SPECIAL EDITION

International Campaign:
"The Family: Challenges & Islamic Solutions"
Launched by the Women's Section in
The Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir

The Family
CHALLENGES &
ISLAMIC SOLUTIONS

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Press Statement

On October 3rd, the Women's Section in the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir launched an important global campaign entitled, "The Family: Challenges & Islamic Solutions" which will culminate in an international women's conference at the end of October to be attended by speakers from across the world.

Strong, unified family structures are at the heart of strong, stable, and successful societies. They are vital in providing physical, emotional, and material support and wellbeing to all their members and to ensure the effective care and righteous upbringing of children. However, today there is a crisis affecting the harmony and unity of marriage and family life in communities across the world, including within the Muslim lands. The import of western culture into the Muslim world, with its destructive liberal sexual freedoms, hedonistic individualistic lifestyles, materialistic capitalist ideals and divisive feminist concepts such as gender equality, through mediums such as the entertainment industry, education systems, social media, and feminist organisations have undermined and eroded the institution of marriage and caused an epidemic of family breakdown. This has been exacerbated by the presence of non-Islamic Arab, Asian, or African traditions within our Muslim communities which carry harmful views and practices that have caused discord in marital and family life. All this, alongside a loss of clarity in the understanding of the Islamic social laws, has led to detrimental expectations of marriage, generated confusion regarding the roles and rights of men and women in marital and family life, and resulted in a significant rise in extramarital relationships, domestic violence and divorce in Muslim communities across the world. This is alongside causing a delay in the age of marriage, the devaluing of motherhood and a fertility crisis due to couples choosing to have fewer children. This disintegration of family life in the Muslim lands has been facilitated by the corrupt rule of secular and other non-Islamic regimes in the region through their promotion and implementation of liberal, secular and capitalist values, policies, laws and systems which spread immoral ideas and lifestyles within their societies. Furthermore, these regimes, along with Western governments, international organisations such as the UN and feminist movements are engaged in a major struggle to further reform the Islamic family and social laws along secular and liberal lines as well as to strengthen liberal and gender equality ideals within Muslim communities which have already sown social devastation within states. The state of the family unit within the Muslim Ummah is therefore worryingly following the same path towards destruction seen in the West where the family structure is in meltdown. This is despite the fact that the strength, unity and harmony of family life was once a characteristic feature of the Islamic Ummah.

Unhappy, fragmented and dysfunctional marriages and family lives cause huge emotional turmoil for all involved and can have a devastating impact on children, individuals and societies. It is therefore vital that serious attention be given to addressing this crisis in the family unit and saving it from destruction. In this important campaign and conference, we will highlight the dangers of the changing face of the family structure in today's world. We will identify the key factors harming the institution of marriage and harmony of family life, including the role of the media and governments in fueling this crisis. We will expose national and international agendas to secularise the Islamic family and social laws to distance Muslims further from their Deen. And crucially, we will showcase the Islamic social system and demonstrate how its unique view towards regulating gender relations, alongside its sound principles, values and laws, including its clear definition of the roles and rights of men and women within family life, can protect marriage, nurture tranquility and harmony within marital life, elevate motherhood to the great status it deserves and establish and preserve strong unified family units. The campaign and conference will also explain the vital role of Islamic governance under the Khilafah state (Caliphate) based upon the Prophethood in cultivating, promoting and protecting strong marriages and family units to illustrate how Islam is indeed the fortress of the family!

The campaign can be followed at:
http://www.hizb-ut tahrir.info/en/index.php/dawah/cmo/16024.html

Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/WomenandShariah

Dr. Nazreen Nawaz
Director of the Women's Section
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"O young People! Whoever among You Can Marry, Should Marry"

Allah (swt) created mankind and made marriage the manner to procreate; Allah (swt) called marriage in the Noble Quran the "solemn covenant" to indicate its importance. ﴿وَأَخَذْنَ مِنكُم مِّيثَاقًا غَلِيظًا﴾"… **and they have taken from you a solemn covenant?**" [An-Nisa': 21]

The Prophet (saw) disproved of the one who refuses to marry whatever the reason may be, even if this reason is Qiyam ul–Layl (staying up the night for worship) or fasting the day. The Prophet (saw) said:«...وأَتَزَوَّجُ النِّساء، فَمَنْ رَغِبَ عَنْ سُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي»"…and I marry wives, the one who does not act upon my Sunnah is not of me."

Imam Ahmad (may Allah's mercy be on him) said: "Celibacy is not from Islam, whosoever advises you to remain unmarried; has called you for other than Islam".

The reluctance to marry is contrary to the Sunnah, and contrary to typical nature; and a door to the spread of corruption and vice, and abominations, may Allah forbid. Abstaining from marriage without a valid reason lessens the anxiety and discontent, because marriage brings tranquility, peace, affection and love.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give though." [ar-Rum: 21]

Marriage agrees with human nature and ensures the survival of the human species, the succession on earth, the increase of progeny, and the prosperity of the land; it achieves the promise of the Prophet (saw) of the increased in numbers multiplied reproduction (of the Ummah) in front of other nations on the Day of Resurrection.

But when we look at the Muslim world, we see a large number of unmarried young women and men, and a recent study indicates that one-third of the number of young unmarried women in the Arab countries reached the age of thirty. For example, the percentage of unmarried males in Egypt between the ages of 18 and 29 years was about 37.4 percent of the total married population, compared with 16.4 percent of females in the 2017 census, according to Egyptian census data. According to some statistics, Palestine scored the lowest percentage with 7%, Bahrain with 25%, Yemen 30%, Kuwait, Qatar and Libya 35%, Egypt and Morocco 40%, Saudi Arabia and Jordan 45%, Algeria 51%, Tunisia 65%, Iraq and Syria 70%, UAE 75%, while Lebanon recorded the highest percentage reaching 85%. (Albawaba)

These large percentages are not promising, leading to evils, sedition (fitnah) and deviation, affecting the family and society. And these young people think that they live a calm life away from family problems and that their lives are free of family worries and troubles, but they are wrong because if they are chaste, they will live with unease, anxiety and suffer a bitter life and they will be

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deprived of the pleasure of marriage and the blessing of children which is of the greatest blessings that Allah bestowed to humans. If they are not chaste, they will turn to the Haram and sin, abandoning the Deen, upright values, and morality.

For this reason, the causes of delayed marriage or abstinence should be studied to remove the obstacles and facilitate it for young men and women. Otherwise, the Haram will be replaced by Halal, and corruption, fornication and sins will spread in the family and society, and the Ummah will be distanced further from the revival and returning back to Islam; its constitution, method and the state.

If we look at the reasons for the delay of marriage, we see that sometimes they differ from one country to another, but they are in common and are due to the non-application of the Shariah rulings, the most important of these reasons are:

The high cost of dowry (mahr) and the high cost of marriage in its empty manifestations, which makes marriage difficult or nearly impossible for many young men which delay marriage, or they turn to marry foreign women that do not cost them anything, which increases the number of unmarried women. This is contrary to what Allah has prescribed to the ease the costs of marriage. The Prophet (saw) said, «أَعْظَمُ النِّسَاءِ بَرَكَةً أَيْسَرُهُنَّ مَئُونَةً» "Women with the most Barakah are those with the easiest dowry."

This is not to mention the many conditions and materialistic demands of the young women and her family, and concern with the materialistic aspect in the choice of husband and lack of attention to other important attributes such as Deen, morals and capability. The Legislator stressed two of great qualities to look for in the male spouse. The Prophet (saw) said:«إِذَا أَتَاكُمْ مَنْ تَرْضَوْنَ دِينَهُ وَخُلُقَهُ فَزَوِّجُوهُ إِلَّا تَفْعَلُوا تَكُنْ فِتْنَةٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَفَسَادٌ كَبِيرٌ» "Whoever comes to you and you're pleased with their Deen and character (khulq) marry them! If you don't, there will be corruption and great harm in the earth." [Tirmithi]

There is no doubt that Allah guaranteed to support His faithful slave to get married, the Prophet (saw) said: «ثَلَاثَةٌ حَقٌّ عَلَى اللهِ عَوْنُهُمْ: الْمُجَاهِدُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللهِ وَالْمُكَاتِبُ الَّذِي يُرِيدُ الْأَدَاءَ وَالنَّاكِحُ الَّذِي يُرِيدُ الْعَفَافَ» "There are three people whom Allah will surely help: a warrior in the cause of Allah, a slave who wants to free himself by a payable contract, and whoever seeks chastity by marriage." [Tirmithi]

It is so strange to find a man who gets his daughter married to someone who does not pray and does not fear his Lord, for his wealth and the abundance of his money and rejects the righteous man for his poverty!!

This problem is further exacerbated by the absence of the Islamic state that would look after the people, and by the capitalist system in which we live, such as the spread of unemployment, low income, widespread corruption and nepotism, which makes those seeking to get married incapable of starting a family life.

Among the most important factors that hinders marriage and delays it for many young men and women is the influence of corrupt media directed and influenced by the concepts of the West, its principles, social patterns, ideas and manifestations that are far from the provisions of Islam; that are transmitted to the children of Muslims through various series, films and programs. This is in addition to their weak religious deterrent and absence of deterant laws and limits in the system leading to the decline of values and ethics, and openness without restrictions. Thus, some formed illicit relationships and chase after forbidden desires and deluded dreams and the mirage of fake love and the need for the couple to have a relationship before marriage so that they know each other!! This is one of the greatest fitnah, may Allah protect us, or their desire for freedom and not act responsibly or other rational convictions unjustifiable by Shariah and are not to be relied upon.

