## Q&A About STIs & AIDS



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#### **Preface**

Praise be to Allah, for guiding us to the accepted human behavior. Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad and his kin, companions and successors, for leading us in following the prophetic rules of safety, honor and chastity.

The UN is working on increasing the value of freedom and the respect to human rights. However, this unfortunately includes the right to sexuality and the ultimate freedom in satisfying sexual desires away from the regulations and guidance of religion and ethics.

This sexual freedom serves the objectives of the groups who work to break down morality everywhere, facilitating their control. Freud is one of them, and would continue to expose sexual relations in the light of the sun so that there would be nothing sacred in the eyes of young people, their main concern would be to satisfy their sexual instincts, and this will break down morals.

Due to this increased sexual freedom, Sexually Transmitted Infections flared up especially among the youth, who wants to imitate and adopt the western lifestyle. This booklet was written for them and for their educators, like a breath of fresh air, as it was structured in the form of Q&A to make it more attractive and appealing to them in

order to maximize their knowledge about STIs and AIDS. Our ultimate goal is to do our job according to Allah's orders and finally to protect the youth and their health.

May Allah the Almighty guide humanity and the youth in particular, to follow in the steps of His glorified prophets.

### Dr. Abdelhamid Al-Qudah Executive Director of Youth protection project

#### **Book Forward**

All the praise is due to Allah SW, the Lord of the universe, the Kindest the Most Merciful; peace and blessings are upon His beloved messenger Mohammad, his kin and his companions.

This booklet tackles the sensitive and vital issue of protection from sexually transmitted diseases in the light of scientific and Islamic guidance; it is the fruit of lecturing and training thousands of youths and adults around the globe on this topic. Throughout our reading of this booklet, we found ourselves obliged to shed the light on some issues and remarks that ought to conceptualize and contextualize the scientific topic from an Islamic social perspective.

First of all, Faith - believing in Allah - is the firm tie among Muslims. They believe that faith is the reason for the survival of Prophet Noah from the flood; saved Prophet Abraham from burning with fire; rescued Prophet Moses from drowning in the sea; and saved prophet Yusuf from the plot of Alaziz's wife, and it will protect us and our youth Insha'Allah. It is well established in the Muslim belief that a Muslim should return to Allah and to his messenger –i.e. to Qur'an and Sunnah- when she/he faces any issue that confuses him/her. True Muslims are keen to know what Islam says about any issue they are about to start in order

to check its compliance with the Sharia law. "O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result." (Surah Al - nesa`:vese 59)

Second, Islam is a religion of knowledge and science, it encourages research, reasoning and critical thinking based on scientific knowledge specially when dealing with newly emerged issues. Following the most recent research in the field of STIs, it is scientifically proven that the main reason for the spread of this epidemic is homosexuality, adultery and drugs. According to the 2012 report of the UN program to fight AIDS (WHO Fact sheet No 110,Nov 2013.), only 2% were due to blood transfusion and other causes, meaning that 98% of the infections are due to committing a taboo (a Haram) which is avoidable.

Third, numerous references from Qur'an and Hadith made it clear that Muslims are required to stay healthy and to protect themselves from any type of harm. Furthermore, it specified the harm from unlawful sexual intercourse – which includes sexually transmitted diseases Allah the Almighty says: "And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way" (Surah Al-Isra: verse 32). Furthermore, the Prophet peace be upon him said: "Once obscenity appears in a nation, done publicly, epidemic and pain will appear in

them that were not in their ancestors" narrated by al-Hakim . Moreover, the prophet also said: "If my people permit five, they ought to have annihilation, in which one of these fives is men are fulfilled with men and women with women" narrated by al-Daylami.

The measures proclaimed and circulated by the United Nations programs and the World Health Organization to combat AIDS have been designed for multiple societies with diverse cultures and different beliefs especially in the issue of sexual freedom. Therefore, when Muslims deal with issues related to Sexual Transmitted Diseases they bring their religion first in order to see its principles on these issues. Muslims are encouraged to do so as failing to respond to these needs means that suggested intervention or solutions will not be effective. For example, fighting AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, from the Islamic perspective, is based on the prohibition of adultery, homosexuality and drugs; hence, any suggested way to deal with these issues partially such as the use of condoms is not accepted.

Fourth, for Muslims, the best way of facing STIs is to deal with the matter in a holistic approach rather than individual solutions. It is imperative to address the core of the problem and its basis, and to provide fundamental solutions because it is more effective on the short and long term. By encouraging chastity and forbidding

homosexuality, adultery and drugs we automatically move away from these epidemics. The Proper handling of Muslim youth problems and their instinctive needs should be adequate to their nature and inspired by the divine guidance "Does He who created not know, while He is the Subtle, The Acquainted?" (Surah Al-Mulk: verse 14); this handling is the shortest route, least cost, most effective, and the closest to the intuition. Making marriage procedures and costs affordable for the youth, refine their education and help them to explore their spirituality and faith, for Allah's sake and to distance them from the evils and the ravages of these epidemics.

Finally, Islam accepts and respects everyone, regardless of color, race, ideology or belief. Even if they fall in wrong deeds; Islam sympathies with them and guide them to the right, it prohibit dealing with them in a bad way i.e. naming and shaming them, because they are the children of Adam, err like us. The Prophet (PBUH) stated that the sinner final judgment is ultimately by Allah, and by Allah alone. Further, Muslims deal with infected people by the great Islamic rule 'we hate the sin not the sinner'. If the infection was caused by taboo practices then the door of repentance is widely open by Allah the merciful for everyone who wants to repent. This Islamic perspective over the sinner is guided by numerous evidences from Qur'an and Sunnah, some of which are:

"And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong

themselves [by transgression], remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins - and who can forgive sins except Allah? - and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know".( Surat Al-Imran: verse 135).

"Excepting those who repent, attain faith, and act righteously. For such, Allah will replace their misdeeds with good deeds, and Allah is all-forgiving, all-merciful". (Surat Al-Furqān: verse 70).

The Prophet (PBUH) says: "Every single son of Adam continually errs (sins), while the best of those who continually err are those who continually repent". Narrated by Tirmidhi

May Allah protect Muslims and their youth, and guide humanity to the right path.

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#### **Definitions**

#### STIs:

Stands for Sexually transmitted infections, which are a group of infections caused by different types of microbes (Bacteria, Viruses, Mycoplasma Rickettsia, Candida, Ectoparasites and Protozoa), that can be transferred from one person to another mainly through sexual contact. In this context, sexual contact is more than just sexual intercourse (vaginal or anal) but also includes kissing, oral-genital contact, and even the use of common sex toys, such as vibrators.

#### STDs:

Stands for Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), which are a group of (STIs), acquired by sexual contact. The organisms that cause sexually transmitted diseases are well known microbes, each microbe causes a specific disease with known incubation period, signs, symptoms and diagnostic tests. They are about 25 diseases, while the number of STIs is more than 50 infections.

AIDS is considered by World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) one of the STDs.

#### HIV:

Stands for Human Immune-deficiency Virus. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. It attacks the immune system - the body's defense against disease-. HIV lives mainly in blood, breast milk, semen and vaginal fluids.

#### AIDS:

Stands for 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome':

- Acquired means a disease that occur during lifetime rather than transmitted genetically from parents before birth.
- Immune Deficiency means a weakness in the body's immune system.
- Syndrome means a group of particular health problems that make up a disease.

AIDS is the name given to a group of serious illnesses that afflict HIV positive patients. These are illnesses that arise when People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are no longer able to fight off diseases because of their lowered immunity.

