

JAMIATUL ULAMA

COUNCIL OF MUSLIM THEOLOGIANS

Established in 1923 as Jamiatul Ulama Transvaal

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Operating in Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces

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Violence against Women is un-Islamic

'16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence' is a campaign that focuses mainly on violence the recipients of which are mainly women and children. It is typically domestic and may not be easily detected as most of the times it goes unreported.

Islamic teachings and traditions are clear and replete in exhorting fair-dealing and women are not an exception. Albeit inconsistent with Islamic teachings, Muslims acknowledge that this phenomenon does exist within their community. Islam however does not condone violence perpetrated against women hence the provision for divorce in circumstances where harmony cannot be restored between couples. The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) are clear, 'Do not beat the female servants of Allah.' On another occasion he said, '(Is it not a shame that) one of you beats his wife as he beats the stallion camel and then embraces to (sleep with) her at night?'

Those who have emotionally abusive spouses should know that psychological abuse has the potential of becoming physical abuse. Any form of non-physical abuse should serve as an early warning and appropriate help be sought.

Studies have shown that children who witness violence in broken homes will themselves be perpetrators of violence. Let us build stable societies by showing exemplary behaviour towards the young ones under our care whom we also have to protect as a trust from the Almighty and not abuse.

The Jamiatul Ulama has members that look into cases where marital discord can result into abuse. Alongside the Islamic Careline, counselling sessions are arranged to help couples deal with challenges that have latency for turning violent. The service has proved beneficial to many a couple and individuals.

Imams should also play an important role as they tend to be familiar with members of the community and, hence, in a position to make necessary intervention to prevent and stop violence in homes.

E.I. Bham (Moulana)

Secretary General

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