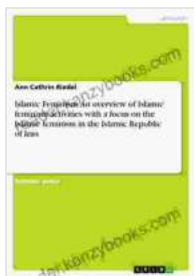


# Islamic Feminism: An Overview of Islamic Feminist Activities with a Focus on the Middle East

Islamic feminism is a movement that seeks to promote gender equality within the framework of Islam. Islamic feminists believe that the Quran, the holy book of Islam, is a source of liberation for women and that it calls for the equal rights of men and women. They argue that the patriarchal interpretations of Islam that have dominated for centuries are not in line with the true teachings of the religion.

Islamic feminism is a diverse movement that encompasses a wide range of perspectives. Some Islamic feminists focus on reforming Islamic law, while others focus on changing social attitudes towards women. Some Islamic feminists work within Islamic institutions, while others work outside of them.

Despite the diversity of the movement, there are some core principles that unite Islamic feminists. These principles include:



## Islamic Feminism. An overview of Islamic feminism activities with a focus on the Islamic feminism in the Islamic Republic of Iran by Kristi L. Wiley

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- The belief that the Quran is a source of liberation for women.
- The belief that women are equal to men in the eyes of God.
- The belief that women have the right to make choices about their own lives, including their bodies, their education, and their careers.

The roots of Islamic feminism can be traced back to the early days of Islam. The Prophet Muhammad was a strong advocate for women's rights, and he gave women a number of rights that were not available to them in other societies at the time. For example, women were given the right to own property, to inherit wealth, and to seek an education.

However, over time, patriarchal interpretations of Islam became dominant, and women's rights were gradually eroded. By the 19th century, women in many Muslim-majority countries were denied basic rights such as the right to vote, the right to education, and the right to work.

The modern Islamic feminist movement emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a response to the patriarchal oppression of women. Islamic feminists began to challenge traditional interpretations of Islam and to argue for the equal rights of men and women.

One of the pioneers of Islamic feminism was Qasim Amin, an Egyptian writer and reformer. In his book "The Liberation of Women," Amin argued that Islam was not a barrier to women's progress and that women had the right to education, work, and political participation.

Another early Islamic feminist was Fatima Mernissi, a Moroccan sociologist and writer. Mernissi's work focused on the experiences of women in Muslim-majority societies. She argued that women were not inherently inferior to men and that they had the potential to achieve great things if they were given the opportunity.

The key principles of Islamic feminism include:

- **The belief that the Quran is a source of liberation for women.** Islamic feminists believe that the Quran teaches that women are equal to men in the eyes of God and that they have the right to make choices about their own lives.
- **The belief that women are equal to men in the eyes of God.** Islamic feminists believe that women are not inherently inferior to men and that they have the same potential to achieve great things.
- **The belief that women have the right to make choices about their own lives.** Islamic feminists believe that women have the right to choose how they live their lives, including their bodies, their education, and their careers.

Islamic feminists are active in a wide range of areas, including:

- **Education:** Islamic feminists believe that education is essential for women's empowerment. They work to provide educational opportunities for women and to challenge gender stereotypes in education.
- **Employment:** Islamic feminists believe that women have the right to work and to earn a living. They work to promote women's employment

and to challenge discrimination against women in the workplace.

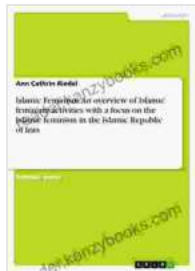
- **Politics:** Islamic feminists believe that women should have the right to participate in politics and to make decisions about their own societies. They work to increase women's representation in politics and to challenge gender discrimination in politics.
- **Law:** Islamic feminists believe that Islamic law should be reformed to promote gender equality. They work to change discriminatory laws and to develop new laws that protect women's rights.

Islamic feminists face a number of challenges, including:

- **Opposition from conservative religious leaders.** Conservative religious leaders often oppose Islamic feminism, arguing that it is a threat to Islam.
- **Discrimination against women in society.** Women in many Muslim-majority countries face discrimination in all areas of life, from education to employment to politics.
- **Violence against women.** Women in many Muslim-majority countries are at risk of violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and honor killings.

Islamic feminism is a growing movement that is working to promote gender equality within the framework of Islam. Islamic feminists believe that the Quran is a source of liberation for women and that it calls for the equal rights of men and women. They work to challenge patriarchal interpretations of Islam and to change social attitudes towards women.

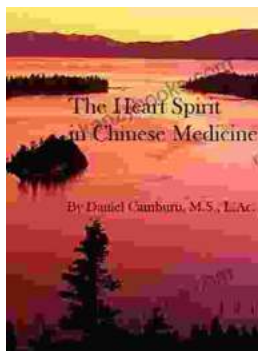
Despite the challenges they face, Islamic feminists are making progress in their work. They are increasingly visible in public life, and they are having a growing impact on the lives of women in Muslim-majority countries.



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