# Facts & Figures about STIs, HIV & AIDS

#### Facts & Figures about STIs, HIV/ AIDS

- Any Sexually transmitted infection (STI) is caused by germ (virus, bacteria, mycoplasma, rickettsia or parasite) that can cause an illness without showing any symptoms. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) refers to infections caused by specific germs which cause specific diseases, they are transmitted mainly through sexual contact and sexual activities.
- 2. In the past, there were only five diseases which were called 'venereal diseases' (VDs), a term which was derived from Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Once increased in number, these diseases were renamed in mid-sixties to be Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Finally, when new set of diseases emerged, they were renamed to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
- Direct and indirect global medical costs associated with STIs/AIDS are estimated -by world health organization (WHO) - to exceed \$150 billion every year.
- The chances of a girl catching an STI/HIV are four times more likely than getting pregnant through illegal sexual contact.
- Pre-ejaculation can transmit infection, withdrawing before ejaculation does not prevent transmission of any STIs.

- 6. Genital pimples do not necessarily mean a STI, and may simply indicate a case of genital acne.
- According to the WHO, there are approximately 300 -500 million new cases of STIs in the world each year - (WHO Fact sheet no 110\2013 showed 499 Million STIs in one year).
- 8. Women and children are at much greater risk of longlasting or permanent consequences of STIs/HIV/AIDS comparing to men.
- 9. Over 40 million people globally have lost their lives to AIDS since 1981.
- 10. The centres for diseases control (CDC) initially called AIDS the 'gay cancer' and later renamed to GRID (Gay-Related Immune Deficiency). In 1982, the disease was renamed to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- 11. It is estimated that the number of people living in the USA with a STIs is over 65 million. One in two sexually active people will acquire a STI before the age of 25.
- 12. The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is currently the fastest growing STD worldwide.
- 13. Mutual masturbation does not prevent from acquiring a STD. eg. Pubic lice, scabies, bacterial vaginosis cytomegalovirus, Herpes simplex, and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) can all be contracted through mutual masturbation.
- 14. Crabs (pubic lice) are small parasites that feed on

human blood. They can be sexually transmitted even if there is no penetration or bodily fluid exchanged as long as pubic hair is present on both partners. This disease is prevalent in the western countries, because it is widely accepted not to remove pubic hair. This condition is very rare in Muslim countries because it is a prophetic Sunnah to remove this hair at least every 40 days. The prophet (pbuh) said 'There are five acts which conform to the pure nature: Circumcision, removing pubic hair, clipping nails, plucking underarm hair and trimming the moustache' (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

- 15. Donovanosis is a very rare sexually transmitted disease. Small, painless nodules appear 10-40 days after exposure, if left untreated, Donovanosis can destroy penile tissue.
- 16. The origins of STIs are obscure. Numerous researchers are of the view that certain normal microbes adapted it selves to affect the human genital area, and to be transmitted by the body direct contact mainly during sexual activities.
- 17. Curable STIs are: Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Trichomoniasis. While viral STIs cannot be cured and include HPV, Herpes, Hepatitis B, and HIV.
- Even curable STIs such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis can cause death, infertility, chronic pain, serious birth defects, and miscarriages if left untreated.
- 19. Over 180 million cases of Trichomoniasis occur worldwide per year. In the United States alone, it

- is estimated that there are 7.4 million new cases of Trichomoniasis each year.
- 20. Scientists first recognized HIV/AIDS as a sexually transmitted disease in 1981, and claimed that it was introduced into North America by Haitian homosexual immigrants.
- 21. Many sexually transmitted diseases like Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Soft Chancer, Genital Warts and HIV, can be transmitted through oral sex.
- 22. Chlamydia is a germ, smaller than a bacterium and bigger than a virus, found only in human cells, and causes a series of medical consequences and complains. Chlamydial infection is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection (400 million Chlamydial infections occurred in one of the previous years).
- 23. Every year 150-200 million people in the world are infected by Gonorrhoea bacteria. It was estimated that the coast of care and treatment to each patient was \$500 (250 Million new Gonorrhoea cases were diagnosed in one of the previous years).
- 24. Some Scientists suggested that HIV/AIDS originated in primates in Africa and transferred to humans during the twentieth century, probably when a bush meat hunter was bitten or cut by an infected primate (a suggested theory, not proved yet). However there are about ten theories trying to explain the origin of HIV, none of them spotted the viral origin yet. The strongest of them is the primate one, because some primates (green monkey)

- harbour a similar (not identical with HIV) virus .It will become a fact if scientists find out a human volunteer to be injected with the primate virus and develops AIDS!
- 25. The CDC estimates that 20 million individuals in USA are currently infected with the genital Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), a virus that causes most cases of cervical, anal, oral, mouth, lips, tongue cancer, and genital warts. Scientists found that there are 100 strains of this virus, at least 40 strains of them cause genital warts and 6 of them cause cancer.
- 26. Nearly 6.2 millions in USA get a new HPV infection each year. Most HPV infections cause no clinical problems and World Health Organization estimated that 290 million women carry this virus without showing any signs or symptoms.
- 27. Some strains of HPV can lead to a persistent infection that can progress to oral or cervical cancer.
- 28. There is a vaccine that prevents some types of HPV (cancer strains). The vaccine is given in three shots over six months and although it is costly, it is recommended in the western countries for girls aged 13-26 years who have not been diagnosed with HPV. Some reported the sudden death of vaccinated girls due to anaphylactic shock. However this vaccine has not been recommended in any of the Muslim countries, because sex is completely prohibited outside marriage. Allah says in the holy Qur'an: 'Do not approach adultery

- for it is an abomination and a bad way'.
- 29. Around 50,000 new HIV infections in the United States occur each year. (CDC Report 2014).
- 30. It is estimated that 1,500 new cases of HIV infections occur daily in South Africa, (official report).
- 31. CDC Studies showed that the rate of Chlamydia infection among African-American men is 11 times more than of white men. Additionally, African-Americans remain the groups which are heavily affected by Gonorrhoea. In 2004, the Gonorrhoea rate among blacks was 19 times the rate among whites.
- 32. Although African-Americans make up only 13% of the USA population, CDC study showed that half of the estimated new HIV/AIDS diagnosed cases are among them.
- 33. Although teenagers and young adults represent only 25% of the sexually active population (15 to 24years old), they account for 50% 75% of all STIs/HIV diagnosed each year worldwide.
- 34. Every day in America, 12,000 teenagers contract a sexually transmitted disease.
- 35. There is a 25% chance of sterility for women in a single Chlamydia infection. With a second infection, there is a 50% chance. A third infection almost guarantees sterility, due to PID (pelvic inflammatory disease).
- 36. Infertility as a result of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) counts for 50-80% of the infertility cases in Africa (due to Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea diseases).

- 37. Despite all the medical and diagnostic advancement and more discussions about STIs and safer sex, especially after the discovery of HIV, the number of people infected with all STIs continues to grow (WHO reported 499 million new cases worldwide in 2013).
- 38. Lesbians can still become infected with STIs and need to have yearly Pap smears as a screening test for cervical cancer.
- 39. While most STIs can be accurately tested soon after exposure, HIV should be tested repeatedly for most accurate results in the first six months after possible exposure.
- 40. Sexually transmitted diseases and infections cannot be acquired in a swimming pools or public bathrooms.
- 41. Most Sexually transmitted diseases and infection germs spread only through direct (skin to skin) especially genital contact and oral sex.
- 42. Sexually transmitted germs would never live in soil or in air. Most of these germs die immediately once they leave the infected human body.
- 43. Sexually transmitted germs would never transmit through water or air or food.
- 44. Sexually transmitted diseases germs never cause such diseases to Animals, i.e Animals are exempted from sexually transmitted infections.
- 45. It is a well proven fact that promiscuity is the cornerstone in the spread of Sexually transmitted diseases.

