

# المجلس الإسلامي لأستراليا

## THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### What You Need to Know About Sharia Law

Islam is like any other religion, it comes with its laws and regulations for the service and betterment of humanity as a whole. There are however some people who use extreme measures when interpreting some of these laws, that is why the role of scholars are important to make people understand that God (Allah) made us a moderate Ummah (nation) as mentioned in the Holy Quran.

Linguistically, the word "*Sharia*" means the road to a watering place. In an Islamic context, the same word refers to the laws and regulations revealed by God (Allah) to mankind. The rulings of the *Sharia* law stem from the Holy Book of Islam (the Quran) as well as the teachings and example of the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The *Sharia* law contains ruling that covers all aspects of human life, from our personal acts of worship to, marriage, divorce, business and politics. *Sharia* law is considered comprehensive as it guides a person through life and has answers to the most critical and delicate matters.

Since the *Sharia* law is set by The One who created us, it is considered that all aspect of it is beneficial that helps improve and protects mankind on an individual as well as a collective level. In that sense, *Sharia* law is not there to restrict people and stop them from moving forward, in fact the benefits of this law was witnessed during the European dark ages, where the *Sharia* was the first to advocate the rights of woman, orphans the weak and oppressed. This was the golden age of Islam and the best civilisation that ever existed on earth, purely due to the fact that the Muslims of the time followed the rules and regulations of the *Sharia* law.

Bearing in mind that the *Sharia* law was set by God, the Creator and the Knowing of all things, it is therefore considered flawless and in no need of human alteration or revision. However, since the *Sharia* law is a law in nature, people can interpret it in different ways according to different interpretations of key terminology and evidence based rulings. Of course, whatever is mentioned clearly in the Quran has no room for debate; however, there are some issues that have been discussed by the scholars whereby each had their convincing, authentic and legitimate explanation.

Ultimately, Muslims are encouraged under the *Sharia* law to show kindness, treat their neighbours well, to be just and fair, to honour legal contracts, to avoid lying, corruption and any kind of harm to people and society. Murder, manslaughter, rape and theft are all prohibited by sharia law. While these are universal values, there are many rulings that are specifically focused to Muslims that are widely common in western societies. For example drinking of alcohol, eating pork, gambling, fornication, abortion, atheism and ascribing partners to God are prohibited and considered major sins for Muslims.

Muslims living in western societies must respect and adhere to the laws of the country where they reside in as long as it does not conflict with the rulings of Sharia Law. However, Muslim leaders in Muslim countries have the right and the obligation to apply the rules of the Sharia law. Scholars believe that implementing the sharia Laws can help alleviate oppression, spread peace and justice and protect human rights.

Whether in Australia or any Islamic country overseas the *Sharia* does not support or implement acts of terrorism, oppressive laws or harsh penalties. It is a policy for Muslims to adhere that help's to provide a better and purer way of life.

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