Because of the man-made rule capitalist laws in the Muslim countries, which are governed by benefit and interest, and where family relations and proper guardianship and family ties are dissolved, a number of young women feel threatened and insecure of the future. Therefore they will seek-according to them- to find a weapon to protect their future; that is education and work, even if it clashes with their marriage and motherhood. If the rules of Islam were applied, they would not feel this because Islam guarantees their protection, care and security in all their roles in life. We also must not forget the illusion of equality and economic empowerment, which makes women think of independence and pursue their self-achievement and personality by finding a prominent place in society, and thus the idea of class and cultural equivalence emerge between spouses serving as a criterion that women set in choosing the person to marry, it may not be found, leading to delay in marriage or not getting married. The family sometimes is the reason for the delay of their daughter's marriage or they practice "Al Adhl" (preventing daughters from getting married) to realize their desires to benefit materially.

To solve a problem or minimize its effects we must eliminate its causes, we must begin to emphasize the importance of marriage and its necessity for young men and women, and we must show the dangers of abstaining from marriage or making it difficult. And then we must work to facilitate marriage through the following:

To reduce the costs of marriage, to reduce dowry, to lower the costs of marriage and its demands, and to accept those we are satisfied with their Deen and morals, even if they have less money, and by keeping in mind the words of Allah (swt):

وَأَنْكِحُوا الْأَيَامَى مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّالِحِينَ مِنْ عِبَادِكُمْ وَإِمَائِكُمْ إِنْ يَكُونُوا فُقَرَاءَ يُغْنِهِمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ

"And marry the unmarried among you and the righteous among your male slaves and female slaves. If they should be poor, Allah will enrich them from His bounty, and Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing" [An-Nur: 32]. And the saying of the Prophet (saw): إِنَّ مِنْ يُمْنِ الْمَرْأَةِ»«تَيْسِيرَ خِطْبَتِهَا، وَتَيْسِيرَ صَدَاقِهَا، وَتَيْسِيرَ رَحِمِهَا" It is from the Barakah of the woman: the ease of her engagement, the ease of her dowry, and the ease by which she conceives (have children)."

And the saying of Umar (ra) said: "Do not increase the dowry of women, had it given honour in the Dunya or been a worship (taqwa) for the Akhira then the Messenger of Allah would have been more fitting of that than you (but He (saw) did not increase the dowry)." [Narrated by the five narrators and verified by Tirmidhi]

And we say to the one who prevents his daughter or sister from getting married, due to greed of her money or job, despite getting a proposal from the righteous man and their acceptance of the proposal: that this is forbidden by the Shariah. Allah (swt) says:

فَلَا تَعْضُلُوهُنَّ أَن يَنكِحْنَ أَزْوَاجَهُنَّ إِذَا تَرَاضَوْا بَيْنَهُم بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

"…do not prevent them from remarrying their [former] husbands if they agree among themselves on an acceptable basis" [Al-Baqara: 232].

As for the young people who are reluctant to marry because of the wrong ideas and concepts that are far from Islam, we say to them: Fear Allah and know that time passes and the desire ceases and only the guilt and sorrow remain, and tranquility and peace will only come by marrying the righteous woman or a righteous husband.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِّتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُم مَّوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give though." [ar-Rum: 21]

And do not imitate what you see in serials and destructive programs full of corrupt concepts and behaviours that are far from our Deen, morals and values, which are exported to us to corrupt us, because they fear the mighty return of Islam as it was during the days of the existence of its strong secure state.

As for you, my daughter and sister, you should accept a husband that pleases Allah and His Messenger, and do not prefer the incompetent to the competent for money or name or status you want, or for your desired privilege, or for a wish in the Dunya, so that you attain Allah's blessing. Also, your study or job is not more

important than your marriage and your motherhood, and there is no clash between them, if you are able to balance between them. Your first role in this life is to be a mother and a housewife, and earning a living is the task of the man (husband). He has to secure all your needs. This does not reduce your position and status, rather on the contrary, this is your role and by Allah it is a very important one, and from the most difficult tasks men cannot do, it is the building of a human being, your home and your family are not compensated for by a certificate or a job whatsoever.

We would also like to draw attention here to a Shariah ruling that its absence resulted in the increase in the number of unmarried women. This ruling was distorted by serials, films, petty writings of petty male and female writers; this is polygamy, which is a Shariah law from the laws of Allah and from the Sunnah of the Messenger (saw), which is a good solution for the increasing number of unmarried women, we need to clarify this law. Also the polygamist must fear Allah and ensure fairness, what distorted the law of polygamy are the unjust polygamists. The majority of them are inclined towards some women (wives) and their children at the expense of other women (wives) and their children, this made women hate polygamy and many others fear for themselves and their daughters from it. Some have even preferred to remain unmarried than to marry a polygamist that will be unjust to her or to another wife because of her assuming it will be sinful.

And we conclude with the words of the Prophet (saw):
يَا مَعْشَرَ الشَّبَابِ، مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْكُمُ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ، فَإِنَّهُ أَغَضُّ لِلْبَصَرِ وَأَحْصَنُ» «لِلْفَرْجِ، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ، فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وِجَاءٌ"
O young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, because it helps him lower his gaze and guard his modesty (i.e. his private parts from committing illicit sexual intercourse etc.), and whoever is not able to marry, should fast, as fasting diminishes his sexual power."

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Muslimah Ash-Shami (Umm Suhaib)

The "Family Meltdown" of Western Secular Society PART 1:
The Reality of Family Meltdown in Western Secular States

In April 2008, Justice Paul Coleridge, the judge in charge of family courts across South West England, delivered a speech to family lawyers from the organisation "Resolution", where he described family life in the UK in "meltdown" marked by an epidemic of family breakdown. He said, "A large number of families now consist of children being brought up by mothers who have children by a number of different fathers, none of whom take any part in their lives or support or upbringing....These are not isolated, one-off cases. They are part of the stock-in-trade of the family courts." He continued, "Almost all society's ills can be traced directly to the collapse of family life. We all know it. Examine the background of almost every child in the care system or the youth justice system and you will discover a broken family. Ditto the drug addict. Ditto the binge drinker. Ditto those children who are truanting or who cannot behave at school. Scratch the surface of these cases and you invariably find a miserable family, overseen by a dysfunctional and fractured parental relationship - or none at all."

This morbid description of family life in the UK came in the wake of other news stories, including the fall in marriage rates in England and Wales to the lowest level since records began in 1862 (Office for National Statistics (ONS)) and a rise in divorce rates to the highest since 1996. These views regarding the meltdown of the family structure in the UK were also echoed by various politicians, academics and teachers in the country. Robert Wheelan from the think-tank CIVITAS,(The Institute for the Study of Civil Society), which often advises the British government on civil issues, described family break-ups as too big a problem for state help to resolve. He said, "The state might be able to pour in money and bombard children with help if there were a small proportion of broken families, but it can't cope with a problem on this scale." Karen Woodall from the Centre for Separated Families commented, "Family separation is actually a fact of life in the UK across the whole of society. If you add in all the grandparents of children whose parents are separated and of adults partnering and other separated parents, it is likely that divorce and separation is an issue affecting half the population." And teachers at the 2008 annual conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers described a "toxic circle" of family breakdown affecting children's ability to learn as well as their mental health and well-being.

Over the last decade, the scale of the meltdown of the family unit in the UK has only intensified. In fact, it has been in freefall. Christian Guy, the Director of the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), an influential British think-tank that advises on social issues in Britain, warned in a report published in 2013, titled, "Fractured Families: Why Stability Matters", of a "'tsunami' of family breakdown battering the country". He stated that the human, social and financial costs were 'devastating' for children and adults alike but that regardless of being faced with this national 'emergency', the response from politicians of the Left and the Right had been 'feeble'.

This tsunami of family breakdown is mirrored in states across the western world. In the UK, the divorce rate stands at 42% (ONS). In 2012 there were 13 divorces every hour in England and Wales. In the US 53% of marriages end in divorce, in Sweden it's 64%, and in Belgium it's an eye-watering 70% (figures from Business Insider). According to Eurostat, between 1965 to 2013 the crude divorce rate doubled in the EU-28 countries.

This huge increase in divorce has been accompanied by a huge surge in lone parent households – households where a child is living only with their mother or father. In the UK, between 1996 and 2012 the number of lone parent households increased by 25% to around 2 million and now represent a quarter of all 'families' with dependent children (ONS). In fact, according to government figures, nearly half of all 15-year olds in the country are not living with both their natural parents. In poorest communities, this rises to 2/3 of all adolescents. The vast majority (92%) of lone-parent households with dependent children are headed by mothers; many struggling to bring up their children alone, while also being the sole-provider for their family. Every year, an additional 20,000 people, mainly women, join those raising children alone. The consequence is that huge numbers of children in the UK, 1 in 3 in fact, are growing up without a father at home, with an estimated 1-2 million of them being deprived of any meaningful contact with their fathers (ONS), and many having no contact at all. The official birth registration figure for 2015 showed that more than half of new teenage mothers do not live with the father or the name of the father is not registered. The Fatherhood Institute states that by the time they had reached 16 years of age, 1 in 6 of all children in the UK did not see their father at all. David Cameron, former British Prime Minister, stated in his speech at the 2015 Conservative Party Conference that, "Today, a teenager sitting their GCSEs is more likely to own asmartphone than have a dad living with them."

It is a similar story in other Western secular states. According to the U.S. 2010 Census, 1 in 3 children in America (15 million) live without their fathers and nearly 5 million live without a mother. And in some urban areas, only 1 in 10 children has a father present.