- 46. Promiscuity is naturally present among animals, but animals exempted from these diseases (STIs). Allah (swt) grants mankind the highest cognitive abilities among His creatures which enabled them to think and act to prevent themselves from such diseases. This was supported by sending the prophets and holy books of guidance. But those who indulge in forbidden sexual practices such as promiscuity will be punished by suffering from such diseases in this life and in hell fire in the life after.
- 47. Sex itself is not the cause of STIs, it is the forbidden sex (adultery and homosexual activities) which is responsible for such horrifying spread of these diseases.
- 48. The term 'Sexually Transmitted Diseases' would be more accurate and reflecting the reality if it was renamed to 'Diseases of Adultery and Homosexuality' or 'Diseases of Illegal Sex'.
- 49. Chancroid 'Soft Chancre' is highly contagious but usually curable STD. Unlike Syphilis, chancre that is hard or rubbery, a Chancroid is soft to the touch. Ulcers are painful for men, but it is not the case for women who may not be aware of them. The disease is rare in the Western world but prevalent in hot areas, and it can be easily confused with Syphilis or Herpes.
- 50. Nearly half of USA sexually active youths and adolescents are unaware of their HIV status, and less than a quarter are tested for the virus.

- 51. The STD that affects more men than women is Syphilis.
- 52. Bath houses, which were popular in the 1970s, offered gay men a variety of sex partners, so it became breeding grounds for HIV.
- 53. Digital-anal sex, in which one partner uses a finger to stimulate the other partner anus, can be a mean of transmitting HIV.
- 54. The rate at which HIV becomes AIDS varies greatly among individuals and depends on several factors. Some contract HIV develops AIDS soon while others won't develop AIDS for 10 or more years.
- 55. People with STDs are more likely to become infected with HIV because they usually have genital ulcerations which provide an easy route for HIV to enter the blood stream.
- 56. In Western countries at least one in four teen girls who are sexually active has a sexual disease, e.g with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) by far being the most common.
- 57. HPV is believed to cause oral cancer in men more than tobacco and alcohol.
- 58. Some STDs (Syphilis) can cross the placenta and infect a baby while in the uterus (Congenital Syphilis). Other STDs (Gonorrhea, Genital Herpes, Chlamydia, Hepatitis B) can be transmitted from mother to baby during delivery through the birth canal. HIV can cross the placenta during pregnancy, infect the baby during the birth and, unlike most STDs, can also infect the

- baby through breast feeding.
- 59. A pregnant woman with STDs may have an early onset of labour, premature rupture of membranes, uterine infections after delivery, or a still birth. The baby may suffer from low birth weight, eye infection (conjunctivitis or neonatem opthalmia), pneumonia, neonatal sepsis (blood infection), neurological damage, blindness, and liver disease.
- 60. Common symptoms of STDs include burning or pain while urinating; any discharge from the opening of the penis; a change in a woman's normal vaginal discharge or smell; sores, blisters, rashes, swellings, or growths around the penis, vagina, or rectum; itching, burning, or pain around the penis, vagina, or anus; pain during sex; and pain in the lower abdomen.
- 61. One in five sex active Americans has symptomless genital herpes, nearly 90% are unaware they have it. Estimation suggests that by 2025 up to 40% of all men and half of all women could be infected.
- 62. A condom may reduce, but does not eliminate the risk of STIs. So it is not safe.
- 63. Syphilis is named after an Italian shepherd named Syphilis who was cursed with a horrible disease as a punishment for his sins (committing adultery in a church).
- 64. Italians and Germans call syphilis the 'French Disease' and the French call it the 'Spanish Disease', every country accuses the other for its origin.

- 65. Some Historians believe syphilis originated in the New World among the Native Americans in the Caribbean, and that Christopher Columbus may have been responsible for spreading Syphilis to Europe.
- 66. During the first outbreak of Syphilis in Europe, in the late fifteenth century, nearly 10 million Europeans died among them a group of famous poets, kings, princes and artists as Cattwright stated in his book 'Diseases &History'.
- 67. The correct and continuous use of a condom does not eliminate the risk of contracting STI/AIDS.
- 68. Safe Sex by condom is illusion; Safe Sex can only be present between faithful husband and wife.
- 69. The HIV rate in Men having sex with men (MSM) is eight times that of the general population in low-income countries, and 23 times rate in high-income countries.
- 70. It is now known that anal sex is 18 times transmitting HIV than vaginal sex.
- 71. Professor Kevin Fenton (the director of the National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) says: HIV infection in MSM is increasing globally.
- 72. STIs real control is mainly by behaviour change worldwide to chastity, which will remain a complex challenge.
- 73. In the developed world, the USA has the highest rate of new (HIV) infections.

- 74. Anal Intercourse, vaginal intercourse, oral sex and drug addiction are responsible for more than 98% of STIs/AIDS cases.
- 75. WHO Fact sheet N°110 (November 2013) showed the following:
- More than one million people acquire a (STI) every day.
- Each year, estimated 500 million become ill with one of 4 STIs: Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis and Trichomoniasis.
- More than 530 million people have the genital herpes (HSV2) virus.
- The majority of STIs are present without symptoms.
- Some STIs can increase the risk of HIV acquisition threefold or more.
- Drug resistance, especially for Gonorrhoea, is a major threat worldwide. And termed as (superbugs).
- 76. Gonorrhoea cases in England have increased by 15% in 12 months between 2012 and 2013.
- 77. Syphilis cases in England have increased by 9% between 2012 and 2013.
- 78. At least three million teenagers get a sexually transmitted disease in USA every year.
- 79. In 2007 alone UNAIDS Program donated 3.5 billion condoms, but STIs are increasing.
- 80. Male circumcision reduces the risk of heterosexually acquired HIV infection in men by approximately 60% and provides some protection against other STIs, such as herpes and HPV. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

asked Muslims to make Male circumcision, he said 'there are five acts which conform to the pure nature: Circumcision, removing of the pubic hair, clipping the nails, plucking the underarm hair and trimming the moustache'. [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

## True or False About STIs & AIDS

#### **True or False About STIs & AIDS**

## 1. A person can always tell if She/he has any STI.

#### False:

People can have STIs without showing any symptoms: Women often have STIs without showing symptoms because their reproductive organs are internal (which make symptoms, if occurred, harder to notice). However, even men infected with some STIs, such as Chlamydia, may also have no symptoms. Furthermore, people infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, would generally have no symptoms for some time after the infection, which could last for years.

## 2. With the aid of appropriate medical treatment, all STIs, except HIV, can be cured.

#### False:

Herpes and Human Papilloma Virus (genital warts) and AIDS are STIs caused by viruses. Neither of them can be cured completely at the present time.



## 3.Condoms are the most effective protection against the spread of STIs.

#### False:

Abstinence from unlawful and forbidden sexual intercourse is the best way to prevent the spread of STIs. Condoms are partially protective but not safe. Complete sexual abstinence is 100% effective. Remember, however, that some STIs can be spread by sexual behaviours other than sexual intercourse when the infected area is exposed and touched. For example, if genital warts infect the groin area, infection can spread to a partner whose groin area came into contact with the infected area. Another example is when one person has Herpes sores and a partner touches those sores, then touches his/her own mouth, eyes, groin, or anus, Herpes can infect those areas on the previously uninfected partner.

## 4.Condoms are not safe to prevent the spread of STIs.

#### True:

Latex condoms are not 100% effective because 1 -lt breaks occasionally.

- 2 It comes off during sexual intercourse.
- 3 -Condoms will not protect against infection from genital warts that grow on areas of the genitalia and groin that are not covered by the condom.
- 4 Lambskin condoms are not effective at all.

#### 5. Organisms causing STIs can only enter the body through a woman's vagina or a man's penis.

#### False:

STI bacteria and viruses can enter the body through any mucus membranes, including the vagina, penis, anus, mouth, and, in some cases, the eyes. HIV can also enter the body when injected into the bloodstream from shared IV drug needles, or when an open wound comes into contact with infected blood.

#### 6. Teens can receive testing and treatment for STIs without parents' permission.

#### True:

Teens can receive confidential testina treatment in STI clinics beside other public health clinics. Confidential testing and treatment is available for youth from the age of 12. However, some clinics limit confidential testing and treatment for those above the age of 14 or 15.





Confidentiality means that no one, other than the teen and the healthcare provider, may find out about the testing and treatment. Many community health clinics provide STI tests and treatment for free or for a very small charge to adolescents and to patients who cannot afford to pay.

7. You cannot acquire any STI by self-masturbation, holding hands, talking, walking, or by dancing with a partner.

#### True:

STIs are only spread by close sexual contact with an infected person. Anyone can also be infected with HIV by sharing needles or 'works' with an infected person for injection drug use.

#### 8.STIs are a new medical problem.

#### False:

Some STIs have existed since people began recording their history. There is evidence of medical damage caused by STIs in ancient writings, art, and skeletal remains. Writers of the Old Testament, Egyptian writers from the time of the Pharaohs, and the famous Greek physician Hippocrates, they all mentioned symptoms





of some diseases and the suffering caused by what we know today to have been STIs. In the olden times, they used to be called 'Venereal Diseases' and they were only five diseases, but now they are more than fifty infections. Researchers and physicians began to find cures for some STIs during the 20th century. However, some STIs such as Herpes and genital warts, HIV still incurable.

## 9.STIs can cause major health problems, which in some cases can lead to death.

#### True:

HIV infection which can be spread through sexual contact, causes injures to the immune system which lead to AIDS. Consequently, AIDS is fatal.

Genital warts may be related to cervical cancer, which, if not treated, may become invasive and result in women's death. Genital herpes can cause blindness and also harm babies born when infected women have open herpes lesions during labour. Some STIs such as Gonorrhea and Chlamydia can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). If untreated, PID may cause sterility, heart disease, and/ or death. Untreated Syphilis can result in brain damage and death in infected people and, when infants are born to infected women, Syphilis can cause severe retardation in the infants.

## 10. Only people who have vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse can be infected with STIs.

#### False:

Infants can contract some STIs, such as HIV infection and Herpes, during pregnancy and/or birth. Also, some STIs, as noted before, can be spread by close sexual contact that does not include vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse.

11.It does not hurt to delay STI testing and its treatment once you think you have been infected.

#### False:

As soon as an STI germ infects the body, it begins to damage its tisues. If the infected person waits weeks or months before getting tested and begin treatment, his/her health may be permanently damaged and treatment may not be able to reverse this damage. In addition, the infected person can spread STI germs to sexual partners.

## 12. Washing the genitals immediately after having sexual intercourse may help to minimize STIs.

#### True:

Personal cleanliness alone cannot prevent STIs, but washing away a partner's body fluids right after sexual intercourse is helpful. However, washing will not prevent pregnancy or stop HIV from entering the body through the mucus membranes in the mouth, anus, penis, or vagina. but may help.

#### 13.It is possible to get STIs from kissing.

#### True:

It is rare, but it is still a possibility to catch Syphilis by kissing if the infected person has chancres (small sores) in or around the mouth. Herpes can also be spread by kissing if a person has Herpes lesions around the mouth beside HIV and soft Chancre.

14.Oral sex is a safe way to have sexual intercourse if you do not want to get a disease.

#### False:

It is possible to be infected with HIV, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HPV which may cause cancer and Herpes from oral sex.

15.People usually know they have an STI within two to five days after being infected.

#### False:

Many people would never have symptoms; others may not have symptoms for weeks or years after being infected. HIV infection may not show symptoms for years, but the infected person is contagious.

## 16. The most important thing to do if you suspect you have been infected by STI is to inform your sexual partner

#### False:

The most important thing to do is to seek immediate testing and get treatment if the test results were positive. Symptoms of an STI may never appear or may disappear after a short time, but the infection remains in the body. She/he can suffer serious physical damage and continue to infect others. Once an STI is confirmed and treatment is begun, the infected person or a health practitioner can inform sexual partner. In the meantime, it is important for the infected person to abstain from any sexual contact.

## Questions & Answers

#### **Questions and Answers**

#### 1. How is HIV transmitted?

#### A - HIV is NOT transmitted through:

- Hugs and quick traditional kisses.
- Shaking hands.
- Breathing the same air.
- Coughs.
- Sneezes.
- Using common toilet.
- Food utensils and cutlery.
- Drinking cups.
- Clothing.
- Public swimming pools.
- Contact with insects such as: Mosquito, Bed bugs etc

#### **B** - HIV transmitted by:

- Mainly by sexual contacts through
  - Seminal fluid
  - Vaginal discharges
  - Oral sex
  - Anal sex
  - Vaginal sex





- Contaminated blood
- Drug addiction by needles
- From mother to child
- Saliva
- Tattoo

#### 2. How Can HIV Transmission Be Prevented?

- Fulfilling sexual desires within the marital relationship.
- Abstinence from sexual contact or relationships before marriage.
- Abstinence from forbidden relationships after marriage.
- Increase the awareness about HIV and AIDS with a range of lectures, workshops and activities which are suitable to different age groups to educate population about prevention of these infections and its complications.
- Screening for HIV status sooner rather than later and if diagnoses was positive then to follow up for the treatment besides alerting the spouse (husband/wife) about it.
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) by taking ARV medicines such as Nevirapine, besides opting for caesarean delivery and preventing breastfeeding.
- Training educators, and equipping them with knowledge and skills to educate others.
- · Facilitate events for the trained teams in major cities

- as much as remote areas, with all communities and minorities so they can spread protective knowledge.
- Pay special attention to schools and school aged children, to raise their awareness about such diseases and that they are preventable when sticking to chastity and Islamic sexual morality.

#### 3. How Do I Know If I Am HIV Positive?

The only way to know if the person is HIV positive or not, is to be screened and tested with HIV test.

### 4. What Is The Difference Between Being HIV Positive And Having AIDS?

When someone is first infected with HIV, the amount of HIV in the blood is called the 'viral load'.

People can live with HIV for many years without feeling any symptoms but they are still contagious during this time, they are called the carriers.

Eventually, the 'viral load' will increase and the virus will prevent the 'immune system' (the ability of the body to fight germs and protect it from getting sick) from protecting the body against diseases and infections.

CD4 count is the blood test that can tell us how strong the immune system is. CD4 cells are part of the immune

system and are very important in keeping our bodies strong and healthy to fight infections.

HIV kills CD4 cells rapidly. That is why an HIV positive person can get sick easily and recover slowly comparing to a healthy person. As the years go by, HIV kills more CD4 cells until the person develops AIDS.

A person with a weakened immune system due to HIV will begin to develop illnesses specific to people living with HIV called 'opportunistic infections' (OIs).

The more opportunistic infections a person with HIV experiences, the more damaged his/her immune system becomes. When a person living with HIV is unable to fight further infections she/he is said to have AIDS.

#### 5. When To Take Antiretroviral (ARV) Medicines?

There are several factors to be considered before taking ARV medication. The infected patient can stay healthy and strong by using other methods such as:

- Eating well.
- Exercise.
- Stress management.
- · Quit smoking.
- Avoid alcohol.

- Check with doctor, as soon as possible, whenever a health problem arises.
- · Before taking ARV medicines the patient must:
- Discuss the issue with the doctor or health workers.
   During this discussion the patient may consider the following:
- 2. Social situation (Being able to tolerate the social consequences).
- 3. Effects at work.
- 4. Arrange for blood test and screening to find out if HIV has increased to levels which requires medication to prevent further complications.
- 5. Be willing and prepared to take the medication every day for lifetime.
- Understand how the ARV medicines work on the body, how to take them and what the possible side effects are.
- Search for a support group, or a health worker in your community with whom one can discuss antiretroviral medication.
- 8. It is absolutely essential to take the ARV medication exactly as told by the doctor or healthcare professional at a clinic or hospital.

### 6. Is There Any Hope For People Living With HIV And AIDS (PIWHA)?

YES! Advancement in science and medicine increased the scientist's knowledge which as a result made HIV and AIDS what is now called a chronic manageable condition, like diabetes or high blood pressure.

While there is no known cure for HIV and AIDS (yet), there are many things that PLWHA can do to live a long and healthy life.

Positive living is a term used to describe steps taken by people living with HIV and AIDS that enhance their lives and increase their health.

#### Positive living includes:

- Knowing HIV status;
- · preventing transmission to others
- Good nutrition, treating opportunistic infections, accessing health care;
- A positive and healthy life outlook;
- · Joining a support group; and
- Planning the future and pursuing your goals.
- Do your best and leave the rest for God.

# Can Oral Sex Transmit STIs\AIDS And Cause Cancer?

# Can Oral Sex Transmit STIs\AIDS And Cause Cancer?

There is a continuous debate about oral sex, wither it is allowed or not from Islamic point of view? This stemmed from the need for a literature review about oral sex and its consequences. The following is the abstract of this review; while the whole paper can be downloaded from our website (www.qudah.com).

The main motivations for this study which target the Arabic and Islamic communities are:

- The large number of inquiries from young people about this subject, both in Arab and Islamic countries, or Muslim minorities in Western countries.
- 2. The scientifically proven direct role of oral sex in many types of cancers such as mouth, throat, lips, tongue and tonsils cancer. It also transmits AIDS, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Herpes and genital warts.
- The complaints of many Muslim wives from their husbands, and in many cases wives were being forced to do so. This means it is very common among Muslim couples.
- 4. The presence of the silent and potentially dangerous viruses in the mouth from non-sexual sources which are associated with mouth's cancers, this makes the practice of oral sex more dangerous.

#### 7.Is it safe?

Oral sex is a sexual activity, practiced by mouth or tongue to stimulate the genitals of the partner leading to orgasm. This kind of sexual practice is spreading in the world in an unprecedented way. Perhaps, the search for new sexual styles and practices in search for more excitement helped the emergence and prevalence of such practices, as well as the faulty assumption that it is safer. Unfortunately, the emergence and wide spread of oral sex was accompanied with new patterns of tumors and cancers (such as: throat, mouth, lips and tongue cancer... etc).

Additionally, it is well proven that oral sex transmits numerous sexual diseases for example: AIDS, genital warts, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Herpes, and a number of intestinal diseases.

As the world has become a small village, immoral customs, strange habits and new fashions found its way to our conservative and religious communities, and began to spread rapidly among our young people, especially in light of the indecisive legitimate rule of oral sex, which varied from permissible to frown upon and forbidden.

Consequently, there is a clear and great contrast in fatwas of this emerging issue. All of these opinions were released before such damaging consequences and cancers were revealed and proved by scientists. As a result, there is a significant need for further research on this subject in order to reconsider the whole issue on the clear scientific basis by reviewing the current fatwa and to ensure that future fatwas would consider the recent advancement in medicine.

The terrifying and frightening scientific findings, which was collected through reviewing experimental studies in various parts of the world, especially in the West, the emergence of such cancers with oral sex. Thus, Muslim faith leaders should know all these destructive facts before issuing fatwas in this matter.

# Are Condoms For Contraception Or Safe Sex?

# Condoms: from Contraception to the Illusion of Safe Sex

The widespread of Sexual freedom in the West led to the rise of new and abnormal sexual practices. Individuals are practicing sex to fulfill their desires without boundaries (such as social, legal and religious boundaries). These practices became socially accepted and encouraged, youths are encouraged to explore their sexuality; to the contrary, sexually inactive youths are being socially alienated. Despite the fact that this sexual madness yields many new sexually transmitted diseases, substantial UN efforts were executed to legalize and facilitate these unusual practices. Numerous international conferences and workshops were conducted, under the umbrella of human rights, to spread and globalize the acceptance of such practices far away from any boundaries, mainly religious ones. The common main goal of these conferences is to craft and facilitate new legislations and charters to obliterate religious regulations set by almighty Allah to best control humans sexual desires. The new legislations held under attractive and misleading titles to absorb any possible reactions from conservative communities

One important technique used by the master minds of this sexual freedom is the propagation of new

terminologies, to ease any worries the youth can have, and to encourage the practice sex with pure pleasure without fears. The inexperienced, sexually motivated youths are easily deceived by these terminologies, they would reckon to the sound of these new terminologies, and with the increasing pressure of their sexual desire they may fall to be victims of these abnormal practices. As a result, they become part of this global phenomenon that destroys their morals and beliefs, accordingly, as a natural result of these practices; sexually transmitted diseases would flare up.

The term Safe Sex is one of these terminologies; which was coined to suite the widespread of illegal sex, degeneration, and homosexuality in all its forms in the Western culture. The term indicates that it is accepted to have sex while taking all appropriate precautions to avoid getting sexually transmitted diseases, it represent safe from diseases regardless from any other concerns. This might be of help to the west due to the widespread of sexually transmitted diseases there, however, it is not adequate and actually harmful to other communities in the world because these communities are committed to marriage and deny homosexuality and pornography. For example, Muslims consider chastity as a way to worship and to be close to the Almighty Allah. The term Safe sex not only encourages young people to commit forbidden deeds and fall into prohibited sex acts which spreads diseases and demolishes morality, but also it clashes with their religious beliefs. In fact, the only real concept of safe sex exists between husband and wife, providing that they abide the laws of Allah.

One of the main strategies that are adopted by the West of what they call safe sex is spreading the use of condoms. They supported -financially and in the media- all that would facilitate the availability of condoms to young people for free or at subsidized prices. This is one of the outcomes of the final document of the UN-supported International Population Conference held in Cairo in 1994. Furthermore, the director of the United Nations program to combat AIDS announced, at the general assembly meeting 2006, that the budget for AIDS prevention for this year is eight billion dollars, half are set to the 'Abstinence' and 'Be faithful' (A + B) program, which means that the other half is for (C) (i.e., provision and dissemination of condoms).

To understand the full picture, we need to shed the lights on the UN adopted concept for fighting AIDS: 'Abstinence' and 'Be faithful' and 'Condomize' (ABC). 'Abstinence', as defined by the UN, refers to substitution the direct sexual contact for unmarried individuals with masturbation, couples masturbation, or oral sex without ejaculation in the mouth. The 'Be faithful' to the partner, where the partnership can be between a man and a woman (even outside marriage), a man with another man, or a woman with another woman.

Condomize is the use of condoms during adultery or homosexuality to prevent the transfer of sexually transmitted diseases. The question here, will the condom actually protects from STDs/HIV, in whole or in part, or is it just a myth?

In fact, there are two opinions about the effectiveness of Condoms:

#### The First Opinion:

Fully adopted and embraced by the West and it is being marketed to the whole world, it is integrated with sex education to school students. The west's propaganda promoted Condoms as the most effective practical solution to protect from STDs/AIDS. The West used all their power and advancement to convince the whole world to accept this theory. The Muslim's world accepted this theory without examining it scientifically despite the fact it contradict our religious beliefs.

#### The second opinion:

Which we believe is true, says that condoms provide partial solution to the problem, but not a thorough one, and its disadvantages outweigh its advantages and for seven logical and scientific reasons which were mentioned

in a literature review paper (the text of the paper can be downloaded from our website www.qudah.com).

The questions that consequently arise, which Muslims must ask themselves: Are the harmful effects of forbidden sexual relationships, adultery and homosexuality only associated with AIDS and STIs? If we arguably assumed that condoms provides 100% protection against STIs/AIDS, is it permissible to advise young people to use it during a forbidden sexual relationships? Can we give them such permission? The clear evident answer based on the Qur'an, Sunnah and Islamic law that if we give them such permission, we will be punished by Allah.

Despite all of the mentioned facts (specially the outstanding and successful chastity and fidelity program in Uganda) one cannot turn a blind eye to the extraordinary determination from UN organizations which helps in fighting AIDS to support the promotion of condoms as the practical solution to combat AIDS. These organizations do not even consider any other strategies claiming that it is impossible to alter or discipline the human's behaviors. Their strategy calls for adopting the easy way out by accepting the youth's desires and minimizing its risks instead of directly eliminating these diseases from their roots. This is not an acceptable solution neither ethically nor scientifically, specially that humanity is still paying

the price with increased number of infected people and as a consequence the increase of death rates. It is more effective if the risks of using condoms were revealed to the public.

If these global programs did not solve the problems existing in the countries where they were originally adopted decades ago (for example, the percentage of teenage pregnancy and the incidence of AIDS in the cities of Washington and New York are among the highest in the world), and these programs did not limit the spread of STIs/AIDS, what is the point of disseminating such programs to other countries of the world? Is their goal to spread the epidemics and moral degradations through the promotion of partial and ineffective solutions instead of solving such problems?

If we know that young people of both sexes in many countries of the world, gays and casual sex addicts and even those who have HIV, declare without hesitation, that they do not use condoms. This is due to different reasons such as:

- 1. It reduces the pleasure, as it ruins the feelings of intimacy.
- 2. It is a sign of lack of trust between the two partners
- 3. Some women are afraid it will stuck inside
- **4. It prevents pregnancy**Accordingly, it is not logical, to advocate the

destruction of humanity in order to preserve 'claimed rights' and 'fatal freedom' to a handful of decadent people seeking to indulge in their fatal pleasures, beyond morality and common sense. Is it acceptable to call such collective suicide attempts as 'freedom and rights'?

We are obliged before accepting their claims, especially those directly related to the breach of our principles, to conduct independent scientific researches, to prove or deny such claims. Unfortunately, such research is poorly funded specially in Africa, Arab and Islamic countries.

Since the effectiveness of the condom is partial as reported in the previously mentioned studies, thus it is not accepted to promote condoms as the solution, because it is misleading and incorrect. In addition, we must take into account not to use the term 'medical protector' but to use the term condom (protect from pregnancy only), as the former suggests it is safe and approved by the medical organizations, while refraining from forbidden sexual intercourse is the ultimate prevention that is clinically and scientifically proven.

For this, we must stress that the term safe sex is only an illusion, like other western conventions, it may sound reassuring, but it leads to destroy the youth and their beliefs.

There is no solution to the problems of mankind but the submission to Almighty Allah commands. There must be proper education consistent with common sense, commitment to chastity which follows the Islamic sexual morality. We must work hard to solve the urging sexual problems of youth by facilitating marriage. Despite the scientific advancements, the world is in danger and the humans solve one problem by another but bigger problem. God, the Almighty, says in the Qur'an: (So that Allah may distinguish the wicked from the good and place the wicked some of them upon others and heap them all together and put them into Hell. It is those who are the losers) (Q8:37).

Why Islam and Muslims Oppose Homosexuality and Same Sex 'Marriage'?

# Why ISLAM and Muslims Oppose Homosexuality and SAME SEX 'Marriage'?

Muslim scholars wrote about homosexuality and why it is forbidden in Islam, they justified and supported their discussion from various points and aspects. the medical release issued by a Muslim psychiatrist in London, Dr Abdul Majid Katme in March 2014, stands out for combining scientific facts to logical conclusions, showing that homosexuality is not a normal human behavior, but far away from nature, therefore it should be refuted , at least for the following reasons :

- 1. In the beginning, our Almighty Allah, the God of Moses and Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them) have created a man (Adam) and a woman (Eve) for heterosexual natural marriage for:
- Best natural safe productive happy and blessed sexual relationship
- Procreation and to produce children who will come biologically from both their own father and mother.

God has created us from a male and a female. He created humans from 'ADAM AND EVE, NOT ADAM AND STEVE' as many people opposing 'same sex marriage' from all faiths have been saying today!

This is the only naturally accepted sexual relationship between a man and a woman, through opposite sex marriage within Islamic law which is blessed by Allah.

Heterosexual marital relationship is blessed, encouraged and facilitated in Islam for the satisfaction of both: man and woman .

Any other type of sexual relationship is absolutely forbidden and is punishable in Islam. Allah says in Qur'an: ( And of His signs is that He created for you wives from among yourselves that you might reside with them, and has put kindness and mercy between you. Surely, there are signs in this for those who think.). Q30:21

2. The final holy book the Qur'an says: It is He who created you from a soul. From it He created its mate, so that he might reside with her. And when he had covered her, she conceived, and for a time her burden was light. She carried it with ease, but when it grew heavy, they both upplicated to Allah, their Lord: 'Grant us a goodly child and we will be among the thankful) Q7:189.

The Sayings and actions of the final Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was and is all based on only heterosexual marriage, he says: (Oh Youth, if you can marry then you must do so, it prevents you from

Looking to the beauties of women and prevents you from committing adultery, if not you may keep fast) (Sahih Al-Termethy). Furthermore, all the Jurisprudence /laws and regulations from ALL schools of thoughts have been solely based on this ONLY natural relationship between a man and a woman in marriage.

No doubt that the global movement specially in western countries toward changing laws to accommodate same sex 'marriage' is against the divine law and the result of such act is going to be very costly and confusing to humanity.

3. Homosexual practice is absolutely PROHIBITED in both the Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah, Adultery and any sexual relationship outside marriage is SINFUL, However if homosexual practice is sinful then homosexual 'marriage' is more serious and DOUBLY SINFUL! the humanity may be punished if it agrees on such marriages, prophet (pbuh) says: (If my nation permits five, they ought to have annihilation and destruction,...... one of these fives is men are sexually satisfied with men and women with women). (Behaggi).

Even though feelings are not as serious and harmful as the practice, nevertheless, if homosexual feeling occurred, one should seek help and guidance immediately in order to go back to their natural sexual

orientation according to what Allah created them for and granted them the suitable body (DNA, biology and genital organs etc) to fulfill it.

the Qur'an clearly describe the PUNISHMENT for nations who were known to be homosexuals such as the people of Lot (Sodom and Gomorrah /Dead Sea!), as in the following verse: And when our order came, We made [the towns] topsy – turfy and we rained them with a consecutive shower of stones made of baked clay... Q11:82

Many of us do wonder today if this punishment is going to be repeated again in any part of the world, for homosexuals or their supporters in Parliaments or media.

4. It is now scientifically proved with evidence that homosexual practices helped in the appearance and spread of STIs, beside numerous medical problems which caused human suffering:

It is known that HIV infection and AIDS started among homosexuals in the USA, beside other sexually transmitted diseases (which affect heterosexuals too as a result of immoral sex).

Other diseases and medical problems related to this harmful practice are:



- Anal cancer
- Abscess of the anus
- · Incontinence of feces
- Different infections such as:
  - HIV/AIDS infections
  - Gonorrhea
  - Syphilis
  - Chlamydia
  - Genital Herpes
  - Genital warts/Human Papilloma virus
  - Lymphogranuloma Venereum
  - Chanchroid
  - Colitis/Prostatic (inflammation of the rectum colon), enteritis (inflammation of the intestines)
    - Gastroenteritis
    - Rectal ulcers
  - Gay Bowel Syndrome: Amaebiasis Giardiasis, Shigellosis,
- Pelvic Inflammatory disease
- Hodgkin's disease's risk
- · Kobner's phenomena
- Sore penis/infection
- Abscess/infection
- Fissure/fistula
- Kaposi sarcoma
- 5. The anal area is one of the most contaminated

places in the human body. Huge number of harmful and harmless bacteria, viruses and other types of germs are presented there, because it is estimated that one third of stool is germs. Homosexual sexual practice is the most UNHYGIENIC sexual practice as it is the area of faeces and excreta.

