

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING A MUSLIM DRESS**

1. The Muslim dress has no fashion but rules and regulations governing it.
2. It is intended to give a Muslim external covering of the body which houses the soul and general personal dignity.
3. It is divided into compulsory, recommended and forbidden dressing.
4. It should cover the nakedness of the body.
5. Even when having sex, sharia forbids lovers from seeing their nakedness. The prophet PBUH said;

*“When one of you goes to his wife, he should mind his shameful parts. They should not both strip their clothes off their bodies and become naked like donkeys.”*

6. A Muslim is not allowed to sleep or remain naked even if he is alone in the house.
7. It should not be tight to reveal the swells of the body e.g skin-tight and body-hugging clothes are discouraged.
8. Clothings worn by Muslims should be clean and decent, neither excessively flashy nor ragged.
9. It should not be thin and light to expose the beauty of the body e.g see-through clothes are not allowed because they reveal the colour of the skin and shape of the body underneath.
10. It should not be a dress of fame or vanity.
11. It should not resemble the costume known for non-believers.
12. A Muslim should not put on a dress for the opposite sex.
13. Muslims must lower eyes when they meet their opposite sexes.
14. They should put attention to extra details of the body like finger nails, shaving and the like.
15. Dresses of shouting colours are not recommended for Muslims.
16. Extravagance should be avoided whether in dressing or eating because Allah does not love wasters.
17. Muslims must appear beautifully dressed at every occasion of worship.
18. Beyond clothing, one must be modest in behaviour, manners speech and appearance in public.

## **SOCIAL AND MORAL IMPLICATION OF A MUSLIM DRESS**

1. It gives respect to the Muslim by making him/her descent and guarding her chastity.
2. It is good for one’s health by protecting the body from extreme heat and coldness.
3. It guards a believer from being tempted into the sin of Zina by covering all the attractive beauty of the body.
4. It represents a Muslim’s submission to his/her Creator and her connection with the faith especially Hijab for women.
5. It is a form of identity for the believers because the dress is exclusive to them only.
6. It is a form of worship which accords rewards for a believer who actually observes it.
7. It minimizes vain talks about the makeup of a person which would result in social evils like slander.

8. It is a test for the Muslim and when he/she wears Islamically, he/she is obeying and submitting to Allah.
9. It distinguishes believers from non-believers.
10. It is a proper economic measure by prohibiting the wearing of gold and silk.
11. It also combats luxuriant and extravagant living that is a social injustice to the poor.
12. It helps man to cover his nakedness hence distinguishing him from animals.
13. The prohibition of dresses of opposite sex is a measure against the likelihood of cases like lesbianism and homosexuality.