

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE & ISLAM

WOMEN IN ISLAM SERIES VII

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

The human right to control our sexuality, our gender, our work, and our reproduction.

Examples of reproductive justice include:

Contraception & sex education

Domestic violence assistance

STI treatment and prevention

Access to alternative birth options

Access to safe abortion services

Adequate pre and postnatal care

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE & DIGNITY

In Islam, dignity is a fundamental right for all humans, as it lays the foundation for the wellbeing of humanity. To maintain this right, Islamic law calls on the protection of *maqasid al-shari'ah* - preservation of life, faith, dignity, property, and health.

Although misunderstood by many, Islam takes a generally positive stance on sex and sexual relations between partners. This positive stance, as interpreted in the text, also includes the rights of individuals to proceed through life with reproductive choice, dignity, and safety, including a safe pregnancy, a safe sex life, and a safe environment to raise children. These rights, as decreed by Islamic jurisprudence, are concepts associated with reproductive justice.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IN ISLAMIC JURISPRUDENCE

ADEQUATE PARENTAL SUPPORT

"No soul should be compelled beyond capacity, neither the mother made to suffer for the child nor the father for his offspring..." (2:233)

BIRTH SPACING

The mothers shall [breastfeed] their offspring for two whole years, if [the parents] desire to complete the term. (2:233)

CONTRACEPTION

Jabir (Allah be pleased with him) reported: "We [the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH)] used to practise 'azl during the lifetime of Allah's Messenger (PBUH). This (the news of this practice) reached [the Prophet] and he did not forbid us".

COMPATIBILITY OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & ISLAM

The Five Objectives of Islamic Law (or the *maqasid al-Shari'ah*)

To preserve life

To preserve dignity

To preserve faith

To preserve property

To preserve health

Reproductive Rights Concepts (1994 International Conference on Population & Development)

the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.

the right to freely decide the number and spacing of children, and the right to have the information and means to do so.

the right to have satisfying and safe sexual relations.

the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of coercion, discrimination, or violence.