

BODILY AUTONOMY & ISLAM

WOMEN IN ISLAM SERIES IV

ISLAM & BODILY AUTONOMY

Bodily autonomy is mandated in Islam through the concept of *ijtihad*, which calls on Muslims to practice independent reasoning when it comes to decision making. The freedom to make decisions can only be practiced if one is free from coercion and can exercise their free will. This freedom to chose is vital for practicing Muslims because Muslims can only take personal responsibility for decisions they make of their own free will for God to fairly judge them. When you take away a person's right to make autonomous decisions, you take away their right to fair judgement from God.

BODILY AUTONOMY

Equitable access to legally enshrine abortion rights.

Ability to make informed choices about medical treatment.

Ability to universally make significant decisions regarding one's body.

Access to comprehensive sexual health education.

Equitable access to family planning services and contraception.

Ability to chose whether or not to have children.

ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES OF BODILY AUTONOMY

LĀ IKRĀHA FĪ AL-DĪN

Islamic principle enshrined in Qur'an 2:256 "there is no compulsion in religion" that endows individuals with the right to make their own decisions and choices, free from coercion of any kind, especially religious coercion. This freedom affords all Muslims with the right to make choices of their own free will, including decisions around their bodily and reproductive autonomy.

HURMA

An ancient Arabic term signifying the sacred inviolability of the human body. It extends to the physical, social, and emotional safety of all individuals, living and dead. It protects the honor of these individuals. A violation of an individual's bodily autonomy, whether it be sexual assault, domestic violence, or any other violation of an individual's reproductive rights, constitutes a violation of an individual's *hurma*.

KARAMAH AL-INSAN

The Quranic concept of human dignity (Qur'an 17:70), affirms God has "dignified the children of Adam", affording dignity as the right of every person, regardless of identity. This dignity is extended to an individual's body, a divine miracle that people are tasked with caring for. In being afforded a body, God commands individuals to maintain dignity over the body, by preserving and caring for it as they see fit.

POLITICAL ISLAM & MANIPULATION OF BODILY AUTONOMY

Utilizes an interpretation of Islam that suits their authoritarian interests.

Rejects authentic interpretation of Islam that highlights human rights.

Establishes an exclusive claim on divine truth and political power.

Dismisses and oppresses Islamic human rights discourse, including bodily autonomy

Delegitimizes Islamic human rights framework as a Western agenda

Revolts against "Western" ideologies, like bodily autonomy.