

Blasphemy

Love for the Prophets of Allah (God), such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad (peace be upon them all), is an integral part of a Muslim's faith and doctrine. Insulting or disrespecting any of the Prophets of Allah (God) is deemed improper and blasphemous in Islam. Due to such reverence, hearing or witnessing insults and disrespect directed towards any one of the Prophets is a difficult thing to bear for a Muslim. Despite this fact, in circumstances when blasphemous views are expressed one must avoid engaging in criminal activities as a form of expressing one's disgust. The Quran states:

'And do not spread mischief on the earth after its rectification...' (Quran, 7:56)

Further, **'The servants of the Lord of Mercy are those who walk humbly on the earth, and who, when ignorant people address them, reply with words of peace.'** (Quran, 25:63)

One should endeavour to be polite and respectful towards the other, especially in a multi-cultural country like Wales/UK, where mutual respect and tolerance are of utmost importance for Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Reaction to Injustice & Oppression

It is a natural reaction for people to feel dismay, sadness and even utter disgust at oppression and human suffering, whether close to home or in foreign lands. These sentiments are not only for people of the same faith, culture or ethnicity but for all people. Every human being is the creation of Allah (God) and should be viewed and respected accordingly. The Prophet (peace be upon him) bears testimony to this. He states:

'Show mercy to those on Earth, Allah (God) will show mercy to you.' (Sunan at-Tirmidhi)

In another saying the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) stated that:

'Allah forbade oppression for Himself and thus commanded mankind not to oppress one another.' (Sahih Muslim)

The United Kingdom, which is based on democratic principles, provides an opportunity for all of its citizens to express their views and opinions in a manner appropriate to society. In this way, all people can collaborate and join together in voicing their opposition to injustice and oppression, wherever it maybe.

Developed by a group of scholars and imams representing the following mosques and endorsed by Cardiff Muslim communities and organisations.

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LET US JOIN TOGETHER TO
VOICE OUR OPPOSITION TO
INJUSTICE, OPPRESSION &
VIOLENCE, WHEREVER
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WHAT
ISLAM
REALLY
SAYS...

SUBJECTS COVERED

- WHAT IS ISLAM? ■
- ABIDING BY THE LAWS OF THE LAND ■
- MODERATION NOT EXTREMISM ■
- BLASPHEMY ■
- REACTION TO INJUSTICE & OPPRESSION ■



What is Islam?

Islam is a world religion with over 1.6 billion followers globally. It is based on the Holy Quran and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), often referred to as Hadith or the Sunnah.

The word Islam means 'peace through submission to the Will of Allah (God)'. It also means to live in peace with the Creator, and be at peace with one's self, with society and with the environment. Islam is a complete way of life, where Muslims are expected to live in peace and harmony, and with good moral conduct.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

'I have been sent to perfect good morals'.

(Musnad Ahmad, Muwatta' Malik)

Muslims should be a good example, making a positive contribution to society as well as furthering social justice.

Abiding by the laws of the land

Laws and legislations of any country are made to safeguard and benefit the citizens of that particular country, as well as provide a structure of governance. The residents of a country whether they adhere to a faith or not are required to follow the laws of the country. This includes Muslims, who should abide by the law of the land, provided that the law does not demand of them to engage in acts which are against the commandments of Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: -

"It is necessary upon a Muslim to listen to and obey the ruler, as long as one is not ordered to carry out a sin. If he is commanded to commit a sin, then there is no adherence or obedience." *(Sahih Al-Bukhari)*

All citizens of the United Kingdom are bound by law to avoid criminal activities and look towards legal and political channels to better society. Adherents of all faiths are free to conduct their lives according to the doctrine of their religion and may use channels of communication to air views rather than resorting to resentment, apathy, defeatism or criminal activity.

Moderation Not Extremism

Terror may be defined as fear and violence committed against innocent people for political or religious motives.

For centuries various acts of terrorism have been carried out in different parts of the world for politically or religiously motivated reasons. Everyone should strive towards establishing peace and tolerance whilst extremism and terrorism in all their ugly facets must be openly denounced by all.

We should all unite and speak out with one voice that these atrocities must not be committed in our name. Allah teaches us in the Quran that:

'You (Muslims) are the best nation, brought out for mankind, for you enjoin good and prevent evil...'

(Quran, 3: 110)

Moderation Not Extremism *(continued)*

All forms of terrorism can only be described as evil and against our common humanity. The Quran says **"People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should all get to know one another. In God's eyes, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him: God is All Knowing, All aware."** *(Quran, 49:13)*

Indiscriminate acts of violence and the use of terrorism to achieve political objectives is forbidden in Islam and as Muslims we are commanded to respect the sanctity of all human life. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

'Whoever takes a life unjustly; it would be as though he had killed all humanity and whoever saved a life; it would be as though he saved all humanity.' *(Quran 5:32)*

The sanctity of life is so revered in Islam that even in times of war when the leader of a Muslim country commits its soldiers to a conflict, Allah has laid down very explicit rules of engagement. For example, it is forbidden to kill women or children, the elderly or religious leaders or any person who does not carry any weapons or is not in the act of attacking. Muslim soldiers are not allowed to cut down trees, poison the water supply, or damage places of worship.

Muslims have an obligation to prevent harm in society, even if the one causing harm is a Muslim. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

'Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or he is oppressed.' People asked 'O Allah's messenger! It will be right to help him if he is oppressed but how should we help him if he is an oppressor?' The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied:

'By preventing him from oppressing others.'

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)