Alongside this epidemic in family breakdown within secular Western states, there has been the dramatic drop in marriage rates within these countries over the last few decades. According to Eurostat, between 1965 and 2013, the crude marriage rate in the EU-28 countries declined close to 50% in relative terms. In the UK, over the last 40 years, the proportion of the adult population that is married has decreased from around 70% of the population to less than half (CSJ). 2013 marked the lowest marriage rate on record. According to the Office for National Statistics, only a half of today's teens in the country will marry. In most of the Nordic countries such as Iceland, Denmark, and Norway, only about 30% of women are married, while that drops to fewer than 20% of those women who are aged between 25 and 29. (worldatlas.com)

In contrast to this drop in marital rates, co-habitation (couples living together outside of marriage) within Western states has sky rocketed as it became recognised within liberal societies as an accepted form of 'family structure', morally on par with the institution of marriage. So, in the UK, while fewer than 1 in 100 adults under the age of 50 co-habited in the 1960's, this has increased to 1 in 5 today (ONS), comprising 3.3 million households (ONS). In fact, cohabitation has been the fastest growing household type over the past 2 decades in the country. This is despite the fact that report after report, study after study revealed that marriage is the most stable way to bring up children, with households based on co-habitation more likely to break apart than those based on marriage. According to figures released by the Marriage Foundation organisation, British children born to co-habiting parents are 94% more likely to see the break-up of their parents before the age of 12 compared to children born to married parents.

As a consequence of this liberal lifestyle in the West, it is therefore hardly surprising that extramarital births have soared within these states. Eurostat figures state that the proportion of live births outside marriage in the EU-28 countries in 2014 was 42%. In 2015, extramarital births outnumbered births inside marriage in several EU member states: France – 59%, Sweden – 55%, Denmark – 56%, Estonia and Slovenia (58%) (Eurostat). In the UK, nearly half (47%) of all babies are born outside marriage (ONS), while in the 1940's it was around 6%. According to a study by academics at the U.S.'s John Hopkins University, published in 2012, 57% of parents in America aged 26-31 were having children out of marriage.

In addition to the tsunami of family breakdown in the West, there are also other major problems affecting family life, such as the lack of time parents spend with children due to both the father and mother having demanding work expectations which is also straining marriages; the sufferings of the "Superwoman" struggling to balance the responsibilities of home life with a high-maintenance career or job; and the downsizing of the family unit with couples choosing to have fewer children or even no children at all which has caused a 'baby' gap in a number of countries including France, Germany and Spain, resulting in an ageing population and fewer young people to look after the elderly.

The declining worth of family life in Britain and in many other Western secular societies is evident to see, as are the consequences of broken or dysfunctional families which have devastated the lives of so many, especially children and sown a multitude of social problems for these states. Justice Paul Coleridge described the fall out of this high scale of family breakdown in Britain as, "...a never-ending carnival of human misery. A ceaseless river of human distress".

Part 2 of this article will examine the root causes of the family meltdown in Western secular liberal states.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Dr Nazreen Nawaz
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The "Family Meltdown" of Western Secular Society
PART 2:
The Causes of Family Meltdown in Western Secular States:

Western governments have tried to introduce various initiatives to stem the tide of family breakdown within their societies. However, these have been to no avail. This is because they failed to recognise that the fundamental causes of this family meltdown are the core secular values and the general lack of importance given to protecting marriage and family life within capitalist liberal societies.

Liberal Personal and Sexual Freedoms:

The "personal and sexual freedom" based culture of liberal societies has nurtured a hedonistic and care-free attitude to life based upon the pursuit of carnal and individualistic whims and desires rather than nurturing a mindset of accountability in one's actions and responsibility towards others. It has created an aversion to marriage in many individuals due to fear over the commitment, fidelity and responsibility required - viewing marriage as a "curbing of their freedom" and preferring rather to be "free and single" and to have sexual relations with "whoever, whenever". It has spurned a culture of promiscuity resulting in spiralling rates of extramarital teenage pregnancies, abortions, single mothers and adultery which is one the main causes of divorce in many liberal societies. According to research cited by The Independent, 50-60% of married men and 45-55% of married women in the UK commit adultery. According to figures from The Times, adultery constitutes 12% of the causes of divorce in Britain. Abigail Lowther, associate solicitor with a family law firm, stated that infidelity in the UK was "skyrocketing" compared to other types of divorce-related behaviour. In Denmark, 46% of married couples have had an affair according to numbers from Statista. And in the US, some surveys found that around 1 in 3 people admitted to cheating on their spouse. In fact, within liberal societies, the sanctity of marriage and fidelity has eroded to such an extent that businesses providing 'adultery services' operate legally within the state! However, this philosophy of maximising personal freedom does not deliver individuals the happiness that individuals necessarily desire. A report by the British Red Cross and the Co-operative, published in December 2016, found that divorce and family breakdown have led to an epidemic of loneliness in the UK. In fact, it has left 9 million Britons lonely.

This liberal culture and lifestyle have also created a situation where a man may have extramarital relations with a countless number of women and father children from different mothers, yet take no physical or emotional responsibility for his child or its mother other than a possible cheque in the post once a month. This has scarred the lives of millions of children and women. Justice Paul Coleridge, a former British High Court Judge in the family division, described this as an, "endless game of 'musical relationships' or 'pass the partner', in which such a significant portion of the population is engaged....the endless and futile quest for a perfect relationship." It is a situation that has also created a lack of trust in individuals seeking a partner for marriage, for they are unsure whether such a relationship is based upon loyalty, fidelity and care or not, and they are concerned regarding surviving such a societal climate saturated with promiscuity and self-gratification. It is one of the causes of the drop in marital rates in the liberal west.

Furthermore, the dangerous mindset nurtured by liberal values that encourages men to pursue and act upon their whims and desires, alongside the devaluing of women within liberal societies that sanctions their sexualisation and objectification by various industries, is a major contributing factor to the epidemic of domestic violence afflicting Western societies. One in three women has reported some form of physical or sexual abuse since the age of 15 (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights). In the UK, one in four women experiences domestic violence in her lifetime and 2 women are killed each week by a current or former partner (UK Office for National Statistics). In the US, one woman is beaten by her husband or partner every 15 seconds (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and 3 are killed by their partner each day (American Psychology Association). And in Australia, every 3 hours a woman is hospitalised because of domestic violence (Research Centre for Injury Studies, Flinders University, Australia).

Individualism:

The "cancerous" individualistic mindset of "Me, myself, and I", bred within capitalist societies that sanctify securing individual self-interest over all else has eaten away at the foundations of the family structure. It has caused individuals to focus on what is best for them rather than what is best for their spouse or marriage resulting in increased divorce. It has caused individuals to place their own desires above the wellbeing of their own children and society, and to detach their self-indulgent actions and lifestyles from the detrimental impact it has on others. It has contributed to people delaying or rejecting having children until later life to maximize their social life, personal finances and personal freedom. According to the UK Office of National Statistics

(ONS), the proportion of babies born to women under 25 in England and Wales dropped from 47% in 1971 to 25% in 2008. The ONS 2010 Social Trends forty report stated that the number of people living in family homes with children fell from 52% in 1961 to 36% in 2009, while the number of single person households rose from 1.7 million to 7 million in the same period. According to latest statistics, women in their mid-40s in the UK are almost twice as likely to be childless as their parent's generation, with one in five women born in 1969 being childless today. Clare McNeil, author of 'Generation Strain' (a recent report from the Institute of Public Policy Research) warns that, "The number of people aged 65-74 without children to care for them in old age will almost double before the end of the next decade," and that, "By 2030, more than a million people in this age group won't have children, compared with 580,000 in 2012." The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Survey published in 2015 found that nearly half (47.6%) of women in America between age 15 and 44 never had children. It represented the highest percentage of childless women since the bureau started tracking that data in 1976. In a U.S. survey of childfree men and women, entitled "Two is enough: A couple's guide to living childless by choice" (Scott, 2009) quoted by Psychology Today, 80% of respondents, particularly those aged under 40, rated as a strong motive the statement – 'I value freedom and independence'.

Individualism has also caused parents to neglect their children while pursuing their own personal interests, and caused children to neglect their elderly parents, viewing them as burdens on their time and their personal finances, placing them in homes for others to look after. And the individualistic concern for one's own family and disregard or neglect of other relatives has caused a lack of a support system for extended family facing physical, financial and emotional problems, causing many to suffer in silence alone.

Gender Equality:

Within capitalist secular societies, there has been a devaluing of motherhood and family life against economic life. On a historical level, the Western struggle for gender equality and the rise of feminism placed the public life and the man's traditional role of breadwinner above the private life, motherhood and the woman's traditional role of home-maker. Many feminists argued that female respect and liberty was not compatible with economic dependence upon her husband or full domestic responsibility, and therefore, it was not simply a matter of the woman having the right to work but that it was almost obligatory to work. Christabel Pankhurst, the well-known radical feminist and member of the suffragette movement of the early 20th century, said of home-life responsibilities that they were an in intolerable burden on married women, a waste of time and economic energies, and was unpaid and unrecognised.

Today, one of the consequences of this view of home-life and concept of "Gender Equality" has been the creation of societies where women do not simply have the right to employment but rather are expected to work even if they were single mothers with sole responsibility for the care and upbringing of their children. The concept of gender equality that was in theory to produce the "have it all woman", in reality produced the "do it all woman" – who continued to burden the responsibilities of motherhood and household chores but now also struggled with the added burden of financially maintaining the family. With both parents as breadwinners in many families, there is a constant struggle to find time for the children or time to make marriages strong, often straining the relationship between the husband and wife. Hence, Gender Equality, where one looks at what is best for the woman verses what is best for the man rather than what is best for a family or community overlooks what is best for a strong marriage for the children and for society overall. Furthermore, gender equality, which erodes the appreciation of sex differences and roles, has also impacted the recognition within the workplace and society of the importance of motherhood, leading to many employers failing to accommodate adequately for those women with young children, such as providing flexible working hours or other required needs, dismissing the importance of their duties to their family.

Materialism:

The capitalist, materialistic system that has placed the pursuit of wealth as its supreme ideological goal has placed profit over people and finance over families. It has focussed consistently on securing the coffers of government or revenue of businesses over securing the family. This constant drive for short-term profitability has undervalued motherhood and family life and forced even single mothers into work, leaving them little time to bring up their children effectively. Indeed, there are often financial incentives for mothers to return to work; very few incentives for them to stay at home to ensure the effective upbringing of their children. This valuing of materialism over motherhood has led to a situation where a pregnant woman or one with young children is often seen as a burden to a company rather than as an asset to society. A survey of 500 managers by the UK law firm, Slater & Gordon published in 2014, shows that more than 40% admitted they are generally wary of hiring a woman of childbearing age, while a similar number would be wary of hiring a woman who has already had a child or hiring a mother for a senior role. A third of managers in this study stated that they would rather employ a man in his 20s or 30s over a woman of the same age for fear of them taking maternity leave. A 2005 survey of 98 companies in the UK by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation found that ¾ of businesses would rather break the law than employ a pregnant woman or one of child-bearing age. The

consequence is that not only are women pressured into employment and expected to be wage-earners for their family, they are discriminated against in the workplace for having a womb! The consequence is that many women would rather delay having children or remain childless rather than face this "fertility penalty" on their earnings or career. It seems that, for many women in the West, being "chained to the kitchen sink" has been replaced with being "chained to the economic market". This is one of the contributing factors to the low birth rates and 'fertility crisis' affecting many western capitalist states today which is having various detrimental effects on their societies, including fewer people to look after aging populations. One should also not forget the emotional gauntlet experienced by those women forced to undergo IVF treatment in order to conceive due to reduced fertility, miscarriages and increased pregnancy-related complications associated with delaying motherhood.

Conclusion:

It is clear that it is the values and laws of the capitalist secular liberal system implemented within most western states which are the root cause of the chaos and ruin of the family structure within their societies. Indeed, the system is inherently designed to create family instability and breakdown, resulting in untold human misery for so many individuals and children and countless problems for the state.

Unfortunately, the Muslim Ummah living in the West or in the Muslim world has not been shielded from these secular or materialistic values due to being submerged in environments and living under systems which promote and celebrate these non-Islamic ideals. The consequence is that the concept of "strong marriages" and "strong family units" that has always been understood by Muslims over the generations to be the heart or building block of a strong community has today also been eroded within the Muslim Ummah. As Muslims, it is vital that we take serious lessons from the meltdown of the family structure that has transpired within western societies and reject the beliefs, values and system that have caused this social chaos, so that our communities do not follow the same destructive path. This is alongside understanding clearly and embracing the sound values, social laws and system of Islam which alone are equipped to solve the many problems affecting the harmony and unity of family life in our Ummah.

"In the coming decades, success will accrue to those cultures that preserve the family's place." Joel Kotkin - Author of 'Where Have All the Babies Gone?' and Fellow in Urban Studies at Chapman University in Orange, California, US.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

**Dr. Nazreen Nawaz
Director of the Women's Section in The Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir**

A Mother, Wife and a Housewife: the Price for the Slavery of Childbearing!
This is How Secularism Corrupted Women's Lives!

What is the meaning of the woman being a mother, a wife and a housewife according to a doctrine that denies all human, moral, or spiritual values because it views that benefit is the criteria for actions and that benefit is the balance and what is weighed? This doctrine views that humans are valued according to their productivity within the society and by their level of material income! Therefore, the housewife is not among the productive individuals because the rule that evaluates the individual is: "If one works he will succeed". But the mother and the housewife are outside the new international formula because they do not have paid work, and because they have linked themselves to the husband, children and the family as mentioned in the Beijing document.

If a woman works without pay or reward; she works hard and gets tired and sacrifices her time, health and effort without a material gain, it is considered stupidity and backwardness if it is by her consent, or is seen as oppression and infringement of her rights if she was forced into it.

This is why women as mothers, wives and housewives are classified as either unfair to themselves or oppressed; either they voluntarily chose to live a minor traditional role, to distance themselves from participating in the building and development of their society, and to establish themselves and build their independence. And by depending on men to spend on them and care for them, they become a burden on the family and are useless. This classification entraps women in their choices, and puts them to accountability and questioning if they complained or demanded any of their rights. After all, the law does not protect the fools and those who neglected themselves! And before that, it exposes women to scorn and even contempt by other women! And they may be abandoned by their husbands if they hold the belief that marital life is a partnership in roles and responsibilities, and not that each has their own specific roles; so he refuses to be the only spender and the breadwinner, and the woman becomes the beneficiary and exploiter!

The second category receives the sympathy and support because the woman did not choose to put herself in this box, but marriage, family and children are an inevitable evil. And this is the dark fate that awaits the women who are failures, who did not achieve academic achievement! The woman receives these opinions that depict her as the victim, and the opinion that if she had a job in life, it is more precious than being tied to the walls of the house, cleaning, cooking and raising her children, and that her work inside her house is reducing her and depriving her of her rights. The question - "What is your job?" - brings her worries and aggravation, and often the answer is a shy and ashamed: "Unfortunately I'm sitting at home!"

Women who are the model of appreciation, respect, and rank travel and are ideal They are those who work to prove themselves and challenge the limits of their instinct, and do not accept to be unemployed or marginalized and to have their role restricted as a "baby making machine" and looking after the house, and they compete with men in sometimes stressful and difficult work. They overcome the traditional roles that were prepared for them, and break the barrier of dependence on men. This woman may marry and give birth, but does not adhere to the stereotype of the mother and wife and raising children, but she doubles her effort and energy at her own expense and that of her family and children, so as to not lose the Medal of Honor received by Governments, associations, media and feminist organizations as being the iron lady who is capable of confronting the challenges!! But the question remains: Who has put down these challenges and conditions that do not grant her full humanity only if she stretches herself and neglects her instinctive roles under the pretext of self-assertion? Was the purpose behind this achieving the interests of women or the interests of the greedy capitalist individual?

All of these opinions coincided with the industrial developments in Western countries, which saw the need for women to participate in work outside the house with men in order to increase production. And since the labour force must be cheap, women are the best choice. Even today, the pay gap between men and women can be seen and among those who hold the same jobs as men despite calls for equality and allegations of elimination of differences and discrimination between men and women! This is secularism in its ugliest and dirtiest deals; it exploits women at the expense of their motherhood, family and natural environment by selling some false claims to fool women!

Secularism violated the woman's instinct and tampered with her life the day it undermined the role of the mother and restricted it to giving birth only. This role was delegated to nannies and maids. The role of caring for children is no longer that of the mother's only. Even the idea of the mother who gives birth was abandoned and replaced by the alternative mother who hires her womb (surrogate), giving the original mother the opportunity to work and prove herself and maintain her fitness and body form!! So the only link between the mother and her child, the umbilical cord, has a material substitute provided by the capitalist regimes in the West in a formal and legal way; thus, wiping out the female instinct completely,

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and infringing on the most basic right: to be a mother carrying a baby in her womb!! This allowed the feminist to be audacious and blame the woman's biological make up. Simon De Beauvoir wrote in the book entitled The Slavery of Childbearing, "Giving birth restricts the freedom of women, it is in fact slavery that must be fought, and the crux of the oppression of women is their role as being pregnant, nursing and raising children!"

The West has sought to weaken the immunity of the Muslim society through spreading of the word "women's liberation" to suggest that a woman is a slave that must be liberated and that she is lost and needs to be saved. The only obstacle to her liberation were those advocating it!. The attack was fierce on the concept of "mother, wife and housewife" until the word wife became a description of the civil situation away from the deep and rooted meaning held by Muslim women about the husband, her relationship with him, the concept of obedience and good relationship, respect , affection and mercy. These inherent concepts, which are stipulated in the Shariah texts, are presented in a tacky manner on satellite channels, and are met with contempt and sarcasm, or through some preachers and religious lessons on screens and channels, exaggerating the description so as to show us that a good wife is a mythical creature and not a normal human being.

Films, series, stories and novels have created a new image for the Muslim woman about marriage as a conditional bond based on equality of rights and duties, respect for freedoms, the right of rebellion, exchange of family roles, financial independence and other corrupt concepts that deviate from the Shariah understanding of marriage and the husband. And it turned it to the arena of conflict in a fabricated competition in which a woman must prove her worth and sovereignty; otherwise, she will end up as a wife waiting for her husband in the evening to bring her flour to bake!

Governments in our Islamic countries have reinforced such misleading concepts by enacting laws contrary to the Shariah understanding. Such laws are dictated from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the powerful bodies that hold conferences and seminars, producing decisions that Muslim women are oppressed in their homes under the guardianship of their husbands and calling for abolishing of the traditions and customs that strengthen this mentality. The CEDAW Agreement considers that forms of discrimination against women start with limiting their roles to motherhood, marriage and childcare, and therefore, the clauses signed by most Arab countries have been to lift the forms of violence by criminalizing early marriage, the right to abortion and divorce... and the latest in Tunisia, the right for Muslim women to marry a kaffir man!!

