**Frequently asked questions on Islam**

Q. Is Allah the Muslim God and is He different from the Christian God?

A. No. Allah is just the name of God in Arabic. Even Christian Arabs call God Allah. Allah is the God that Jesus prayed to when he said “Our father who art in heaven..”. Islam does not agree with the concept of the Trinity which it considers as contrary to the very principle of Divine Monotheism. It considers Jesus as a special Prophet of God who himself prayed to God. The holy Qur’an teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin and performed such miracles as raising the dead and healing the sick, but it denies that he is the son of God in the literate sense even though he was born without the agency of a biological father. The Qu’ran refutes this claim by stating the Adam was born without a mother or a father and is still not considered the son of God.

Q. Is Islam a terrorist religion?

A. No. The meaning of Islam in Arabic is peace or submission. Terrorism is against Islamic law because it is a type of warfare that is unconcerned for innocent life. Terrorism also is a threat to the security of society a social right that Islam respects even in a society that Muslims are fighting. There are Muslims that practice terrorism, but the majority of the people that are the victims of this terrorism are Muslims. These terrorists that you find among Muslims are from a small sect among Muslims called Wahhabis or Salafis that are very intolerant and prejudiced against anyone that does not share their belief and carry out the majority of terrorist activities that are associated with Muslims.

When we look at the patterns of so-called “Muslim or Islamic terrorism” we see the hand of the USA, Israel and other Western or Western supported powers behind these actions.

Q. Are there any similarities between Islam and Christianity?

A. Islam is an Abrahamic religion like Judaism and Christianity and thus shares many points of belief like them. It confirms the belief in the prophets of Judaism, it accepts Jesus as a prophet of God, it believes in angels, the Day of Judgment, Heaven and Hell and also in the holy Books of Judaism and Christianity: the Torah and the Gospel, but it sees these books that are present with us to be derivations from the original but still having truth within them to spiritually guide its adherents.

Q. Is Islam a Misogynist religion?

A. Definitely not. In fact Islam liberated women. In the time before the coming of Islam, the pagan Arabs used to bury their girl children alive. That’s how bad things were before the coming of Prophet Muhammad. Islam over 500 years before the West, gave women the right to own their own property, taught men that it was their responsibility to support women not only in marriage and the family but in safeguarding their social rights. Women had very few occupations closed to them such as membership in the military, the judiciary and being head of state. These exceptions are more symbolic than substantial; it was not that women were unable to fight, adjudicate a case or lacked leadership capabilities, but that these occupations reflected qualitatively masculine functions in the world. Women had the right to criticize and even participate in choosing their government and were never seen as inferior to men. Whereas in the West motherhood is more and more seen as an impediment to progress in a woman’s life, and something to postpone as much as possible, the holy Prophet Muhammad said that heaven lies at the feet of mothers and proclaimed that the respect due to the mother is three times greater than that of the father. The holy Prophet also said that if a man has three girl children he is guaranteed Paradise.

Q. Religion is against freedom and Islam is all about rules and limits to freedom.

A. Freedom and positive restrictions are interrelated. A positive restriction is the discipline of the self to achieve that freedom.

Q. Is not hijab a dress code devised by men to oppress women?

A. On the contrary, hijab is a principle of dress to cover women’s bodies from the sexually objectifying male gaze. Hijab is more a principle than a particular type of dress. It involves the covering of the hair, neck and bosom of a woman, and the covering of her arms and legs without revealing the curves and shape of the body. If it was a product of oppressive men, they would have encouraged the social nakedness of women as they do today. Hijab is dress for women in a social context, in the private space and in the presence of close male members of the family and with other women, hijab is not obligatory.