



Template Khutbah to speak on violence against women and girls

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ وَأَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

All thanks and praise is due to Allah, we seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and the consequences of our evil deeds. Whoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whoever Allah leads astray will never find guidance. I bear witness there is no God but Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His Messenger.

قال الله تعالى

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

“O you who have attained to faith! Be conscious of Allah with all the consciousness that is due to Him, and do not allow death to overtake you until you have surrendered yourselves unto Him.” (Qur’an, 3:102)

وقال تعالى

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا (4:1)

“O mankind! Be conscious of your Sustainer, who has created you out of one living entity, and out of it created its mate, and out of the two spread abroad a multitude of men and women. And remain conscious of God, in whose name you demand [your rights] from one another, and of these ties of kinship. Verily, God is ever watchful over you!” (Qur’an, 4:1)

فَإِنْ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَأَحْسَنُ الْهُدَى هُدَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَشَرُّ الْأُمُورِ مُحَدَّنَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُحَدَّنَةٍ بَدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بَدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ

أَمَّا بَعْدُ

Let us begin today’s sermon by thanking Allah for giving us life, health, wealth and prosperity. Please say with me: *Alhamdulillah*.

Let us begin today by thanking Allah for giving us a mother who was at the core of our life, health, wealth and prosperity. She bore us in her stomach for nine months, enduring sleepless nights, physical discomfort and allowing us to feed and grow inside her from her own body’s

nutrients. Please say with me: *Alhamdulillah* and join me in asking Allah to grant our mothers the best of rewards. *Ameen!*

Let us begin today by thanking Allah for giving us a mother who gave birth to us by suffering excruciating delivery pain, risking her life so that we can come to this earth. The blessed Prophet of Allah, Muhammad (SAW) said to a companion when he was asked if he had paid his mother back the debt of life and love: "Not even for one contraction." Please say with me: *Alhamdulillah* and join me in asking Allah to grant our mothers long life. *Ameen!*

Let us begin today by thanking Allah for giving us a mother, who gave us life's most important nutrients, an antibody against many illnesses and the extraordinary miracle of Allah: her own milk. Please say with me: *Alhamdulillah* and join me in asking Allah to grant our mothers the best of health. *Ameen!*

Let us begin today by thanking Allah for giving us a mother whose love cannot be compared to anything else on this Earth. She gave up her own happiness, comfort, food and sleep for us so that we would be happy, enjoy this life and grow adequately. Please say with me: *Alhamdulillah* and join me in asking Allah to grant our mothers the highest rank of paradise. *Ameen!*

We thank you *Ya Allah* for giving us our mothers.

يا رب لك الحمد كما ينبغي لجلال وجهك ولعظيم سلطانك

"Ya Rāb Lakal Ḥamdu, kāma Yanbaghi Li Jālā li Wajhika wa Ā'zeemi sulṭānik."

We thank and praise you for as much as your face and majesty deserves.

Our mother is a woman. Our sisters, wives and daughters are women and many of them are future mothers. The blessed Prophet [SAW] said: "Women are the sisters of men" (Reported by Ayesha and recorded by Abu Dawud).

Allah has given women alleviated status - as the incubators of human life, part of His design for the continuity of human race. Mothers are most intimately involved with Allah's design for procreation. They are given the honour of motherhood by Allah with a special status.

When we read the horrendous statistics about how women are subjected to some of the most atrocious violence, it poses a big question. How can men ignore the status of women in the eyes of Allah and find justification for behaving violently towards them? How can men abuse women?

Violence against women includes the following:

1. Physical violence
2. Sexual violence
3. Psychological abuse
4. Financial abuse
5. Controlling or coercive behavior

Today's Khutbah will, however, focus on **physical and sexual violence**.

- **Physical violence** is defined as: being slapped or having something thrown at you that could hurt you, being pushed or shoved, being hit with a fist or anything else that could hurt, being kicked, dragged, beaten, choked or burnt on purpose, and/or being threatened with, or actually, having a gun, knife or other weapon used on you.
- **Sexual violence** is defined as: being physically forced to have sexual intercourse against your will, or because you were afraid of what your partner might do, and/or being forced to do something sexual that you found humiliating or degrading.

