

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As with Christianity, Judaism and any other of the world's great religion, there is no single way Islam is practiced and observed. There are Muslims in every country in the world, and their particular interpretations of the Quran and their faith are as varied as the societies in which they live in, many of which are influenced by their histories and the politics around them.

DOES ISLAM SUPPORT TERRORISM?

No. The Quran clearly prohibits the killing of innocent individuals. Specifically, in Chapter 5, verse 32 it states, "We ordained for the Children of Israel that if any one slew a person -unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land—it would be as if he killed all of humanity; and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved life of all of humanity.

WHY DO WOMEN COVER THEIR HAIR?

The Islamic faith and tradition encouraged both men and women to be modest in their dress and behavior. As a matter of practicality this has been interpreted differently throughout the Islamic world and seen in the various cultural expressions that Muslims throughout the world cover themselves which varies throughout the world.

ISLAMISM/ISLAMIST VERSUS ISLAM AS A TERMINOLOGY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Islam is a faith tradition practiced by 1.5 billion Muslims and historically has been a deeply personal and a spiritual pathway to understand the creator. Though imperfect and an evolving terminology to differentiate between the faith tradition of Islam and criminals like the Islamic State and al-Qai'da, we define that Islamism/Islamist is political ideology that seeks to impose a narrow and draconian interpretation of Islam that brutal and deadly tactics to impose their version of Islam. Normative Islamic traditions blatantly reject their appeal and motivations.

WHAT IS JIHAD?

The greater jihad is the ongoing struggle within ones soul to be a better human being and to ward off the temptation to do wrong and to do the right thing in life or the common good that's accepted universally. Most scholars of the Islamic tradition are in agreement that the lesser jihad is the outright engagement in warfare that offers numerous stipulations and requirements including protecting the environment, and in the modern context has no grounds or basis for such an effort on an individual.







