

JIHAD -

What can I do to help as a sister?

Raising funds amongst their families, friends and other sisters

Around the Muslim world, many of the people donating the most money to the Jihad are the women. For example, our brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait tell us how the rich sisters amongst them empty their gold jewellery into the donation boxes for the Jihad. Recently, we heard from brothers in North America about one sister who sold ALL her gold jewellery (which she had been collecting all her life) worth about US \$2000 and donated it all to the Mujahideen. Another sister also in North America sold her dishwasher and washing machine to give the money to the Mujahideen. It is not the amount that is given but the sincerity of the person who gives it. We have seen in some cases that thousands of pounds donated by certain people has been finished very quickly, whereas only ten pounds given by other people has lasted a very long time.

Therefore the first and most important thing that sisters can do in the West is to donate money and to raise it amongst their families, friends and others. It is not required for women to fight at this moment in time so they can fulfil their obligations in one way by the collection and donation of funds.

Actively encouraging the male members of their family to go for Jihad and bearing their absence with patience

By Allah, at the same time as the above statement, we say that one of the principal reasons putting many brothers off Jihad is the crises created by their wives, sisters and mothers. Jihad today is Fard Ain for the males, which means that every able bodied man must participate in Jihad else he is sinful. If a wife or mother prevents her husband or son from participating in the Jihad then she is sinful for EVERY drop of blood that is split and otherwise may have been saved if this brother was to go.

The one who ABANDONS Jihad is like the one who abandons Prayer and Fasting. We are not saying here that everyone should get up and go and not come back, but we are saying that Jihad is an obligation amongst the many

obligations of Islam, such as Prayer, Fasting, Hajj, Zakah, seeking knowledge, earning a livelihood, etc. If one of these is compromised, then the whole Deen of an individual and the Muslim community as a whole suffers. At the same time, every Mujahid and Shaheed in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Palestine, etc. had a mother or wife or sister who in some cases encouraged them to go and in other cases held them back from going. For brothers, parents', wives' or anyone else's permission is not required for them to go for Jihad in this day and age. The book "Join the Caravan" deals with this topic quite extensively as does "Defence of the Muslim Lands" which are both mentioned above. Therefore we advise our sisters to be wives, mothers and sisters of MEN not males, TIGERS not sheep, HEROES not cowards and WARRIORS not weaklings. The donating of money for a sister is PART of her obligation; the other part is to encourage the male members of her family to participate in Jihad, and, until the males are able to do so, to donate money, train themselves in physical pursuits such as running, martial arts, shooting, etc. For this reason unmarried sisters should not reject proposals from Mujahideen for fear of losing part of the Dunya. The scholars defined the maximum period that a Muslim man can be away from his wife in the Jihad as four months, after which he must return. If our sisters cannot even last four months away from their husbands, then they must study the lives of the early female Sahabiyyat (women at the time of the Prophet (SAW)). And married sisters should encourage their husbands to participate in the Jihad. Today, many Mujahideen brothers fear getting married as the majority of sisters, especially in the West, are amazed by the glitter of this Life and

not willing to sacrifice for the Eternal Life. The wife of a Shaheed will be with him in the highest part of Paradise and she will be many times more beautiful than she was in this Life, and she will be more beautiful to him than all his other wives in the Paradise. Therefore it is also in the interests of the sisters to encourage and pray for the martyrdom of their husbands, and to bear the news patiently when it happens. The wife of a Bahraini Prince, i.e. a Princess herself, encouraged her husband to go for Jihad many times. He spent a long time in Afghanistan and then was killed in Bosnia in September 1992, being the second foreign shaheed in the Land of Bosnia. When the news came of her husband's martyrdom she bore it with extreme patience. In the same way that a wife can persist with her husband to buy new and expensive furniture for the house, can she not persist with her husband to go and take part in Jihad?

Visiting the lands of Jihad with their male Mahram relatives

Trying to go to the Lands of Jihad with their husbands or other Mahram males (blood-brothers, fathers, sons, etc.) and participating in activities such as educational and Dawah work amongst female refugees teaching children, nursing and medical help in the hospitals, and looking after the families and sick amongst the Mujahideen. The sad situation is that many sisters from the West would prefer to stay in comfortable houses with the latest domestic appliances and conveniences rather than travel to a Land with little facilities, only for the Sake of Allah. The Kafir women, unfortunately are more supportive in this aspect than some Muslim women. However, this should only be done of the mahram males of the sister go themselves. It is incorrect for sisters to travel to these places by themselves. Unfortunately there are no organisations that exist to arrange for sisters to take part in Jihad. It is up to married sisters to arrange such things themselves with male co-operating Mahram relatives.

Helping in publicising the Call of Jihad and the plight of the Mujahideen

By helping to sell audio and video cassettes, books and distribution of leaflets in addition to helping organise fund collection amongst women in their communities, especially in Ramadan, and charity events and ventures.

Increasing their knowledge of Islam

Another oft-neglected role that our sisters can play is in the increasing and learning of knowledge in the other fields of Islam, such as the concentration in Salah, correct recitation and

memorisation of Quran, study of the correct Aqeedah (belief), Seerah (Life of the Prophet SAW), Lives of the Sahaabah and Sahaabiyyat. This cannot be emphasised enough as the study of the Deen is what induces a Muslim sister to live to worship Allah rather than to worship the Dunya. Ignorance of Muslim sisters today in the Deen is more felt by the society than the ignorance of the brothers. After all, it is the sisters who will bring up our children. As Malcolm X once said: 'To educate a man is to educate an individual and to educate a woman is to educate a nation.'

Therefore one of the best ways that our sisters in the UK can help us is by increasing their knowledge of Islam in a way that will benefit Islam not the tyrannical rulers. Unfortunately there are groups today that teach a correct understanding of parts of Islam but who, sadly, at the same time, support and protect the tyrannical rulers and speak up for the oppressive regimes. It is important for us to learn the good from such people but not accept anything from them when they support governments that cram the Muslim youth into prison camps (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, etc.), pull the Hijabs off the sisters who work for Islam (Tunisia, Syria), put the righteous scholars into prison cells in which they must answer the call to nature within the cell (Saudi Arabia) and electrocute parts of our brothers' bodies (most Arab governments including Saudi Arabia).

Dua for the Mujahideen

At the very least, not to forget in their duas the fighters who have sold the Life of this World and are struggling for the Sake of Allah so that the rest of us can live in peace, and to ask Allah to accept the Shuhadaa (martyrs) amongst them.