According to the UN World Health Organization, violence has disastrous consequences on women's physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health. Half of the women around the world who have been killed were killed by someone they had an intimate relationship with.

Islam is emphatic about honouring and respecting women. It completely shuns violence against women. Let us examine what Allah says about women in the Qur'an and what the blessed Prophet of Allah [SAW] demonstrated in his life.

1. Men and women have the same purpose in life:

Allah tells us:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

"I have not created human beings and Jinn for anything else but to worship Me alone." (Qur'an: 51:56)

Here, men and women have been given the same purpose in life and that is to accept Allah's existence and to submit to His will freely. Women's purpose for existence is not to serve any other human beings or be subjugated by any other one. They are equally invited by Allah to make the same declaration of their devotion:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Say: "Behold, my prayer, and (all) my acts of worship, and my living and my dying are for God [alone], the Sustainer of all the worlds" (Qur'an, 6:162)

2. Men and women come from the same root and same human race:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

"O mankind! Be conscious of your Sustainer, who has created you out of one living entity, and out of it created its mate, and out of the two spread abroad a multitude of men and women. And remain conscious of God, in whose name you demand [your rights] from one another, and of these ties of kinship. Verily, God is ever watchful over you!" (Qur'an, 4:1)

Men and women belong to the same race – the human race. Being conscious of this ultimate fact will enable them to accept and respect one another. Violence against women will be eliminated if we embrace this divine fact.

3. Our hard work will be rewarded - whether you are male or female - based on the same criteria of excellence:

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

As for anyone - be they a man or woman - whoever does righteous deeds and is a believer, verily, to him shall We most certainly cause to live a good life and most certainly shall We grant unto such as these their reward in accordance with the best that they ever did." (Qur'an, 16:97)

أَنِّي لَا أُضِيعُ عَمَلَ عَامِلٍ مِّنْكُمْ مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ بَعْضُكُمْ مِّنْ بَعْضٍ

"I shall not lose sight of the labour of any of you who labours [in My way], be it man or woman: each of you is an issue of the other." (Qur'an, 3:195)

You are required to do your best in everything and Allah will grant you the rewards proportionate to your efforts, which not based on your gender. Men and women will stand in front of Allah accountable to Him in the same way, rewarded or punished for the use of their time on this earth. When you accept this, you cannot be violent towards women.

4. He makes it abundantly clear that men and women have absolute spiritual equality:

إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْقَانِتِينَ وَالْقَانِتَاتِ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالصَّادِقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّابِرَاتِ وَالْخَاشِعِينَ وَالْخَاشِعَاتِ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقَاتِ وَالصَّائِمِينَ وَالصَّائِمَاتِ وَالْحَافِظِينَ فُرُوجَهُمْ وَالْحَافِظَاتِ وَالذَّاكِرِينَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَالذَّاكِرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

"Verily, for all men and women who have surrendered themselves unto God,
And all believing men and believing women,
And all truly devout men and truly devout women,
And all men and women who are true to their word,
And all men and women who are patient in adversity,
And all men and women who humble themselves [before God],
And all men and women who give in charity,
And all self-denying men and self-denying women,
And all men and women who are mindful of their chastity,
[And all men and women] who remember God unceasingly:
For [all of] them has God readied forgiveness of sins and a mighty reward." (Qur'an, 33:35)

Your spiritual status in the eyes of Allah is based on your mindfulness of His existence and presence. He makes mercy as His most important quality and does not discriminate between men and women while they pursue attaining Allah consciousness. This verse lays down the need to have fraternal equality between men and women. He prescribes equality and fairness as the most important human qualities that demonstrate true mercy. Allah is never unfair to

his creation, sadly some human beings are. Islam celebrates gender diversity but it also places human equality at its core.

Allah's Grace in the form of forgiveness and rewards are prepared and waiting for both males and females. A female has the same right to and potential for rewards from Allah for being a Muslim who:

- Surrenders to Allah completely
- Believes in Allah wholeheartedly
- Is Truly devout to Allah
- Is true to their word
- Is patient at times of adversity
- Is humble before Allah
- Is charitable to Allah's creation
- Is self-denying and self-disciplined
- Protects their chastity by refraining from sex outside marriage
- Remembers Allah unceasingly, consciously and subconsciously

In the above verse Allah makes it absolutely clear that your spiritual success is not based on your gender but rather your moral and personal character. Your forgiveness and salvation are dependent on attaining the above qualities and not on the fact of whether you are male or female. The door for success, both worldly and beyond this world, are always open to men and women equally.

Yet in some communities, women are still discriminated against, deprived of their rightful space in society, denied access to places of worship and looked down upon as though they should never have been born. Nearly 35% of women globally suffer some types of violence against them at the hands of their spouse. This must not be allowed to continue.

5. Men and women are mutual protectors of each other:

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ

“And [as for] the believers, both men and women they are close protectors unto one another: they [all] enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong...” (Qur'an, 9:71)

Believing men and women are duty bound to create a safe space around them and offer protection to each other. Men inflicting violence against women contradicts the concept of safety and protection as intended by Allah. If men made a pledge to offer women safe and secure space in society, there would be no violence against woman.

6. Men and women began their journey as equals from the day one:

وَقُلْنَا يَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنْتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ وَكُلَا مِنْهَا رَغَدًا حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا وَلَا تَقْرَبَا هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةَ فَتَكُونَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

8. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was the best example and living manifestation of the Qur'an:

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

“For, behold, You have indeed a sublime character” (Qur'an, 68:4)

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

“Verily, in the Apostle of God you have a good example for everyone who looks forward [with hope and awe] to God and the Last Day, and remembers God unceasingly.” (Qur'an, 33:21)

The blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAW) set out direct examples of these ideals of a marital relationship in his personal life. There is no clearer prophetic saying about a husband's responsibility toward his wife than his response when he declared:

“Give her food when you take food, clothe her when you clothe yourself, do not revile her face, and do not beat her.”

Prophet Muhammad [SAW] further stressed the importance of kindness toward women in his farewell pilgrimage. He equated the violation of their marital rights to a breach of the couple's covenant with Allah.

He was never violent towards any of his wives throughout his life. He demonstrated utmost respect, kindness and fair treatment to the women in his life as he understood the Qur'anic injunctions of equality and fairness. He is the real example of Allah's will.

I would like to finish my sermon by thanking Allah for the blessings of this world by creating women – our mothers, our wives, our sisters and our daughters. If women did not exist, our lives would not exist.

May Allah protect all women from violence.

May Allah protect all women from the vile acts of violence perpetrated by men.

May Allah restore in our lives peace and stability for all people.

To finish, Islam clearly prohibits all forms of abuse. It condemns all forms of exploitation.

Allah orders us to be just and fair with each other:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُم لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

“Behold, God enjoins justice, and the doing of good, and generosity towards [one's] fellow-men; and He forbids all that is shameful and all that runs counter to reason, as well as envy; [and] He exhorts you [repeatedly] so that you might bear [all this] in mind.” (Qur'an, 16:90)

Remember, fairness, justice and compassion are the clear orders of Allah. Do not violate women, for such a behaviour would directly contradict Allah's orders.

Make a pledge today here in this mosque, in this place of worship and on this blessed day of Jummah say this with me loudly: **"I will never hit a woman, I will never abuse a woman, and I will never physically and sexually violate a woman. I also pledge to stand up and fight this injustice!"**

May Allah accept our pledge, *ameen*.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

"Verily, Allah and His angels bless the Prophet: [hence,] O you who have attained to faith, bless him and give yourselves up [to his guidance] in utter self-surrender!" (Qur'an, 33:56)

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ

"Limitless in His glory is your Sustainer, the Lord of almightiness, [exalted] above anything that men may devise by way of definition!" (Qur'an, 37:180)

وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ

"And peace be upon all His message-bearers!" (Qur'an, 37:181)

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

"And all praise is due to God alone, the Sustainer of all the worlds!" (Qur'an, 37:182)

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ ۚ تَذَكَّرُونَ

Allah enjoins justice, generosity and kind treatment with kindred, and forbids indecency, wickedness and oppression. He admonishes you so that you may learn a lesson. (Qur'an, 16:90)