The status of the housewife is much marginalized and despised, and even in official identity cards in many countries, the profession section is filled as "unemployed". It even came down to calling her "nothing" in some countries that claim to be the leader of women's rights!! Unfortunately, the role of a housewife has become the most unfair and contemptuous in our Islamic countries. Work became binding and not in response to women's need for it or the need of the society for her work. In addition, the work is not suitable for the nature of women. The worst tragedy is that work became an economic pressure that drains the woman's energy and exploits the deteriorating material conditions, depriving her of her natural role as a mother caring for her children, a wife caring for her husband and a housewife caring for her home without thinking about the necessity of securing a living and ensuring the decent living that the husband failed to provide, or more accurately the state failed to provide!

The results were catastrophic; family neglect became widespread within many families, and marital problems have become rampant due to the heavy burdens and physical and psychological pressures that surround married couples. The rates of delinquency among children have increased due to the absence of their guardians in follow-up and monitoring. Many families disintegrated and rates of divorce, rates of spinsterhood and reluctance to marry and break of contract have increased!!

Because the family institution is a series of interconnected rings, it is structured and protected by the Shariah of Allah. The West realized the importance of the role of women in this institution and targeted them as mothers, wives and housewives in an attempt to reproduce a picture of Western women in a very turbulent version!

But it is undeniable that the list of priorities of many Muslim women has turned upside down. The role of the mother, the wife and the housewife is no longer their first mission. The great role and reward of the mother from Allah (swt) is lost unless she (as a mother) does her role well, fears Allah and cares and is responsible for her house.

Islam has guaranteed a stable and tranquil life for women as a human being, taking into account their instinct and gave them duties in a manner consistent with their environment and nature. It remains to be said that the implementation of these divine legislations is a Shariah responsibility of men and women and these legislations must be implemented by the state which creates an appropriate environment for men, women and families.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Nisreen Budhafri

Muslim Family... And the Dangers of Disintegration

The Muslim family is hit by a great danger that is threatening its existence, ruining its foundations and warning of its destruction and the disconnection of its members. The family unit, which is dominated by love, cohesion and harmony, seems united from the outside, but it is disunited from the inside, held together by the walls of the house or the dining table; a house in which one lives as a stranger among others and does not share his private concerns and problems! The disintegration has hit the family members and tore them and made them live individually, suffering as a result of alienation, loneliness, grief and loss.

The family unit - the first and main institution that raises the child and builds in him the concepts to apply in his life and moulds his personality –was influenced by many factors that undermine its entity. Thus, the roles of the family were reduced and many problems arose; it was dominated by coldness and the love bonds were broken and each member had his own world. The children pay no attention to their parents or their advice: stubbornness and selfishness dominates; they do not see that neglecting their parents' rights as a sin or a mistake. Parents also share the blame for the situation of their kids because of not taking their job of raising the children seriously.

A serious disease afflicting the Muslim family called "the family disintegration" is a major problem no less important than the many problems experienced by the Islamic Ummah. What causes it? How can it be treated?

Family disintegration is the dissolution of family ties and the weakness and fading away of love among individuals as their relationship becomes dry; love is not part of it, and the house turns into a "hostel" where the individual shelters and eats in. A vast gap was created between the family members and each one of them lives strange to the other. It is very dangerous as the dissolution of the family disintegration is the disintegration of society and the Ummah of Islam which gave the family great importance as its Deen taught it this, and explained that the well-being and peace in society is linked to the family unit.

Allah (swt) said:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِّتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُم مَّوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought" [Ar-Rum:21].

The house is a home for tranquility and stability. It bonds its members with love and mercy, and they are connected by the knowledge of the rules of Islam; they

compete in the good deeds to gain the rewards. The father takes care of his family and the mother obeys her husband and pleases him and raises her children and surrounds them with her love and affection. Each of them knows each others' rights and seeks to fulfill them to gain Allah's pleasure. Islam instills lofty concepts that strengthen family ties and make them unique. Islam identified the roles and gave each member a job that complements one another so that the ship (family unit) navigates undisturbed by winds or storms, led by the captain who is assisted by assistants. Each one of them performs his assigned role to reach to safety: Allah's pleasure and entering His Paradise.

The relationship between men and women is a relationship of peace, integration and harmony. It is not a relationship of war in which conflict, disputes and rivalry prevails. Each party knows its function and complements each other. In her complaint to the Prophet (saw) about her husband, Khawla said, "O Messenger of Allah, if I abandon my children they will be lost and if I look after them they will starve…" This awareness and understanding of the roles explained clearly by Khawla may Allah be pleased with her. She knows for certain that her responsibility is to raise her kids and the father's is to spend on them; they complement each other and raise the children correctly with no cruelty or extra pampering so that the child does not grow hateful and ungrateful or weak fragile having no respect or care to the parents.

It is"«كفى بالمرء إثماً أن يضيّع من يقوت»" :said (saw) Prophet The a great sin (even if it is the only sin) that man neglects spending (Nafaqa) on those he is responsible for (wife, children, servants, etc)."

Many are the parents who lost their homes and their children. There are no sincere feelings and no compassion or tenderness!! Parents' main goal became to provide food and clothes and the latest in the world of electronics from computers, tablets and mobile phones. They are present to provide children with pleasures but absent from them; they show no compassion, no tenderness and no interest; they have no time to talk to them and sit and listen to them; everyone is rushing and racing time to do many tasks except to think and work hard to preserve the unity of the family!!

Many reasons have led to the rupture and disintegration of the family. The ongoing and repeated bickering between the parents due to the competition in running the family affairs and the change in the natural roles that Allah has created for them create a disturbing tense atmosphere and this causes anxiety and suffering of the children inside the home, turning the home into a terrifying and frightening place dominated by hatred and selfishness after it was "a source of tranquility, safety, love and tenderness," and relations have changed and became full of many differences that sometimes lead to divorce and separation of parents. Dr. Seth Meyers, an American psychologist and researcher in social relations, holds the view that families that experience anxiety and hardship in raising children often lacked the emotional and social support in their childhood, whether by being neglected by their parents or due to being raised in a family atmosphere full of problems and temperaments, while some parents face great difficulty and challenge in raising a difficult child. This is the secret of the bitterness they face. (Nahi As-Sarraf: raising children … A silent feeling of bitterness and fear of failure: Arabs)

We sound the alarm bells on the rates of divorces in Muslim families, which doubled and rose warning of the collapse of this important unit in society. According to "Aswat Magharibiya" website, divorce cases in the Maghreb region rose during the last 8 years, and statistics recorded that each hour 10 cases of divorce take place, i.e. 90 thousand cases per year; In Tunisia, 41 cases of divorce were recorded every day, more than 3 cases per hour, according to "Al-Sabah News" from the Ministry of Justice. According to a study conducted by the Arab Center for Mobilization and Statistics, six cases of divorce are registered every hour in Algeria, which prompted many observers and activists in Algeria to warn of the spread of the divorce phenomenon in the country (euronews). This is the same in Egypt, which ranks first in the world in divorce rate; of 250 cases a day ... Couples break up after hours of marriage ... four million divorced females and 9 million children are victims of separation. (Al-Youm As-Sabi': 05/09/2017).

Morocco ranked fifth in the Arab world on the divorce rate ... 5 cases of divorce are recorded per hour. Under the title: "Divorce in Libya, a Frightening Rate, and Absent Numbers," channel 218 said that human rights groups say that the divorce rate has increased significantly over the past few years. Informal estimates suggest that the divorce rate in recent years has increased to about 30%, which means in the language of numbers that in every 100 marriages, 30 cases move towards the "happy ending".

The N Post has confirmed that Kuwait has taken the lead in the rise in the number of divorces. According to data, 60% of marital relations ended in separation in the first part of 2017. The Kuwaiti law grants divorced Kuwaiti women a number of benefits, including a monthly salary, a home, a car and an assistant. This is what makes some women rush to get divorce in order to get these services (according to the Ministry of Justice in Kuwait, according to the Arab Times Online website). In 2016, the number of marriage contracts in Saudi Arabia reached 157,000. In contrast, 46,000 divorce cases took place, i.e. 30% of the married couples' relationship end in separation. In Turkey, the General Directorate of Judicial Records Statistics announced that divorce cases during the last 10 years amounted to 82%. The divorce cases in Istanbul were 62.3% of all civil cases filed in 2016. (Al Ain News). Pakistan has also suffered from the disease

of disintegration and honor killings became widespread. A Human Rights Commission has recorded 280 murders under the pretext of honor from 2016 until June 2017.

As for the reasons, they are due in particular to the material Independence of women and their tendency towards the concepts of freedom from the authority of men and the possibility of giving him up, especially if the woman is not happy with the husband or when there is a previous defect in the relationship which results in material problems that fuel psychological stress between the married couple, which leads to tension in the emotional relationship due to the inability to meet the material needs of the family.

And these high and terrifying proportions are not all but are examples; many other countries suffer from this phenomenon which spread and spread in the Muslim families because they are distanced away from the correct Islamic concepts of marriage that it is a solemn covenant that linked the married couple, and divorce takes place for the simplest reasons… Many and great problems lead mostly to divorce and collapse of families and destitution of the children.

As a result of this disintegration and dispersion, family members feel lost and live in insecurity; they are weak and unable to solve problems which leads them to search for the easiest and closest ways, even if they are illegitimate and brings them loss.

Because it knows the great importance of Muslim family in the building children and preparing them to be men of the future, the West has exhausted all styles and methods to spread its venom to dismantle and eliminate it. It focused its efforts on the women, the responsible of building generations, and sought to distort and corrupt her correct concepts with its corrupt concepts that make her abandon her most important role that Allah chose for her i.e., raising of children and building them. "The Mother is a school, if you prepare her, you prepare people of good character." The West has set up the squares and held conferences and seminars to spread its liberal destructive ideas. Catherine Forth, the American Professor, said, "The International conventions and agreements concerning women, family and the population ... are now being formulated in agencies and committees that are dominated by three categories: extremist feminism, anti-birth and population growth, female and male homosexuals. The women's committee in the United Nations was started up by a Scandinavian woman who believed in open marriage, rejected the family, considered marriage a restriction and believed that personal freedom must be absolute ... This concept of freedom has been reflected in the charters issued by this committee. The signing of CEDAW agreement makes opposition to homosexuality – even by a caricature (drawing) - a work that exposes its owner to legal accountability for the fact that it is "opposed to human rights'".

This is what the West, which will only be pleased when the Muslim Ummah follows its way of life, wants. It is plotting day and night to undermine its civilization and uproot the Ummah from its Islamic roots. Glory be to Allah (swt). He will defeat the West and end their actions and schemes, and He (swt) will restore the Ummah' guidance and inspire it with a blessed return to rule by Allah's law and to establish a society led by pure sincere concepts that are the basis for raising the children. They will be the one raised correctly with balance and will make them the best nation brought to humankind.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Zaina As-Samit

A Long Hand of the Ruling Regimes in the Muslim Countries to Corrupt and Secularize the Family!

When we talk about the family, we are talking about the nucleus that makes up the society, and therefore, any corruption or malfunction that affects this nucleus will be reflected on the society and the state as a whole, let alone talking about the process of systematic corruption of this nucleus, and what if this corruption is done under the hearing of the state and its eyesight, rather, it has a long hand in it, which is tangible in the Muslim countries. The ruling regimes have spared no effort in the secularization and corruption of the family and the Muslim society to satisfy their masters, Americans and Europeans, and in order to achieve this they spent vast sums of money, and worked to implement this through several means and methods, among which:

1. The enactment and importation of laws and legislations that contravene the provisions of Islam in the area of the so-called "Personal Status": After the destruction of the Khilafah (Caliphate) and the absence of Islam as a governing system, many of the provisions became absent with it from the reality of life, and the Muslims remained with no applied legislations from their own religion except in aspects of worship and the laws of "Personal Status". But the enemies of Islam did not allow even these to remain, so they tried to detach from them the lives of Muslims. So, they made their agents in the Muslims countries to enact a system of laws and legislations contrary to Islam and its social system, and adopt the Western view. In Tunisia, for example, Bourguiba enacted the Personal Status Code in 1956, in which he swerved from the Shariah rulings and falsely claimed that it did not violate the Islamic law and that it is derived from its spirit and its provisions although it is based in most of its laws on the French law, and contains a series of laws that are contrary to the definite Shariah rulings. Examples of which are many such as: neglecting the difference of religion as a contravening of marriage in accordance with international human rights law, which stipulates that "Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family", and such as the prohibition of polygamy and the punishment of the husband who practices polygamy according to chapter 18, as well as the violation of the Islamic rule in adoption. And then came his grandchildren after him and completed the march of corruption in the social aspect, and they dared to Allah's rulings, enacting laws contrary to the explicit provisions of Islam, where new laws were enacted in the era of El-Sebsi allowing the marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man. Recently, the president of the Commission for Individual Freedoms and Equality, in the Presidency of the Republic of Tunisia, Bouchra Belhaj Hamida, announced that the committee began to propose a law that would include naming both husband and wife as legal heads of the family, and abolition of the dowry in the marriage contract, where she considered it an insult to women, as well as the issue of equality between men and women in inheritance which is currently being raised.

In Egypt and Saudi Arabia, it is sought to determine a specific age for marriage. Also in Saudi Arabia, amendments have been made to the system of male guardianship "Wilayah" over women, and the examples in this context are many, but there is no room for them to mention.

2. Recreational activities and events (entertainment industry): entertainment programs have become one of the most common methods of introducing secularism and corruption to Muslim families. This comes under the pretext of alleviating the pressures of life, supporting and developing talents, as well as talking about achieving economic revenue and material profits for the people from these programs. Corruption programs and activities that clash with Islamic values and promote Western values are being established in the Muslim countries. They seek through which to spread vice and abomination among Muslims, which involves mixing between men and women and revealing of Awrahs and other evils under the guise of modernity and openness.

Saudi Arabia, for example, which is witnessing a systematic westernization and secularization campaign executed directly by the state to appease America, has announced a plan in the field of the Saudi economic transformation, which among its pillars was the "Culture and Entertainment " sector and investment in the tourism sector. Thus, according to the stated figures, the "National Vision" targets doubling family spending on culture and entertainment within the Kingdom from 2.9% to 6%. In this context, the Entertainment Authority was introduced in line with Vision 2030 presented by Mohammed bin Salman to legitimize and legalize all acts of corruption and decadence in Saudi Arabia. Thus, the Haram became Halal by the sheikhs of Al Saud after years of repression and deprivation, especially with regard to women, and the evil (Munkar) became good (Ma'aroof) by the Entertainment Authority under the slogan of openness. So, it organizes performances, festivals, artistic and musical concerts, and supervises the establishment of cinemas, opening of the Opera House, organizing women's fashion, allowing women to attend football matches, and holding mixed male and female concerts.

Many events and programs of corruption are also organized in the Muslim countries with the support and approval of the State although they are not directly organized by it, such as talent programs (dance, singing and acting) which are broadcasted by the media, as well as the activities organized by non-governmental bodies and institutions.

3. The educational system and the curricula: the concept of family and the relationship between its members has been afflicted by what afflicted the rest of the concepts and ideas of corruption and attempt to secularize them under an educational policy that is not based on Islam, and seeks to destroy the Islamic culture in the hearts of Muslim children. This is clearly reflected in the constant changes conducted by the governing regimes on educational curricula in response to the orders of their masters, where we believe that these amendments make their focus the concepts of women rights and their equality with men, which is a broad title that has recently carried within it sub-themes such as women's self-realization, self-proving herself in the community and getting rid of man's hegemony. As a result, education and access to employment became a priority over marriage and the establishment of a family for many girls. Early marriage was also fought in these amendments within this framework. Also, among the topics addressed were women's reproductive health, the need for birth control and the reduction of family size and the number of its members. Within this frame, we find them divide families into nuclear (small size) and extended (large size), praising nuclear families and dispraising extended families, and consider large families as "traditional" families while families with few members as "modern". This is shown in the images they put for the family, especially in primary grades, comparing two pictures, one of which is old (the picture of the extended family) and another is modern (the picture of the small family).

To make matters worse, they replaced pictures of veiled mothers and grandmothers in pictures they put for the family, with other pictures showing non-veiled women dressed in western-style clothes and wearing cosmetics, as in the recent changes to school curricula in 2016 in Jordan and Palestine, as well as pictures of men whose beards were shaved that replaced pictures of bearded men. In this way it is linked in the minds of these children that the ideal family is a small-size family, and that seeing illegitimate offenses and revealing Awrahs in their family is normal; rather, it is urbanization!

In the context of children, the child's rights and freedom to choose his actions are emphasized, and even if the parents want to prevent their children from doing something, or if they are subjected to violence by them, they can resort to police or human rights organizations. This is an invitation to children to disobey their parents, and it is a fight to the concept of guardianship (Qiwamah) and care from the Shari' viewpoint.

4. Support and facilitate the work of local and international human and women rights organizations that seek to corrupt the Muslim family, which carry out their activities under the guise of women 's rights and children's rights, so they infiltrate schools and universities, disseminating poisonous ideas among its students, and organizing destructive and harmful activities and events to the family and society. They enter homes and promote birth control programs to limit the family under the slogan of women's health and safety, fight polygamy and early marriage, and combat the concept of guardianship under the banner of women's rights, self-realization and autonomy, preventing men control and hegemony over her.

5. Ratify and accede to international conventions that target the social system in Islam, including the subject of marriage and family, such as CEDAW Convention, which terms call for the freedom to establish prohibited relations between young men and women under the pretext of personal freedom. It also calls for the absolute equality between men and women, the abolition of marriage in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah and the adoption of civil marriage, and calls for the abolition of the father's guardianship (Wilayah) over his children, especially females, and other matters that violate the provisions of Islam.

These were some of the methods and means used by the ruling regimes in the Muslim countries to corrupt the Muslim family in an attempt to secularize it; hence, to secularize the Muslim countries as a whole. This requires a serious stand by every sincere and keen Muslim for his Deen and Ummah to foil these schemes and evils. And requires them to work sincerely and earnestly to bring the state that governs us by the book of our Lord, nurtures our affairs, and preserves our societies and families. This state is the second Khilafah Rashidah (righteous Caliphate) State on the method of the Prophethood, which is the promise of our Lord Almighty, and the glad tiding of our Messenger (saw).

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Bara'ah Manasrah

Violence Against Women and Children
An Imported Epidemic from the Secular West

Extensive violence within marriage has become the norm for an ever-increasing number of women and children in the Muslim lands. In particular, the race in copying the Western life-style and rule, domestic violence casts an ever-increasing ever-darker shadow upon Muslim societies.

The disintegration of the family unit, and thus the integrity and harmony of the social life in the Muslim lands is the ineluctable consequence mainly of the promotion of man-made secular and liberal concepts and values invented by the Western capitalist ideology. This ideology postulates that the ideals to be sought by man are the sublime values that man lays down for himself. Based upon that, in particular the Western ideal of gender equality is one of the basic concepts that besmeared our societies and families with the same afflictions which plague the non-Islamic Western people. It corrupts relations in marital and social life through liberal freedoms and the pursuit of selfish desires; it undermines all elements of respect, wellbeing, dignity for women, children, and the men of society. At the same time the intensive secularist condemnation of Islamic social laws leaves Muslim families under the choke of desperation. And the assumption – as often claimed by modern intellectuals – that the painful ongoing decay in our societies is simply the fallout of unskilful policies; is utterly wrong! Rather it is the inevitable consequence of the capitalist ideology, which is unable to effectively address the vital issues of its own people. Hence to ensure its survival, it has no other option than to cover its own decay as well as vilifying and destroying the culture and lifestyles of other belief-systems. Thus and in particular the problem of violence in our societies, in particular domestic violence, is the outcome of a long pre-planned insidious western project to colonise our lands, which materialised through the implementation of secular ruling systems, their regimes, official bodies, associations and feminist women's rights organizations,

which are all instruments of colonialist powers utilized to subjugate the Muslim people. This article is going to evidence the magnitude of violence in families and against women and girls that is spreading in our Muslim lands.

Tunisia is the first country in the Arab world that introduced a modern Code of Personal Status (CPS) in January 1957 that replaced many Islamic social and family laws with those based upon secularism. This staunchly secular state was always presented by Western governments, feminists and institutions as a model of securing women's rights in the Muslim world. However, the promotion and implementation of secular liberal values, policies, and laws within its society have only led to an increase in oppression of its people and in particular violence against women. Today, the North African country currently has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the world with research showing that nearly half of all women as victims of this crime at some point in their life. A study conducted by the Tunisian Democratic Women (ATFD, French acronym) revealed that 84% of women who are victims of violence are married, and 82% of cases happen in the matrimonial home.

The National Office for Family and Population has revealed that about 50% of Tunisian women have suffered some form of violence, and that 42% of them are university graduates. An aggregate sample of 3000 women, showed that 31% had been victims of physical violence, 28% suffered sexual violence and 7.1% were subject to economic violence (13th August 2014).
This year, another study, published by the Center for Research, Study, Documentation and Information on Women (a Tunisian group in cooperation with the UN), found that 70 – 90 percent of women had been victims of sexual harassment, mostly on public transportation, from 2011 to 2015.

Another source of concern regarding the safety of women in the country is women trafficking. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Tunisia is a source, destination and transit country for women who are "subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking."

All of this illustrates that any adaptations in laws have not only failed to protect the women in Tunisia, but in fact led to a worsening of oppression and an increase in violence. And still, the country is eager to implement further secular Western ideals and laws, like the establishment of full gender equality in its new constitution, and the "The Law on Eliminating Violence against Women" that is to come into force this year.

Turkey is another Muslim country that is given the mission to play a role model for women's rights and to be the pioneer in promoting and implementing capitalist values like secularism, democracy and gender-equality in the Muslim world. Turkey has actively participated in almost every international agreement regarding women. It ratified the UN's international treaty, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1986, and established the General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW) as a national mechanism in 1990 which greatly contributed to the active participation of Turkey in the UN's Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on women's rights' processes in 1995. It was the first country who signed the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence on May 11th 2011 and became the first country to ratify it on November 25th, 2011. Combating violence against women was recognized as a state policy and embraced by many organs of the state since 1995.

Yet all these actions and all efforts and initiatives to promote and implement gender equality within the country produced **the fastest increasing rates of violence against women in the world**. According to the Turkish Ministry of Justice, from 2003 (when the AKP came to power) until 2014, there was a 1,400 percent increase in the number of murders of women. And it is worth noting that the greatest changes in laws and regulations according to international agreements like CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration were made by the AKP government.

According to TUIK (Turkish Statistical Institute), four out of ten women face domestic violence, while Turkey's Ministry of Family and Social Policies reported that 86% of women in Turkey experienced physical or psychological violence from a partner or family member. Over 300 women died of domestic violence in 2015 alone. In 2014, dozens of women were killed by their abusive spouses even after applying for police protection. Currently Turkey runs approximately 100 official shelters that accommodate fewer than 3,000 women, with

overburdened non-profit organizations struggling to care for the remaining 20,000-plus women who seek shelter each year. The report of a women's organization (Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu) revealed 409 murders of women, 387 recorded cases of sexual abuse of children, and 332 recorded cases of sexual violence towards women in 2017. These numbers are rapidly increasing every year. Additionally, spine-chilling is one development regarding violence towards children. A new trend is arising in divorce cases, where fathers murder their own children in revenge for the divorce they reject. Thus, 20 children were murdered by their own fathers in 2017 alone.

Numbers and reports from other Muslim countries, ruled by secular and other non-Islamic regimes and systems, paint similar dark pictures: In **Afghanistan** 80% of Afghan women experience or have experienced at least one type of violence during their lives (UNFPA 2016). The Public Health Ministry registered 8,188 cases of gender-based violence of which 2,806 cases were physical violence, 3,470 psychological abuse, 1,207 lack of access to resources, 403 forced marriages, 166 sexual assaults and 136 sexual harassments against women. The Afghan Ministry of Women Affairs announced almost 4,000 recorded cases of violence against women in 2017.

Around 1.5 million women in **Egypt** are subjected to domestic violence each year at a rate of more than 4,000 cases every day(National Council for Women in Egypt / 2016). In **Palestine**, about 37% of women who have been married have been subjected to a form of violence by their husbands (National Survey on Violence in Palestinian Society, 2011). **Indonesia** has similar statistics which briefly state that 245,548 cases of violence against wives occurred in 2016 alone (Komnas Perempuan, 2016). **Malaysia** follows with 10,282 reported domestic violence cases in January 2016 alone (WAO, 2016). According to the BBC's Persian service, 66.3 % of women in **Iran** experience violence in their lives (RUDAW, 2014).

This huge scourge of violence against women and domestic violence is in fact a phenomenon imported into our lands from the West which is suffering from an epidemic of such crimes itself due to its capitalist, secular and liberal value system. For example, in the **UK**, 1.2 million women reported domestic abuse in England and Wales in the year ending 2016, and 1 woman in 4 experiences domestic violence (Office for National Statistics). In 2014, a survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), revealed that o**ne third of women in the European Union have experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15**, corresponding to 62 million people. The survey which covered 28 European countries also found that 1 in 10 women in the continent have suffered some form of sexual violence and 1 in 20 had been raped.

55% had experienced sexual harassment, often in the workplace, with 75% of women in qualified professions or top management jobs having been subjected to this form of violation against their dignity, dismantling the oft-repeated claim that employment is the path to elevating women's status. Interestingly, **countries with the highest number of incidence of violence** were **Denmark** (52%), **Finland** (47%), and **Sweden** (46%) – states which have been praised for their gender equality laws and labelled as the most gender egalitarian according to the UN Gender Equality Index, the World Economic Forum report of 2013, and the European Institute for Gender Equality.

And these are some statistics about violence in the **USA**, published in the Huffington Post on April 5th 2017: Every single day more than 570 people experience sexual violence in this country which is full of near-daily stories of sexual assaults on college campuses, and that is even ruled by a President who has been publicly accused of sexually assaulting more than 15 women. Almost 18 million women have been victims of rape since 1998. 1 in 6 American women survived an attempted or actual rape in their lifetime. The average number of victims of rape per year amounts to 321,500. In addition, domestic violence is extremely common in the **U.S.A.**, where about 5 million women experience intimate partner-related physical violence… and so forth… Every type of sexual assault, rape and other types of violence can be found at epidemic levels in this country, yet it claims to be the guardian of women's and human rights.

Worldwide women and girls make up 80% of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked across national borders annually, with 70% of them trafficked for sexual exploitation. Up to 7 in 10 women in the world report having experienced physical and or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime. Worldwide up to 50 % of sexual assaults are committed against girls under the age of 16. More than 100 Million girls are missed due to prenatal sex selection. And all this has unfolded under the watch of the capitalist secular liberal system that dominates international and national politics today and has shown itself to be absolutely clueless and incapable of stemming this tide of violence against women and girls. Furthermore, the host of gender-equality laws, acts and initiatives as well as programmes and legislation promoted internationally and implemented within western and Muslim states to tackle violence against women and girls have failed spectacularly to even dent the scale of this problem.

These examples of the Muslim and non-Muslim world show that the liberal secular values of capitalism, which encourage individuals to act upon their whims and desires and whose entertainment industries, have denigrated the status of women and promoted sexual freedoms which corrupt and harm the relationship between the genders within society and have directly fuelled the degrading, humiliating and violent behaviour towards women all across the world. Additionally, the lack of convincing and satisfying rules and laws to regulate the affairs and interaction between men and women as well as the lack of adequate punishment for any transgressions against the honour and dignity of women led to the ungovernable escalation of violence against women. As long as these corrupt values and views remain predominant in our societies, making a few policies or laws or setting up initiatives and women's organisations will consistently fail to address this problem. Rather they will simply continue the status quo, preserving the dominance and existence of the harmful colonialist-based belief-system and structures in our Muslim lands, increasing further crimes which violate the dignity and wellbeing of women, and accelerating the destruction of the social fabric of our Muslim societies.

The only remedy for this epidemic is to reject as a whole the defective secular liberal systems imposed upon us by Western capitalist colonialists and to shape the future of the Muslim lands upon the Islamic system alone.