- 6. The many psychological and mental disorders which will affect homosexuals such as:
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Insomnia
- Paranoia
- Suicide thoughts
- Alcoholism etc...
- 7. No doubt, allowing same sex marriage will undermine the image of the accepted natural marriage specially for the younger generation who are still forming their beliefs and ideas about marriage and their sexual orientation, whereas Islam only supports the natural marriage.
- 8. Allah the Creator and the Designer knows our needs and have beautifully created Man and woman to complement and complete each other in all aspects of life which includes their sexual needs. Allah says in The Holy

Qur'an: Should He not know,- He that created? and He is the One that understands the finest mysteries (and) is wellacquainted (with them). Q67:14.

Genetically we have different Chromosomes (Y chromosome for man and X chromosome for woman). Anatomically we have different genital sexual organs which supports men and women to function properly, safely and productively to maximize their pleasure of a lawful marital relationship.

Allah Says: Women are your planting place (for children); come then to your planting place as you please and forward (good deeds) for your souls, and fear Allah. And know that you shall meet Him. Give glad tidings to the believers.Q2:223).

9. Islam always priorities what is in the best of children, the best interest for a child is to live with their biological mother and father.

According to many recent medical and psychological studies, children function better in the heterosexual marriage, where they live with mother and father in a stable marriage.

10. A child who is living in same sex marriage is

adopted whether locally or from abroad is DEPRIVED from their biological parents, This is cruel as it neglects the child natural need for parents from opposite sex. which is against Islam.

Finally no doubt that support and propagation of homosexuality and the legalization of the same sex marriage in different parts of the world is regrettable and is a serious destructive and a backward step, it is against:

- Almighty Allahs orders and the Religious beliefs of all Muslims, Christians and Jews.
- The natural traditional marriage
- · Children mental and physical health
- · All morals and ethics
- Society harmony and safety
- · Our all health
- Against our existence as a society!

Any behavior is PROHIBITED in Islam if it brings a single disease or a medical problem or any sort of human suffering, hence the previous discussion stated the Islamic beliefs towards the issue, and consequently why Islam and Muslims oppose homosexuality and same sex 'marriage'.

# Islamic discourse on the occasion of World AIDS Day

# Islamic discourse on the occasion of World AIDS Day

In the mid-eighties, world health ministers declared that early December of each year as World AIDS Day. The main goal of the World AIDS Day is to allocate one day in the year to raise awareness and to bring people's attention to the disease and the importance of prevention, by all possible means, such as lectures, educational seminars, published articles, dialogues, workshops and research, to reduce the risk of new infections, as well as to help already infected patients. There is no doubt that the dissemination of knowledge and preventive culture for the masses of this disease is a must, however, is this mass action should be confined to one single day in the year? What about the rest of the year? Without neglecting specialized agencies efforts, we are entitled to wonder: Shall we ignore this important subject and limit it to just one day in the year?

## All days to protect the world and to bring happiness:

We Muslims encourage all affirmative actions, small or large, long or short, in any place and from all. In fact, We seek in every day, and every hour in our lives to prevent and protect the public from AIDS and other

diseases. Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, said: "cover the pots and protect the water source; as there is one night in the year, where an epidemic descend and infect any uncoverd pot or unprotected water source" (Sahih Muslim). This is in general, however, in regards to sexually transmitted diseases, as God Almighty says: "And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way" (Isra 32), and the Prophet peace be upon him said: "Once Obscenity appears in a nation, done publicly, epidemic and pain will appear in them that were not in their ancestors" narrated by hakim, moreover, the prophet also said: "If my people permits five, they ought to have annihilation, in which one of these fives is men are fulfilled with men and women with women "(Narrated by al-Daylami).

### To act due to the divine rules to avoid failing into taboos:

It has been scientifically proven, with no doubts, that the main reason for the spread of this epidemic is homosexuality, adultery, and drugs. The 2012 report of the UN program to fight AIDS is a bear witness to this. The report state that fifty thousand people are infected with the AIDS virus in the United States annually. 70 % of which are infected by homosexuality, 20% are due to adultery, 4% due to drugs, 4% homosexuality and addiction, and 2% due to blood transfusion and other causes. Meaning that

98% of the infections are due to committing a taboo.

By forbidding homosexuality, adultery and drugs we automatically move away from these epidemics. The best way to protect against these epidemics is by keeping away from its original causes. These taboos are prohibited by the divine text that we should recite and remember all the time. Therefore, the awareness and education of our masses is automatic and is part of our beliefs, and not one celebratory day in the year. We fight AIDS and all other sexually transmitted diseases all the time. Moreover, our fight must be based on specialized and scientific awareness.

#### The shortest route is the best One:

The Proper handling of the youth problems and their instinctive needs, according to the controls that benefit human beings, and adequate to his nature and status, chosen by almighty God "Does He who created not know, while He is the Subtle, the Acquainted?" (Almulk 14); This handling is the shortest route, least cost, most effective, and the closest to the intuition. Simplifying marriages, and refine youths education and connection with their Allah; to raise the level of faith they have, for God's sake firstly, and to distance them from the evils and the ravages of these epidemics. Faith is the reason for the survival of Noah, peace be upon him, from the flood, saved Abraham from

burning with fire, rescued Moses from drowning in the sea, and saves Yusuf from the plot of Alaziz's wife. Faith is the treasure of Education, in which we can save young people from deviation and loss.

#### No to Half Solutions:

We must admit that young people are at risk as they face many challenges such as STD's, pornography and drugs. They are easy prey due to their lack of experience, and the constant pressure of their instincts that is awaken by the wide spread of stimuli and pornographic materials in the Internet. Youths became victims of the greedy mankind devils; they only care about accumulating money and corrupting the next generations.

This case will not be straightened by half solutions, it is imperative to address the core of the problem and its basis, and to provide effective and radical solutions because it is more existential and more correct. The global vicious propaganda and mass marketing of condoms, through the so-called safe sex campaign is not true, and is not suitable for us as Muslims. It has been scientifically proven that condoms do not fully protect against sexually transmitted diseases as the virus may penetrate the body from places not covered by condoms, such as mouth and breasts, regardless of the condoms quality. Scientific

studies proved beyond any doubt, that the diameter of the blanks in the rubber insulator is fifty times more than the diameter of the AIDS virus, which means that the virus can sneak through easily.

Our religion requires us to discourage young people from obscene acts; to the contrary, we must distance them from such deeds. The arguments that adultery is an inevitable reality, and its immanent damage needs to be mitigates is invalid and not acceptable. To the contrary, we have to persuade the youth to face their responsibilities and to take charge. Sex is exercised only by adult, and presumably sane adult, who can distinguish sacred and right from wrong. Then, he can choose and be responsible for his choices before the Almighty God, as did the Holy Prophet with the young man who asked that he be allowed to adultery, was narrated by Abu Omamah: A young man came to the Prophet peace be upon him and said: O Messenger of Allah! Give me permission to commit adultery! The people snubbed him and said Meh Meh! The prophet said: get closer, and then said: would you like it to your mother? The young man said: No. No. Messenger of Allah. The prophet Said: neither people, they do not like it for their mothers. Then said would you like it to your daughter? The young man said: No, No, Messenger of Allah. The prophet Said: neither people, they do not like it for their daughters. Then said would you like it to your

aun? The young man said: No, No, Messenger of Allah. The prophet Said: neither people, they do not like it for their aunt. Then said would you like to your sister? The young man said: No, No, Messenger of Allah. The prophet Said: neither people, they do not like it for their sister. The he put his hand on him, and said: Oh God! Forgive his sins, and cleanse his heart, and his chastity. And since, the boy did not commit a taboo." (Narrated by Al-albany)

So, Why shall we follow what the West wants? Why not deal with the problem from its roots according to the dictates of our religion.

