Hard Questions About Islam

• What does Islam say about women?
Some people quote the Qur’an to “_________” that Islam does not teach respect for women. For example:
- Daughters and Sons
“God directs you as regards your children’s inheritance: To the male, give portion equal to that of two females.” (4:11)

Not fair!! I would only inherit half as much as my brothers just because I’m a girl!!

The Qur’an was written in the 7th Century. Fathers didn’t have to leave __________ to their daughters. It was tough for women everywhere. For example, in ________________________________, women couldn’t own property unless they were widows.

In Muhammad’s day, families preferred sons. And in Arabia, female babies were often __________, especially if there was a food shortage. The Qur’an says this was “evil.” Muhammad taught that God expected families to love their girls ____ _________ ____ their boys.

- Violence Against Women
“…the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard their purity in their husband’s absence as God would have them do. As to those women on whose part you fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them first. Next, refuse to share their beds. ________ beat them.” (4:34)

In the 7th Century, women and children were ______________ – kind of like cattle or goats. They existed only to please the _____ and to take care of the household. A lot of Arab men were MAD because Muhammad said they had to ________ with their wives FIRST to try to clear things up. Beating them was only a last resort. They were used to beating them ___________ they wanted!

In our day, most Muslims view violence against women as __________. BUT it also depends on their ____________ (more than on their religion).

- Multiple Wives
Many non-Muslims also say Islam disrespects women since men are allowed to have __________ wives.

“Marry women of your choice, Two or three or _________; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one.” (4:3)

Most marry only _____ wife. But in Muhammad’s day, rich men ______________ wives like some rich men today collect cars! Muhammad put a stop to that. He ______________ the number of wives a man can have. He also told men that if they chose to have more than one wife, they had to treat each wife _________ and care for the children of each wife. Women were not to be status symbols. They were life ______________.
By 7th Century Arabia’s standards, he was a protector of women. Muhammad was definitely a reformer. And he was about ____________ rights, not just women. He was about bringing God’s law and justice to a corrupt society.

- Clothing
Islam requires women – and men – to dress ______________. In early Islam, like early Christianity, modest women covered their heads. Today, the _____ of “modest” clothing a Muslim woman wears also reflects her own nation’s (and family’s) ____________.

**Islam, Peace, and Violence**
In the U.S., we’ve had some terrifying experiences. The _____ attackers claimed to be good Muslims. Some Muslims are definitely violent. Some Muslims are definitely violent. But well-educated Muslims know the Qur’an does ____ encourage violence. However, there _____ verses in the Qur’an that sound very violent.

“As to those who reject faith, I will punish them with terrible agony in this world and in the Hereafter, nor will they have anyone to help.” - Qur’an 3:56

“The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His messenger is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned.” Qur’an 5:33

“Soon shall We cast terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers” – Qur’an 3:151

Muhammad’s followers were told to “kill the unbelievers.” BUT they were not told to just go around just killing ____ unbelievers. They were to kill specific unbelievers – the ones from Makkah who had been trying to ______ the Muslims and their ____________ for the several years. After years of persecution, they were given permission to ________ themselves.

In today’s world, radical Muslims love to take those verses ____ of ___________ and use them as _______ in their own political battles and terrorist acts.

While our ______ does pay some attention to Muslim voices for peace, the more dramatic threats and acts of violence by extremist Muslims get a lot more _____________ in the media. Regular Muslims are put in the difficult position of trying to speak _______ _______ the LOUD voices of extremist Muslims. Sometimes this means advertising their peaceful view of Islam. It also means that Muslim leaders and Muslim organizations around the world speak out ____________ violence and _____ peace.

Islam is the ____ largest religion on earth. In our modern world, it is important that Muslims and non-Muslims learn more about each other.