilal

Despite cultural pressures, freed slaves were given high rank and status in Islamic society
Malcolm X narrated that “during the past eleven days here in the Muslim world, I have eaten from the same plate, drunk from the same glass, and slept on the same rug – while praying to the same God – with fellow Muslims, whose eyes were the bluest of blue, whose hair was the blondest of blond, and whose skin was the whitest of white. And in the words and in the deeds of the white Muslims, I felt the same sincerity that I felt among the black African Muslims of Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana.”
Islam helped him find his true self and gave him the strength not only to face hostility from both blacks and whites but also to fight for social justice. I began to study the Quran.
Kermit the Frog famously complained, “It’s not easy being green.” Try being Muslim in America. According to a Pew Research Center poll on attitudes about major religious groups, the U.S. public has the least regard for Muslims even though Islam is the third-largest faith in America.
Gender Equality in Islam

• Reem Mustafa, MD, MPH, PhD
• Associate Professor of Internal Medicine
• Director of Outcomes and Implementation Research, JGKI
• University of Kansas Medical center
We will talk about

- Muslim women role in society
- Women in 7th century Arabia
- Women and men
- Education
- Women’s opinions are weighed heavily
- Property ownership
- Inheritance
- Marriage and divorce
Muslim women's roles in society
Women in Pre-Islamic 7th century Arabia

Women had few if any rights.

Even the right of life could be in question, since it was not uncommon for small girls to be buried alive during times of scarcity.

Part of Prophet Muhammad's legacy was to end infanticide and establish explicit rights for women.
Rufaida Al-Aslamia was an Islamic medical and social worker recognized as the first female Muslim nurse and the first female surgeon in Islam. She implemented her clinical skills into developing the first ever documented mobile care units. During military expeditions, she led groups of volunteer nurses who went to the battlefield and treated the casualties. The nurse volunteers did such a good job that Prophet Muhammad assigned equal compensation to soldiers.
Khawlah bint al-Azwar was a Muslim warrior during the life of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. She has been described as one of the greatest female military leaders in history. In one of the battles, she led a group of women against the Byzantine army and defeated its chief commander.
Men and women

Islam teaches that men and women are equal before God.

Creation of both gender from “nafson waheda”
Education is a form of property acquisition because when you are educated you are exposed to issues of knowing your rights.

The Qur’an and Hadiths of the Prophet both obligate Muslim men and women to acquire knowledge and education. It is a duty for every Muslim.

Verse 35:28 of the Qur’an says, “Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, who have knowledge”

The Prophet’s Hadiths “Seeking knowledge is a duty of every Muslim, man or woman” and “Seek knowledge from the cradle to grave”
Women’s opinions are weighed heavily.

Beginning from the time of Prophet Muhammad's marriage to his first wife Khadijah, women played an important role in his religious career.

Khadijah was the first person Prophet Muhammad spoke to about his initial experience of revelation and she became the first convert to Islam.

She remained a confidant and source of support throughout their entire marriage.

Years later, when absent from Medina, Prophet Muhammad often recommended that, if religious questions arose, people should take them to his wife Aisha.

After Muhammad's death, Aisha became a main source of information about Prophet Muhammad, and on medicine and poetry as well.
Property ownership

The Islamic law acknowledges the fact that a woman should be given what she earns.

To own a property in any form means you need to manage this property and this management cannot be adequately established in the private space you need the public space.
Inheritance

According to Sura 4:7, “For men is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, be it little or much – an obligatory share”
Marriage and divorce

Consent in marriage
Obligations by partner
Right to separation (Khula vs Divorce)
Right to child custody
Right to remarry
Are the rights ensured by Islam enjoyed by Muslim women?

Islam vs tribal cultural traditions

Ignorance and Misinterpretation
Social Justice in Islam: Gender, Equality, Education, Responsibility

Moben Mirza, MD, Urologic Surgery
Reem Mustafa, MD, Ph.D., Nephrology
Habeeb Saleh, Ph.D., Radiation Oncology
Mohammed Taha, MD, Internal Medicine

University of Kansas Medical Center: Community Conversation Culture Hour
Tuesday June 2, 2020
Outline

• Race equality
• Gender equality
• **Social responsibility: poor, needy**
• Educational opportunity/equality
-Islam is the mother lode of bad ideas.

Sam Harris on HBO real time with Bill Maher 2014

-No ma'am, he's a decent family man, citizen

John McCain in town hall meeting 2008 defending Obama from accusation of being a Muslim.
The concepts of wealth and poverty

-Guardian of wealth not owners.

-Wealth is a test for the wealthy not a privilege.

-Wealth if not put for good causes will result in more accountability and scrutiny.

- No stigmata for poverty.
Practicing Social support

- Muslims are mandated to pay 2.5% from their total savings annually to help those in need.

- Fasting as a way of experiencing the suffering of the poor

- Supporting neighbors and relatives is a priority.
Two Examples from Islamic texts

-He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while his neighbor goes hungry.
Prophet Muhammad

-The person who sponsors an orphan will be next to me in heaven
Prophet Muhammad
Mercy Health Free Clinic
Thank You
Social Justice in Islam: Gender, Equality, Education, Responsibility

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Educational in Islam
by
Habeeb Saleh, Ph.D.
First Word

- Quran has 77,934 words
- Read is the first word revealed in Quran, Iqra
- Acquisition of knowledge is binding on all Muslims (both mean and women without any discrimination.
- The word Quran literally means ‘Reading’, ‘Reciting’
First School System

- Al-Nizamiyya of Baghdad: Founded in 1066
- The concept of education existed during the ancient Egypt, Babylon, China, Greek, and India
- The first organized public school system was established during the Abbasid state in Baghdad in 1066. In 1096, it housed 3000 students.
- It spread out to multiple cities.
- School included dormitory.
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First University in the World

- World’s First, and continually operational university was found by a Muslim woman in 859, in Fez Morocco University was Founded by A Muslim Woman.

- The University of Bologna, Italy, was founded in 1088 and is the oldest one in Europe.

https://aboutislam.net/family-life/culture/worlds-first-university-founded-muslim-woman/
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5 Muslim Inventions That Changed the World

1. **Coffee**: According to the historical record, in the 1400s coffee became a very popular drink in Yemen and Ethiopia, in the southern Arabian Peninsula. Yamani Traders brought it to Europe.

2. **Algebra**: It was developed by the great scientist and mathematician, **Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khawarizmi**, who lived from 780 to 850 in Persia and Iraq. The word **algorithm** traces back to **Khwârezm**. The number system which is the foundation of arithmetic in the world is the most important contribution of Islamic education.
Muslim Inventions That Changed the World

3. **Degree-Granting Universities**: The first formal university was al Karaouine, founded in 859 by a Muslim woman “Fatima al-Fihri” in Fes, Morocco. The concept of institutes that grant certificates of completion (degrees) spread into Europe through Muslim Spain, where European students would travel to study.

4. **Cameras**: Photography is based on the idea of capturing light from a scene, creating an image from it, and reproducing that image. Doing so is impossible without the trailblazing work of the 11th century Muslim scientist, Ibn al-Haytham, who developed the field of optics and described how the first cameras work.

5. **Other inventions**: Paper mill, Alcohol distillation, etc.