INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC FEMINISM

PART II

CAMPAIGN AREAS

- Women in leadership
- Bodily autonomy
- Equal inheritance
- Access to education for all
- Muslim family law reform
- Personal law reform
- Dress code
- Right to work
- Reproductive justice
- Equality in leading prayer
- Inclusive mosques

CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A group of Egyptian feminists, led by Doria Shafik, successfully campaigned for a provision in Egypt’s Constitution of 1956 that granted women the right to vote.

A ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia was lifted in 2018 after decades of protests and violations by Saudi women activists who recorded themselves driving and shared the videos across social media.

The Jordanian parliament abolished a law, which allowed rapists to escape punishment provided they marry their victims after a successful campaign by Jordanian women groups.

In 2017, Tunisia overturned a law that forbid Muslim women from marrying a non-Muslim man, clearing the way for a Muslim woman to marry the man of her choosing, regardless of his religion.

In 2005, after nearly a decade of advocacy from women’s rights organizations, the Maputo Protocol, which guarantees comprehensive rights to women across the AU, went into effect.

Women Living Under Muslim Laws was founded in 1984 by women in 8 majority Muslim countries to conduct advocacy work with a focus on the impact of laws inspired by Islam on women.

The world’s first ever congress of women ulema (Islamic scholars) was held in Indonesia in 2017. Participants released a fatwa after the congress raising the age of marriage for girls to 18.

In collaboration with activists, the Deputy Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Sheikh Dr. Salah Abbas, issued a fatwa declaring that marriage in Islam is based on 2 consenting parties, therefore child marriage is illegal.

MPV was founded in 2007 in Los Angeles to promote and mainstream progressive Islam and its universal human rights values, including the promotion of women’s rights on the basis of Islamic jurisprudence.

We are certainly a long way from the Prophet’s mosque, open to all, welcoming to all those interested in Islam, including women. The mosque now suffers a betrayal of Muhammad’s (pbuh) ideal community: women are declared strangers to the place of worship. Women, who had the privilege of access to the mosque as sahabiyya, companions of the Prophet, very quickly became polluting, evil beings.

SHAMIMA SHAIKH

MODERN PERIOD ICONS

- Aishya Taymur
- Raden Adjeng Kartini
- Begum Rokeya
- Aisha Abd al Rahman
- Du Shuzhen
- Fatima Ahmed Ibrahim
- Meena Keshwar Kamal
- Samar Badawi