

*None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.*

*Saying of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).*

are almost 1,000 mosques, Islamic schools and Islamic centers in Britain. Muslims are active in all walks of life. Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in this country and around the world.

**Q: What about Muslim women?**

A: Under Islamic law, women have always had the right to own property, receive an education and otherwise take part in community life. Men and women are to be respected equally. The Islamic rules for modest dress apply to both women and men equally. (Men cannot expose certain parts of their bodies, wear gold or silk, etc.) If a particular society oppresses women, it does so in spite of Islam, not because of it.

**Q: What is Jihad?**

A: .Jihad. does not mean .holy war.. Literally, *jihad* means to strive, struggle and exert effort. It is a central and broad Islamic concept that includes struggle against evil inclinations within oneself, struggle to improve the quality of life in society, struggle in the battlefield for self-defense (e.g., - having a standing

army for national defense), or fighting against tyranny or oppression.

**Q: What is a mosque?**

A: A mosque is a place of worship used by Muslims. The English word mosque. is derived from its Arabic equivalent, *masjid*, which means .place of prostration.. It is in the mosque that Muslims perform their prayers, a part of which includes placing the forehead on the floor.

**Useful links on Islam**

<http://www.ukim.org>

<http://www.islaam.com>

<http://www.islamicity.com>

<http://www.mabonline>

**Useful local contact**

Jammia Mosque and Islamic centre

83 Stoke Poges lane. Slough. SL1 3NY

Tel: 01753-522561



Slough4peace

<http://www.slough4peace.net>

## ISLAM AND BRITISH MUSLIMS

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

You have read the newspapers and you have seen the TV stations talk about Islam. Well now hear what the Muslims have to say about Islam. Your questions answered:

### Q: What is Islam?

A: Islam is not a new religion. It is the same truth that God revealed to all His prophets throughout history. Islam is both a religion and a complete way of life. Muslims follow a religion of peace, mercy and forgiveness that should not be associated with acts of violence against the innocent.

### Q: Who are Muslims and what do they believe?

A: There are an estimated 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide. No more than 20 percent of Muslims live in the Arabic-speaking world. The country with the largest Muslim population is Indonesia. Muslims believe in One, Unique, and Incomparable God. They believe in the Day of Judgement and individual accountability for actions. Muslims

believe in a chain of prophets beginning with Adam and including Noah, Ibrahim, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, David, Solomon, and Jesus. God's eternal message was reaffirmed and finalized by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be on them all). One becomes a Muslim by saying, There is no deity but God, and Muhammad is the messenger of God. By this declaration, the person announces faith in all of God's messengers.

*Let him who believes in Allah and the Last Day either speak good or keep silent, and let him who believes in Allah and the Last Day be generous to his neighbor, and let him who believes in Allah and the Last Day be generous to his guest.*

*Saying of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).*

### Q: What is the Quran?

A: The Quran is the record of the exact words revealed by God through the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad. It was memorized by Muhammad and then dictated to his companions. The text of the Quran was cross-checked during the life of the Prophet. The 114 chapters of the Quran have remained unchanged through the centuries.

### Q: What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

1) The Declaration of Faith - This consists of the two-sentence declaration described above.

2) Prayer - Muslims perform five obligatory prayers each day. Islamic prayers are a direct link between the worshiper and God. Islam has no hierarchical authority or priesthood. A learned Muslim chosen by each congregation leads the prayers.

3) Zakat - One of the most important principles of Islam is that all things belong to God and that wealth is held in trust by human beings. Zakat, or charitable giving, purifies wealth by setting aside a portion for those in need. This payment is usually two and a half percent of one's capital.

4) Fasting - Every year in the Islamic lunar month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from first light until sunset. The fast is another method of self-purification.

5) Pilgrimage - A pilgrimage to Mecca, or Hajj, is an obligation for those who are physically or financially able.

### Q: What about the British Muslim community?

A: There are an estimated 2 million Muslims in Britain. The Muslim community in Britain is made up of people from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds and national origins. There