قُلْ أَتُعَلِّمُونَ اللَّه بِدِينِكُمْ وَاللَّه يَعْلَمُ مَّا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَّا فِي الأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

"Say (to the people O' Muhammad): 'Do you wish to teach Allah about your Din (complete way of life) whereas Allah knows all that is contained in the Heavens and all that is upon the Earth; and surely Allah has complete knowledge of everything." [Al-Hujraat: 16]

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Zehra Malik

TV Drama: An Industry that Casts its Malignant Shadow over the Family and Society

TV dramas have become very popular among people of all ages of different tastes . Drama channels are keen to broadcast a variety of dramas, such as classic films, modern films, adventure films, as well as TV series from social to comic, love and romance, and children based programs and serials so that television screens with such series have become the friend of every member of the family according to what he likes and wishes. In fact, under the technological development, TV series and programs are no longer limited to television, but can now also be seen online.

These drama and TV series - especially the translated ones - are not devoid of foreign ideas and values on our Islamic culture, which strike the Islamic values and principles at the core, and seek to program the general ideas in the Muslim lands to conform to Western ideas and concepts and to absorb the rotten ones in order to be promoted in our societies as natural and normal, and that is followed by the Media Policy in the Muslim lands, targeting the family and society in the Muslim lands.

We find that these series, for example, decorate the mixing between males and females, and make it the spirit of the age and its requirements, and we find that it encourages the culture of nudity and promiscuity in Muslim women, making these as keeping pace with fashion and open to the world. We also find that they promote the Haram relations between young men and women, making them tolerable and motivated by "love". In addition, we can also notice the display of Munkar and forbidden actions such as the display of drinking alcohol as a normal thing, as well as the call for full freedom and being free from restrictions and legal (Shar'ii) controls, alongside the rituals and customs of polytheism and idolatry that permeate these series and films, especially Indian ones.

The impact of these films and series is not limited to the ideas and concepts, but has also been reflected on the behavior of eating and clothing as well as relations between members of the community and the family, where unfortunately the heroes of these serials have become role models for some of the sons of the Muslims, imitating them in their dress haircuts, movements and behavior, and even in their names, naming their children after them!!

If we look at the situation of women in dramas, we find them presented to us in one of these images: either she is powerless and oppressed and has no control of anything and no value in society, and in this context, the main role of women being a mother and housewife was attacked and was shown the reason for her misery. She was portrayed oppressed and suffering because she is a woman who is imprisoned in her home. She has no job

except taking care of her home and raising her children, and thus, it was planted in the minds of women that the solution to their problems lies in the rebellion against this role and their responsibilities in it. In the second picture, she was presented as able to dispense with men and manage her affairs and adequate for her own needs and make her decisions all by herself, as she is free in her actions, independent of herself, doing whatever she wants without restriction. There are no controls over her movement and she throws everything that restricts her freedom behind her back.

Whoever follows the television dramas would see that they make love and romance stories a general guide, offering them in a way that is far from reality and presenting unrealistic images which led to the formation of a false vision for those who are seeking marriage on marital life, where the perception of marital life is very ideal and is predominated by romance without paying attention to the responsibilities of marriage, and to what life holds of hardships and difficulties. The husband in these films and serials is a handsome, elegant, young, rich and luxuriant who brings gifts to his wife with and without occasions, and the wife is portrayed as a beautiful, charming, attractive woman, always free for parties, clubs and travel with her husband as if this woman does not have any responsibilities or family duties, and as if this husband knows no expense, no responsibility and no upbringing of children. As a result, these young people will soon thereafter collide with the reality, responsibilities and duties placed on them which open the door of marital problems and disputes that may eventually lead to divorce. This is on one hand.

On the other hand, some young men and women are looking for specifications of those whom they will marry according to the physical standards and materialistic capabilities presented by these serials. This was a prelude to failure in married life because each party is looking for the appearance without the substance, and each party is looking for someone who lives with him a "love story" as seen on serials, not looking for someone of Deen and manners, someone with whom life is full of affection, compassion and tranquility, as Allah (swt) mentioned in His glorious Book in Surat Ar-Rum, verse 21:

﴿وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ﴾

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought."

This way of thinking is not limited to those seeking marriage, but has also reached the married couples. The followers of these dramas, especially women, find their lives monotonous and have become obsessed with the lifestyle presented in the dramas, which led to marital disputes and problems in homes.

This is the tip of the iceberg of the poison and malicious ideas broadcast by television dramas among the sons of the Muslims, which seek to corrupt the Ummah by planting Western concepts and distorting Islamic concepts related to various relationships, such as men's relations with women, by addressing topics that are oriented by the West and the ruling leaders such as the topic of "terrorism", and by presenting the Western lifestyle as a distinctive lifestyle to be followed. The creators of these productions deliberately direct these serials well and photograph them in beautiful and prepossessing landscapes and beautiful and fancy constructions, attractive fashion and music, as well as playing on the tendon of all the beautiful human feelings and emotions in order to influence the viewers, especially the young people.

Therefore, we must deal with the media and what it broadcasts, whether dramas or others, seriously and carefully and we must not leave the sons and daughters of the Muslims as tools in their hands or an easy bait for their mouths. We, therefore, call on parents to take their part in caring for their families and protecting them from all that corrupts and poisons them, Allah (swt) says in Surat At-Tahreem, verse 6:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ﴾

"O ye who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who flinch not (from executing) the Commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded."

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Bara'a Manasra

When Electronic Communication Destroy Established Homes and Separates People!

While electronic communication media have shortened distances, they became the shortest way leading to divorce and marital disputes. And while they used to unite the loved ones and the absentees after long waiting, they separate members of the family and help to break them up; it is indeed an extraordinary paradox!!

How did the websites of electronic communication turn into a curse after being a blessing?!

The media have changed the behavior and the interaction patterns between people, and under the technology revolution, many people began suffering from loneliness, social isolation and depression. Houses once alive with their family conversations became silent as if they are empty of them, and visits to relatives and neighbors on occasions and holidays have been replaced by some with a message or image. And while noises used to fill grandparents' homes at children and grandchildren's gatherings, the vitality, activity and affability have gone. Each one of them comes carrying his own device and after greeting each other, everyone takes a corner of the house; his body is living with the family, but his soul and mind are absent!

With the remarkable widespread of social media sites, homes have become unfenced and privacy has been eliminated from the lives of individuals and families. The secrets of many homes have become open to all, and the details of their private lives have been published, causing many problems at the family level, such as divorce and marital disputes, as well as jealousy, envy and conflicts between people at the community level.

According to studies and reports, electronic media sites, especially Facebook and WhatsApp, are primarily responsible for the high global divorce rates. We cannot present all the statistics here, but let us take some figures that show the magnitude of the problem and sound the alarm bells. In Palestine, Sharia courts pointed out that half of divorce cases take place before the wedding party, and specialists refer several reasons for this; most notably the online communication. According to statistics published in 2016, the last three years witnessed a significant increase in the number of divorces in Jordan, which increases each year by over 1000 cases from its previous year, noting that the modern means of communication, Facebook, WhatsApp, are the most prominent reasons for the rise in divorce cases. Studies indicate that communication sites caused 50% of the

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divorce cases in the UAE. The Family Guidance Section in the UAE estimates that marital disputes increased by more than 5000 cases in 2015, of which 50 to 60% are related to electronic websites, and 1,000 of them ended in divorce.

These frightening statistics and figures show how these sites and applications on smartphones have portended family disputes for those who allow them to possess their lives; on one hand by taking the person away from his family and making him fall short of his duties towards them especially when he is addicted to using them and spends a long time with them equal to or exceeding the time parents spend with their children, or spouses spend with each other, which is devastating on both levels. This addiction makes parents fail in the performance of their duties towards their children in education, guidance, giving them the necessary compassion and affection and in listening to them and their problems which may lead children to dangerous turns and make them behave wrongly, apart from the extraneous culture and misconceptions children learn as a result of spending long hours on these sites and their parents are unaware about them.

In terms of spouses, this addiction will lead to neglect and poor communication between spouses and their failure to perform their duties towards the other side, and sometimes one of the spouses finds in those media an escape from spending the time with the other party because of some problems between them which widens the gap and increases the scale of the problem.

On the other hand, these sites and applications have facilitated communication and the establishment of relationships and the exchange of messages and images between men and women which led – in the absence of piety and fearing Allah (swt) - to high rates of infidelity, which is one of the main reasons for high rates of divorce as confirmed by the Courts' records that are rife with divorce proceedings due to infidelity..

This ease of communication has caused some spouses to lose mutual trust between them, which is one of the most important foundations of successful marital relations, causing some of them to live in a state of suspicion and mistrust towards the other party. It may even push one of the spouses to track and monitor all that it reaches his or her spouse across these sites and applications, and track the senders.

The talk on this subject is long and sorrowful, but we conclude by saying that electronic communication created duplicity and a wide gap in family relations between two worlds: one that is real, while the other is virtual, negatively affecting the family relations widening the gap between the family members. So, the warmth and closeness of its members became absent despite their physical presence, where they all

hold their phones in an inattention of who they sit with; thus, people circulated phases such as: "The means of communication canceled communication". The results of this duality were that real relations shrunk in favor of virtual relations so that friendships and relationships have expanded virtually but they shrunk on the ground, and hypocritical and false feelings have emerged among members of the same family, and even among members of society at large.

Among its results is the absence of tranquility and serenity from homes, and the dissolution of the covenant, which Allah (swt) described in His Book as solemn, He Almighty said:

وَكَيْفَ تَأْخُذُونَهُ وَقَدْ أَفْضَى بَعْضُكُمْ إِلى بَعْضٍ وَأَخَذْنَ مِنكُم مِيثَاقاً غَلِيظاً

"And how could you take it while you have gone in unto each other and they have taken from you a solemn covenant?" [An-Nisa: 21]

Let us, brothers and sisters, make electronic communication a blessing that gathers us and brings us closer, not a curse that destroys established homes and separates its people.

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