The measures proclaimed and circulated by the United Nations programs and the World Health Organization to combat AIDS have been designed for environments and beliefs quite different from our environments and beliefs. What works for them does not work for our communities. Although, we wish them well and guidance, but they are free in their own countries, and we are free in our countries. They have no right to impose their rules on others once by invitation and once by intimidation, as the case of many practices and international conferences and conventions, which are trying hard to globalize depravity and to decline virtues. In fact, the covenants and conventions of international humanitarian, do not permit the exploitation of the need to intervene in politics and financial enticement to

influence the beliefs of the targeted communities, customs, traditions, or prevailing norms.

#### Map road for All:

Fighting AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, from the Islamic perspective, is based on the prohibition of adultery, homosexuality and drugs. No half solutions at the expense of our religion, as the West demands. Financial aid to poor countries is typically conditioned by certain regulations invented by West according to their desires and away from the balance of bad and good, because what is right for them, Is what they desire whether it fits the human nature or not. It is allowed in their countries and it is prohibited in our religion. For example, they want us to say to the youth: use condoms when having sex. As if adultery is not a taboo, what is important is not get infected by AIDS, and as if the wrath of God is not important!!!.

These diseases have no identity except adultery, homosexuality, pornography and drugs, especially if accompanied by ignorance and poverty, thus STD's are flourishing in poor and tourist communities. Moreover, STD's are spreading due to mixing between genders, close distances, and frequent travel, which has made the world a small village. STD's are least spread in conservative society, which outlaw sex outside marriage, approve the fidelity of married life, and considers it a good

work closer to God, as it is relatively in Islamic societies. However, our societies are not far from the others, and our youths are targeted. The easiest way for our enemies to control our youths is to twist their morals to fall in prohibited sex practices, which vanishes morality, destroys families, dismantles communities, spreads diseases, and above all, angers God and a divine punishment, true to the verse: "And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way" (Isra 32)

#### Good Vs Evil:

God created man by hand, and make it in the best stature and he distinguished him from other creatures, even scoffed everything for his service, awarded him with reason, and sent righteous messengers to guide them to good and Paradise. And descended his holy books, concluded by the Holy Quran, the eternal miracle "Indeed, this Qur'an guides to that which is most suitable " (Isra 9), and with all this, man was the most controversy, ignited by the devil to infidelity and forbidden practices.

If science, practice, reason and transport, reality, research and studies, and facts and statistics prove very clearly that homosexuality is one of the most things that spread AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; if all that is an obvious and indisputable fact! Why developed countries, especially Western, adopt and defend

homosexuality? They financially support and encourage homosexuality by all possible means. Western countries employ their financial and political power to globalize homosexuality and spread it! Not only that, they fight any one who is against it and call them underdeveloped and terrorists!!!!

We as Muslims, how can we believe them or follow them? and our Quran in which more than three dozen verses tell us about the story of abnormality sodomites. who God severely punished them for the same guilt and immorality! God says:"And [mention] Lot, when he said to his people, "Indeed, you commit such immorality as no one has preceded you with from among the worlds" (Al-'Ankabūt 28), then tells a story about Prophet Lot, peace be upon him: "My Lord, support me against the corrupting people" (Al-'Ankabūt 30). Those who love and insist to spread immorality in earth they are corrupting the earth. We as Muslims, our job, and our purpose in life, is to reconstruct and restore earth not spoil it!? For this, we have no choice but to follow the orders of Allah, because they do good, but we must spread this goodness to others if we can; because Islam is a religion of mercy, love and goodness to the worlds, the Almighty says: " And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds "(Al-'Anbya' 107).

#### Hate the sin not the sinner:

The Muslim is a reformer, and do good to people, in accordance to Hadeeth Qudsi "Creatures are God's children, and the closest to him are the ones who help their dependents" (Narrated by Bazzar). Muslim does not decide who goes to heaven and who goes to hell, but he wish well for all people, for the sake of God. Muslim knows, for sure, that all humans do wrong deeds. And he remembers what Narrated by Imam Malik in his book Muwatta: that Jesus said: "do not talk without mentioning God's name; you will get a rigid hearts, the rigid heart is far from God. Not look at the sins of other as a God, but look as if you were slaves. Men are two: healthy, and afflicted; have mercy on afflicted people, and thank God for wellness"

Muslims deal with infected people by the great Islamic rule: (hate the sin not hate the sinner), He shows to the infected - if the infection is by taboo practices- that the door of repentance is wide open by Almighty God, so we call him to quit taboo, then repent. If he repents, that is the virtue of God, otherwise, he should be punished for his bad deeds, and only God alone who punishes or forgives them. We as individuals have to deal with him gently, helping them against the devil, make them feel loved, guide them to good nicely, and get them closer not distance them, so he learn that the great prophet says: " Every single son of

Adam continually errs (sins), while the best of those who continually err are those who continually repent " (narrated by Tirmidhi). Err, in one form or another, is a general human trait, if he repents, he become one of the elites. Not only this, God Almighty says in the Quran: " And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves [by transgression], remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins - and who can forgive sins except Allah? - and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know. "(Al-Imran 135), In fact, if his repentance is accepted and did good, god's generosity will be overwhelming " Except for those who repent, believe and do righteous work. For them Allah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful"(Al-Furqān 70).

Yes, we do not hate people in particular, regardless of color, race, or an idea or belief, even if they fall in wrong deeds; but we sympathy with him and guide him to the right, not deal with him in bad way, and not name him with bad names, he is the son of Adam, errs like us, as the Holy Prophet peace upon him illustrated, and his assessment is not by us; but by ultimately God alone.

The above mentioned is regarding a human person, who has the right for advice and guidance not criminalization. However, the act itself (homosexuality, adultery, and drugs) does not have this right, especially as

it against every heavenly commands and common sense, and will not be accepted by any sane person. Therefore, we disgrace this act which is forbidden all the time. A forbidden act is a forbidden act no matter how they try to flourish it. and Halal is Halal no matter how they try to twist it. On the other hand, the committer, he is err, the son of Adam. have every opportunity to repent, and do good deeds to win heaven. Let us remember the story of Abdullah also known as the donkey, where he drank wine, he brought in front of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, and a man was swearing at him, and said in astonishing: How frequent this man (Abdullah) is brought to the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him. Then, said the Prophet, peace be upon him: "Do not curse him, he loves Allah and His Messenger "(Bukhari), despite the fact that the messenger. peace be upon him, forbid and cursed wine drinker, sellers. bearer, and manufacturer. So the stigma of the act and no one can change it, but the committer has the right for advice repeatedly.

### Cooperation with the other world:

Almighty God says: "And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah" (Al-Mā'idah 2), so we must cooperate and work, to bring good to all humanity, inspired by Islamic laws. Islam came for the good of humanity, and human happiness. It

is imperative that we contribute to the dissemination of science and knowledge, which helps people avoid what disturbs their lives. The Prophet, peace be upon him says: "The best charity for the people is published science" (Reported by al-tabarni), specially, science that led to positive change in the behavior that pleases Allah and His Messenger, and straighten life on common sense. Prophet, peace be upon him says: "blessed God's slave made him a key to good and lock for evil "(Al-albany).

We, in the project of youth protection from sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, made a pledge, to cooperate with any official or private, national or global organizations; to offer to mankind all that we can from education, and knowledge, according to our Islamic values, in a scientific manner, based on statistics and proven facts, away from the courtesy and equivocating, even if we have to go against the whole world; so we share the same principle with the global campaigns to eliminate sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS from the world, however, we differ in the means. We do not agree to the means that are not approved by our religion.

## And Allah will prevails his orders, but most people do not know

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