

## USING PRIVILEGE

*Treating a partner as a servant, making all the decisions, constraining gender roles.*

Islam anticipates that men may take advantage of their position of strength in the society. For this reason, many verses

from the Qur'an and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) remind men to treat women with kindness, compassion and justice. Men are not the "masters" of women; rather, God is the master of both men and women.

*"Tell My servants to treat each other in the best possible manner, for the devil will always try to drive a wedge among them. Surely, the devil is man's most ardent enemy. (17:53)*

## USING ECONOMIC ABUSE

*Preventing a partner from getting or keeping a job, withholding money and or information about family finances.*

It is the responsibility of Muslim men to provide for women financially. The Qur'an say, *"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because God has given the one more than the other, and because of the sustenance they provide from their own means..."*(4:34). Men should not make women feel humiliated or indebted to them because it is a Muslim woman's right to be taken care of financially. Even if he is unable to provide for her fully, she has the choice of working outside the home but is not required to contribute to household expenses. In the event that a husband has the means

to support his family but withholds money, the wife has the right to take what she needs for herself and the children (within reason) without his permission.

In the case of marital dispute or threat of divorce, a husband should not threaten financial hardship as a means to prevent his wife from leaving.

*"O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the dowry you have given them—except where they have been guilty of open lewdness. On the contrary, live with them on a footing of kindness and equality."*

(Q 4:19)



### Help & Support Services

If you need to talk to someone or want further information there are several organisations that you can go to for help

Freephone **24 Hour** National Domestic Violence Helpline, run by Women's Aid Refuge

**0808 2000 247**

[www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)



### #WeStandTogether

Specialist Independent Domestic Violence service **0161 770 1572**

Project Choice the Honour Based Violence Service **0161 770 2999**

Please note an abridged version of this leaflet is also available in Urdu & Bengali

[www.oakcd.org.uk](http://www.oakcd.org.uk) **0844 504 7111** e: [info@oakcd.org.uk](mailto:info@oakcd.org.uk)



# Respectful

RELATIONSHIPS WITH SPOUSES

ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE SERIES

## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH SPOUSES

*“And among His Signs is this that He created for you wives (spouses) from among yourselves, that you may find repose in them, and He has put between you affection and mercy. Verily, in that are indeed signs for people who reflect.”*

(Q 30:21)

The above Quranic ayah makes clear that the bases of the relationship between a husband and a wife should be love and mercy. Therefore, if the success of a marriage is to be weighed, then it is to be a relationship where husband and wife provide peace to each other and they both are loving and caring towards each other in every respect. Whilst this may be the premise

for most there are some within the community who lose sight of this especially when faced with difficulties and hardships. The relationship can then quickly become one based on love and kindness to one that is abusive and offensive. This leaflet aims to highlight the key areas of domestic abuse and the corresponding Islamic guidance regarding it.

## UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic Abuse is often seen as a taboo subject within our communities, it is mostly a hidden crime occurring within the homes and includes physical or sexual violence, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Follow on reading to find out more what constitutes domestic abuse.



## USING PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, COERCION & THREATS

Physical assault, making explicit threats to do something to cause hurt, threatening to leave or to commit suicide, threatening to 'report' secrets, or forcing an involvement in illegal activities.

Even in the case where a relationship has deteriorated to the point of divorce, the Qur'an prohibits taking advantage of the spouse in any way.

**“ When you divorce women, and they are about to fulfill the term of their `iddah, either retain them back or let them go, but do not retain them to injure them (or) take undue advantage; if any one does that, he wrongs his own soul... ”**

(Q 2:231)

## USING INTIMIDATION

*Creating fear with looks and gestures, smashing objects, yelling, destroying property, abusing pets, showing weapons or brandishing objects that can be used as weapons.*

The Prophet Muhammad is the best of examples, he never once hit a woman. He (Saw) said *“The most perfect Muslim in the matter of faith is one who has excellent behavior; and the best among you are those who behave the best towards their women.”* (Tirmidhi)

**“ ...House them from where you dwell out of according to their means and do not harm them.. ”** (Q 65: 6)



## USING EMOTIONAL ABUSE

*Using put-downs, name calling, using mind games, making victims feel that they are crazy or hopeless, using humiliation, provoking guilt.*

Muslims are enjoined by the Qur'an and the teachings of their Prophet to be very careful about offending or insulting others. Believers are prohibited from calling other people names, mocking others, or putting them down in any way.

**“O you who believe! Let not some people among you laugh at others. It may be that the (latter) are better than the former: nor defame nor be sarcastic to each other, nor call each other by offensive nicknames: ill-seeming is a name connoting wickedness, (to be used by one) after he has believed: and those who do not desist are (indeed) doing wrong.”** (Q 49:11).

## USING ISOLATION

*Controlling what victims do, where they go and who they see or talk to, limiting activity or involvement, using jealousy as justification.*

No one has the right to deny another person the opportunity for social interaction. In fact, most teachings in Islam apply to relational contexts and govern interactions between people.

Many forms of worship are communal or congregational. For example, Muslims are encouraged to participate in social functions, to celebrate with others, to visit the sick, and to provide support for one another in times of hardship. Once the Prophet (pbuh) declined a dinner invitation repeatedly until his wife was also invited, refusing to leave her behind.

## USING CHILDREN

*Making the other parent feel guilty about the children, using children to convey messages, using access times as an opportunity to harass, and threatening to take the children away.*

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was known to interact with children in the most gentle and respectful manner possible. During times of conflict, the Qur'an reminds spouses that ...

**“ no mother shall be treated unfairly on account of her child. Nor father on account of his child... ”**

(Q 2:233)

Islam protects and guarantees the rights of children. They should not be subject to any harsh treatment nor witness any abuse. Muslim jurists make their rulings in family matters by considering the child's benefit before the adult's.