

## Women must See the Illusion of Diversity and Inclusion in Liberal Politics

## News:

News & Comment

Islam Channel discussed a new report that reveals patterns of Islamophobia, professional exclusion affecting Muslim women in the media. This impact extended to mental health issues and confidence in organisations.

It discussed how the visibility of Muslim female journalists is especially affected by microaggressions, stereotyping, and pay disparities.

The Centre for Media Monitoring, which published the report originally revealing widespread Islamophobia, toxic newsroom cultures, and mental health impacts, particularly following the media's coverage of "Israel's" war on Gaza.

The reporting around the genocide has marked a turning point for many professionals, who are considering their future career prospects within the industry, one quote offers a perspective of the problem here;

"Muslim women working in UK media are neither invisible nor passive. They are central to the narrative, even as institutions attempt to marginalise, exclude, or instrumentalise their presence,"

The findings suggest that while seniority offers some influence, institutional constraints frequently compel Muslim women to conform to dominant, often Islamophobic, editorial agendas.

## Comment:

It is widely understood by the global media establishments that the Western structures of freedom of expression and diversity offer a safe haven for women of all demographics.

We have seen how prominent media figures flee their "repressive regimes" and establish themselves in "democratic" institutions, claiming that their "Islamic ecosystems" need to become more liberal.

This report gives clear evidence that the faith in freedom of expression and representation is absolutely unfounded and should be dismissed. We can see how the same repressive measures that women run from are very much present in nations that boast liberal media reference points.

The reality is that none of the Muslim lands have any representation of how Muslim women's intellectual skills are protected, as they are all enslaved by the global media agenda against what Islam truly is.

They actively punish dissent and any attempt to expose the puppet masters' controlling narrative that Islamic laws silence and minimise women's skills. This is to create an illusion that Western democratic liberal structures are the only option for progress.

Education of women and their abundant contribution to the media climate of the Islamic State is well documented historically, a fact that the West try to hide in their skewed, highly edited versions of the past. Here are but a few examples;

• Fatima al-Fihri: She is celebrated for founding the Al-Qarawiyyin University in Fez, Morocco, which is recognized by UNESCO as the oldest existing, continuously operating educational institution in the world. This university offered a wide range of subjects, including those relevant to communication and knowledge transmission.

• Zaynab bint al-Kamal: This scholar was known for her expertise in hadith (sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad) and for teaching in prominent institutions. She was a respected authority, and students traveled from far to hear her lectures. Her work highlights the importance of female scholars in preserving and transmitting religious knowledge.

• Umm al-Darda al-Sughra: Another notable figure, Umm al-Darda, was a jurist, hadith scholar, and ascetic. She was known for her knowledge and wisdom, and she taught both men and women. Her influence demonstrates the significant role women played in religious scholarship during that period.

• Other Notable Women: Many other women contributed to the intellectual landscape of the time. For instance, Aisha bint Talha, Umm Salama, and Hafsa bint Sirin were also renowned scholars in various fields. These women, along with others, shaped the intellectual and cultural fabric of Islamic societies.

The Quran validated the expression of women and any injustice against them with a call for men and women in Islam to be educated and seek knowledge in Islam, with the Prophet's (saw) wife, Aisha (ra) as one of the most prolific, with narrators of Hadith. ﴿يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرً Hadith. ﴿يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرً those who believe among you and those who were given knowledge, by many degrees. And Allah is All-Aware of what you do" (Surah Al-Mujadila, 58:11)

We must return back to the authority of the Khilafah, representing and protecting the intellectual skills of Muslim women so we never rely on these false measures to secure our rights in media or social life.

## Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by Imrana Mohammad

Member of the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir