



*Progressive Islam in Practice*

# MUSLIM WOMEN AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

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# ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

- Ability of women to equally participate in the economy and have access and control over resources
- Offers increased voice and agency to women to make and participate in economic decisions at all levels of society
- Provides women with the opportunity to have control over their time, lives and bodies



"For men is a portion of what they earn and for women is a portion of what they earn. Ask God for Their grace. God has knowledge of all things."

***Qur'an 4:32***





# IN ISLAMIC TRADITION

Economically empowered women have a long tradition in the Islamic world, beginning with two of the wives of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) - Khadijah (RA) and Umm Salama (RA). Khadijah ran a successful trading business while Umm Salama ran a textile and crafts company. Both women had control over their fortunes, business decisions, and how their money was spent.



"And their Lord responded to them, 'Never will I allow to be lost the work of [any] worker among you, whether male or female; you are of one another.'"

***Qur'an 3:195***





# IN ISLAMIC TRADITION CONT.

In the years after Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) death, Muslim women opened a number of charitable causes and institutions to provide for their Muslim sisters and the broader community. These institutions, opened and operated by women, demonstrate a culture of financially independent and literate women within the early Islamic world.



"The promotion of women's rights is fundamental to assuring the welfare of the society, to peace and security and therefore development."

***Imam Bukuru Elie Khalfan***





# IN THE QUR'AN

Quranic verse 4:32 grants equally independent economic positions to men and women. In doing so, it gives women power to set up businesses, donate, invest or save money, and borrow, lease or lend money. Marital status does not alter these rights nor does it give a man power over the earnings of a woman or allow him to restrict her ability to earn money.





"The lady offered to sell the garment to Abu Hanifa for 100 dirhams but Abu Hanifa would not buy it. 'It is worth more than a hundred', he told the surprised woman. 'How much?' he asked her again. She offered to sell it for 200 dirhams and he turned her down. Then she asked for 300, then 400, at which point the exasperated woman scolded him. 'You are mocking me', she declared, and prepared to walk away from the deal to try her luck elsewhere. So they summoned another merchant and he solemnly valued the garment at 500 dirhams. Rather than profit from the woman's ignorance, Abu Hanifa had opted to settle for a fair trade, a principle he would abide by all his life – that the greedy should be regulated from taking advantage of the vulnerable"

***Jami'at-Tirmidhi Volume 05, Book 39, Hadith 2647***  
**Narrated by Harris Irfran**



# WHY IT MATTERS

- Increases income equality and economic diversification
- Gives women the opportunity to leave unhealthy and abusive relationships
- Expands a woman's access to quality financial services, including low interest loans and savings accounts
- Affords women the stability to make independent life decisions