

Islamic Teachings on Harmony



One of the most important teachings of Islam is that all people are equal although not the same. Muslims believe that Human kind is like a huge Garden, in which there are flowers of every kind and colour, each important in its own right.

Muslims try and follow the teachings and example of **Muhammad** (Prophet of Islam) because they believe that he was the **perfect Muslim**. When Islam first began in Arabia, the first person that Muhammad made read out the call to prayer was a black Ethiopian. Muhammad also said that, '**Allah does not look upon your outward appearance, he looks upon your hearts and deeds**'. It is a person's behaviour, not their ethnic origin that is important.

There is no reason to treat people of different races differently. Muhammad showed how important this teaching was in his last **sermon**, when he said:

All mankind is descended from Adam and Eve, an Arab is not better than a non-Arab and a non-Arab is not better than an Arab; a white person is not better than a black person, nor is a black person better than a white person except by piety and good actions. Learn that every Muslim is the brother of every other Muslim and that Muslims form one brotherhood.

Muslims live all over the world and they share a common bond, Islam. This world wide Muslim community is known as the **Ummah**, and it is made up of all races. The black American Muslim, **Malcolm X**, believed that Islam was a 'black religion' until he made the **Hajj** (Pilgrimage to Mecca) in 1964. He saw many different people from all over the world taking part in the pilgrimage and they were equal in the eyes of Allah. While on pilgrimage Muslims wear white garments to show their equality.

Islam Teaches that devotion to Allah is the only true and acceptable loyalty and that this should cut across all barriers of race, colour and class.

The **Quran** (Holy book of Islam) teaches that racism is wrong, because regardless of differences, all people have the same common origin;



'Allah created you from a single being... out of him spread many men and women' (Quran 4:1).

Some short questions:

Please answer all questions in full sentences. Use the sentence starters in bold to help you.

1. Define the following important terms/words

- A. Muhammad **Muhammad is**
- B. The Ummah **The Ummah is**
- C. Hajj **Hajj is**
- D. The Quran **The Quran is**

2. What evidence is there that Muslims believe everyone should be treated equally?

There is lots of evidence that shows Muslims believe people should be treated equally. The Quran teaches that There is also evidence from the actions and teaching of Muhammad (write about his last sermon and who was the first to say the call to prayer). Evidence also comes from Hajj where

3. What changed the opinion of Malcolm X that Islam was a "black religion?"

Malcolm X changed his opinion about Islam being a solely black religion when he went on..... He saw

Your Brief

You have been asked to produce a leaflet by Swindon Borough Council about Islamic teachings on harmony. This leaflet will be available in all public places in Swindon (schools, leisure centres, community halls, libraries, and all religious buildings). **The aim of the leaflet is to increase the public's knowledge about Islam and so reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings between people from different backgrounds.**

Your leaflet must include -

- Information about the example Muhammad set
- A quote from the Quran or Muhammad's last sermon
- Relevant pictures and a leaflet title
- Some misconceptions (misunderstandings) about Islam