

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم In the name of Allah, The Beneficent , the Merciful

International Women's Day "Break the Bias"

A talk delivered by His Eminence

Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Al-Alzhari on 12 March 2022 at Darwin Mosque Dear Honourable Minister Eva Lawler, respected Br Shakil Ahmad-President Islamic Society of Darwin, Executive Committee members, Senior Community members, Young Volunteers and everyone joined here with us today.

Assalaamu Alaikkum Warahamathullahi Wabarahakathuhu.

Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon to you all.

I acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and I would like to pay my respect to the Elders of the Past, Present, and Emerging.

Today we are celebrating International Women's Day under the theme of Break the Bias.

Honourable Minister Eva Lawler presented wonderful thoughtful speech on the occasion of International Women's day. The Honourable Minister reinforced Education | Education | Education |!! How her mother encouraged her and pushed her to stay back and continue her Education and that's how she became a Teacher, a Principal and Currently a Successful Minister serving the Community.

Honourable Minister also said, "If you need a good job, good house, you need a GOOD FOLICATION"

Honourable Minister and respected audience, Islam pays special attention to Education, that's why first verse of Al-Quran was revealed "Igra". The prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him declared Education is Obligatory and Compulsory for both Male and Female Muslims.

I would like to congratulate Islamic Society of Darwin for coordinating such a fabulous event. I also take this opportunity to thank Northern Territory Government for the great support and helping the Islamic Society of Darwin and the Top End Islamic community as always.

BREAK THE Bias!! What an amazing and thought-provoking theme for this year!

Something important to note is that:

- Islam totally rejects any discrimination or bias based on gender and race,
 and Both males and females are equal in Quran and indeed in Islam
- Al Quran declares:

"He has created between you (The Husband and Wife) Love, affection and understanding. In this journey of life, there is only one path to be journeyed. That path could be bumpy or uneven".

Al- Quran also says:

"Mutual understanding, Mutual affection and Mutual kindness and that is the mutual path"

Dear Honourable Minister, respected community leaders, senior members,

We all know that there is always a woman behind the success of any man. Interestingly, there is also Hadith which portrays the importance of both husbands and wives.

Al Quran declares that your wives are your garments, and YOU are your wives' garments.

What an interesting analogy of garments? To further break this down, what is the function of a garment?

- Garments cover and conceal the body and any shortcomings under defects. Hence, husband should conceal the shortcoming of his Wife, and similarly, The Wife should cover and conceal the shortcoming of her Husband.
- Additionally, garments protect us and our body from the scorching summer heat and also protect us from the intense cold weather. In the same way, the Husband should protect the Wife and the Wife should protect the Husband in all aspects of life.

Honourable Minister and respected members, I would like to conclude my short talk with a brief statement of the Wife of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.

Someone asked her:

"What was Prophet Peace be Upon him's normal work at home?" and she answered:

"Mehanathi Ahleehi" He engages in the service of the family members in the domestic works-such as washing the dishes and clothes, mopping the floor, and contributing to cooking, and when the time comes for prayer, he will go out".

These are inspiring hadith and verses from Holy Quran, and In'Sha'Allah we can strive to follow the teachings of our Prophet Muhmmad SAW.

There are many more examples from the Holy Quran which show the importance of showering women in our lives with love and always treating them with respect. In Islam, when a man marries a woman, he has already completed half of his Deen. SubhanAllah.

In'Sha'Allah, we can all endeavour to show kindness, affection, and respect to women in our lives, whether it be our wives, mothers, or sisters, not only for Mother's day or International Women's day, but EVERY DAY.

Once again, I would like to thank Honourable Minister for allocating her valuable time to grace this occasion and would also like to thank the Islamic Society of Darwin for inviting me. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of this program.

Assalaamu Alaikkum Warahamuthullahi Wabarahatuhu.