Domestic Violence Khutba—Talking Points

I. Prevalence: 1 in 4 women in US victims of domestic violence. Transcends race, religion, nationality. Statistics the same for Muslim Americans as the general population.

II. Domestic violence is a form of oppression:

   a. When one person in the relationship tries to control another person or exert power by using one of many control tactics or forms of abuse

      i. Verbal: name calling, insults

      ii. Psychological: isolation, intimidation, threats (to divorce, to ruin reputation, to hurt family members, to deport, etc.), withholding affection

      iii. Physical: pushing, hitting, pulling hair, throwing objects, destroying property

      iv. Sexual: forced or prohibited sexual activity, including forcing to watch pornography

      v. Financial: depriving financial access, using financial dependency to instill guilt

      vi. Spiritual: misusing Qur’an/hadith to control behavior, interfering with religious practice, preventing access to learn about Islam, etc.

III. Abused person lives in a state of anxiety or fear, not knowing when next attack will come
a. Abuse can lead to emotional illnesses (depression, anxiety, etc.), physical illness because immune system is compromised under chronic stress, injury due to the abuse, and even death.

IV. Negative impact on all family members
   a. Child witnesses suffer as much as child victim of abuse
   b. Children will likely develop emotional, physical, and relational problems

V. Islam as a preventive model
   a. Men & women equal in eyes of Allah (Qur’an 49:13) and created from single soul (Qur’an 4:1)
   b. Spouses are garments for one another (Qur’an 2:187)
   c. Marriage based on mutual love and compassion for purpose of mutual tranquility (Qur’an 30:21)
   d. Communication should be positive (Qur’an 16:125, 14:24)
      i. Mocking, name-calling prohibited (Qur’an 49:11)
   e. Qiwaamah is a responsibility for men to guide family in the manner of the Prophet (pbuh), and not a license to abuse, hurt, or control (Qur’an 4:34)
   f. Prophet’s leadership in home and community based on gentleness (Qur’an 3:159), shura (Qur’an 42:37-38 and 65:6)
   g. It is not our job to control others, just to advise (Qur’an 88:21-24)

VI. Islam mandates intervention
   a. Must stand for justice (Qur’an 4:135)
   b. Hadith: Help the oppressed and the oppressor. Companions said, “We know how to help the oppressed, but how do we help the oppressor?” Prophet (pbuh) said, “by preventing him/her from committing further oppression)
   c. Must help and defend oneself in the face of oppression (Qur’an 42:39-40)
i. Forgiving and seeking safety are not mutually exclusive

d. Blame is on the perpetrator, not the victim (Qur’an 42:42)

i. Do not ask the victim, “What did you do to make him angry or to make him hit you?” Rather, hold the perpetrator accountable and provide comfort and safety for the victim.

e. Divorce can be a peaceful solution when safety and well-being cannot be obtained in the marriage (*imsaak bi ma’ruf aw tasreeh bi ihsaan*). (Qur’an 2:226-234 and 65:1-12).

VII. Help is available in your community

a. Identify your local DV organization and/or shelter.

b. 24 hour hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

c. In case of emergency, call 911.
Resources

- Peaceful Families Project, [www.peacefulfamilies.org](http://www.peacefulfamilies.org) (DV Facts, resources, statistics, training)
- Faith Trust Institute, [www.faithtrustinstitute.org](http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org) (faith-based—including Muslim-specific webinars, materials, articles, training)
- Domestic Violence Awareness Project, [www.nrcdv.org/dvam/home](http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam/home) (facts, materials)
- HelpGuide.org: information about domestic violence, mental health issues, relationships, healthy living
- Futures Without Violence: [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org) (facts and resources)
- Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence: [www.interfaithpartners.org](http://www.interfaithpartners.org) (faith-based, resources, provides trainings, Boston-based)
- HEART Women and Girls: [www.heartwomenandgirls.org](http://www.heartwomenandgirls.org) (Muslim-specific, provides resources and information on sexual violence in the Muslim American community, and resources on sexual health)
Sample Khutba’s on Domestic Violence

- Imam Magid: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHnlpl_nv5U
- Stories about Domestic Violence
- Each of these books contains some stories that may be helpful to understanding domestic violence, and that you can use in your khutbah.
- *Change from Within: Diverse Perspectives on Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities*, available through http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/store/faith-community/muslim (use promo code PFP), or http://www.amazon.com/Change-Within-Perspectives-Domestic-Communities/dp/0979138906/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1316955845&sr=1-1
- *When Muslim Marriage Fails* available at http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=when+muslim+marriage+fails&x=0&y=0
- *Family Leadership (Qiwamah): An Obligation to Fulfill, not an excuse to abuse* at http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=family+leadership+mohamed+rida+beshir&x=0&y=0

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