INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC FEMINISM

PART I - EARLY HISTORY

WOMEN IN ISLAM SERIES
feminism

THE ADVOCACY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ON THE BASIS OF THE EQUALITY OF THE SEXES.

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Advocates for full equality for all Muslims in both public and private spaces, regardless of gender.

Highlight the teachings of equality in Islamic jurisprudence by citing the Qur'an and the Hadith.

Critiques the sexist and patriarchal interpretations of Islam that are common in Islamic jurisprudence.

Acknowledges the limitations Western feminism has to promote gender equality in the Muslim world.
"Islamic feminism derives its understanding and mandate from the Qur’an, seeks rights and justice for women, and for men, in the totality of their existence."

MARGOT BADRAN
Holistically reinterpret the Qur’an from the perspective of a woman to avoid the stereotyping that is associated with male interpretation of religious texts.

Identify the various ways that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) treated and advocated for the women around him and their human rights.

Sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that promoted gender equality and the rights of women.
READING THE QUR’AN AS A FEMINIST

Uses historical context, paying attention to the context of time and social norms at the relevant location to define the situation and condition of 7th C. Arab society.

Applies the intratextuality method, which looks at the text as a whole by correlating several verses that discuss the same theme rather than applying a single meaning to one verse.

Based on the perspective and interpretation of women, to avoid the perceptions and stereotypes that men have that may influence how they perceive the position of women.

Returns to central theme of monotheism, *tauhid*, the core teaching of Islam, which recognizes God and Their uniqueness, indivisibility, and incomparable unity.

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A BRIEF & EARLY HISTORY

595
Khadijah binti Khuwaylid (RA)
a successful merchant and trader, proposes marriage to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

624
Umm Waraqah bint Abd Allah
the first woman to lead a mixed gender prayer and one of the only early Muslims who memorized the Qur'an, accompanies Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to the Battle of Badr.

625
Nusaybah bint Ka'ab
one of the earliest converts to Islam, defends Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with her sword during the Battle of Uhud.

628
Rufaida al-Aslamia
the world's first nurse and Islam's first female surgeon and social worker, is recognized by the Prophet (PBUH) for her medical skills in the aftermath of the Battle of Khaibar.

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A BRIEF & EARLY HISTORY

632

Fatima binti Muhammad (RA)
delivers the Sermon of Fadak shortly after the death of her father, the Prophet (PBUH), which appears in Balaghat al-nisa, a collection of famous speeches by Muslim women.

634

Khawla bint al-Azwar
participates in the Battle of Ajnadin, disguised as her brother, Diraar, the military leader, and leads the Muslim army to victory.

655

Umm al-Darda as-Sughra
a prominent jurist, teacher, and scholar from Damascus who issued the fatwa, that remains in use to this day stating that men and women could pray in the same sitting position.

Aisha binti Abu Bakr (RA)
begins the role of political advisor to the first Caliph, Abu Bakr, after the death of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
A BRIEF & EARLY HISTORY

**Zaynab bint Ali**
the Prophet's (PBUH) granddaughter gives a sermon in the court of Yazid, defying Yazid and criticizing his oppressive rule.

**Nafisah bint al-Hasan**
a descendant of the Prophet (PBUH) and a scholar and teacher of Islam, known as the best female scholar of Hadith in Egypt who provided religious instruction to other women, is born.

**Fatima al-Fihri**
opens the world's first university at the Al-Qarawiyyin Mosque, which became one of the leading centers during the Islamic Golden age.

**Lubna of Cordoba**
an Andalusian intellectual, poet, and scholar becomes the copyist at the library of Al-Hakam II before being appointed as a scholar and the head of the library by Caliph Al-Hakam II.

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