

## Do Muslim woman need to be liberated?

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Yes, we do need to be liberated. As Muslim women -and men- we are claiming this liberation. But we need to be liberated by ourselves and for ourselves and from within. We need to be liberated from the political instrumentalization of the religion, from the despotism and from all kind of materialism or cultural oppression. On top of that, we believe that this liberation can emanate from a new approach of Islam. Because we understand Islam as an ethic of human liberation, we need to work on this liberation without feeling guilty or being manipulated by any ideology.

This is what the new movement of Muslim women as scholars, academics, or activists are working on. It's about a spiritual, anti-patriarchal and decolonial commitment for social justice, equal rights and liberation from all kind of social and political discriminations. As women, we truly cannot be liberated without liberating mentalities from all forms of patriarchy and systemic oppression.

The spiritual dimension of this feminist dynamic is crucial because we are convinced that the core of the Islamic message is about *Equality and Justice for all human beings* and this Qur'anic ethical dimension is our starting point and our source of motivation.

The decolonial dimension for us means a double liberation: both from the hegemonic global ideology who has deprived us from our memory and our history as women of the Global South and also we need to be liberated from the patriarchal tradition which discriminates against us on behalf of our religion.

The decolonial approach is also important because it allows us to refuse the academic and sociological framework imposed by the hegemonic Western academic ideology and its central idea of "*Muslim women as an "object of study and analysis"*" and always victim of the *evil Arab/Muslim man*". It also means to fully claim our intellectual "autonomy" and intellectual independence as Muslim women.

This feminist renewal in Islam is a social, ethical, reformist, spiritual and decolonial movement. It's a history of resistance. Resistance to the patriarchal system of the tradition, of neoliberalism and of the hegemonic western feminism.

We have been accused of being westernized and submitted to the neocolonialist vision. To the contrary, as Muslim women, we are asking for equality, justice and fairness for all people and within the framework of a spiritual and reformist Islamic vision...And this perspective is not only challenging some Islamic traditionalists, conservatives and religious scholars, but also the dominant Western ideology and political regimes.