



FIG Working Week 2024

19-24 May

Accra, Ghana

Your World, Our World:
Resilient Environment
and Sustainable
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for All

EMPOWERING AND IMPROVING THE LIFE OF WOMEN IN MUSLIM COMMUNITIES THROUGH INCREASED ACCESS TO HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

Panel Discussion

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Objectives of the Session:

To focus the attention on the specific collective actions required to respond to the housing, land and property needs of women living in Muslim communities



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Women in Islam

سَكِّنُوهُنَّ مِنْ حَيْثُ سَكَنْتُمْ مِنْ وُجْدِكُمْ وَلَا تُضَارُّوهُنَّ لِتُضَيِّقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ وَإِنْ كُنَّ أُولَاتٍ حَمْلٍ فَأَنْفِقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ حَتَّىٰ يَضَعْنَ حَمْلَهُنَّ فَإِنْ أَرْضَعْنَ لَكُمْ فَآتُوهُنَّ أُجُورَهُنَّ وَأَتَمِرُوا بَيْنَكُمْ بِمَعْرُوفٍ وَإِنْ تَعَاَسَرْتُم فَسَتْرَضِعْ لَهُ أُخْرَىٰ

Lodge them (the divorced women) where you dwell, according to your means, and do not treat them in such a harmful way that they be obliged to leave. And if they are pregnant, then spend on them till they deliver. Then if they give suck to the children for you, give them their due payment, and let each of you accept the advice of the other in a just way. But if you make difficulties for one another, then some other woman may give suck for him (the father of the child).

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GEOSA





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Women in Islam

In the religion of Islam, a woman **is an independent entity**, and thus a fully responsible human being. Islam **addresses her directly** and does not approach her through the agency of Muslim males. A woman **would assume full capacity and liability** once she has attained maturity and has received the message of Islam.

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None and nothing in Islam may stand in the way of a woman contributing to the general good and competing for religious achievement. The equal personal responsibilities of women in Islam are evident and clearly established. That collective duties are commonly borne by men and women is shown in the practice of the Prophet (peace be upon him), who commanded women to act charitably and give for the sake of God, and in that women used to respond.

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According to Islamic jurisprudence a woman is competent to own property and dispose of it in any manner. The Sharia generally provides for an equitable and fair role for women in the economic life of Muslim society. Just as much as they share in the management of family affairs, they can contribute to the support of the family, although they are not legally bound to provide maintenance.

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Question for the panel

Based on what Hellen presented, your knowledge of the topic and your experience in this area of work, what are your initial reflections? Any key angle to this topic that you would like to add?



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Rafic Khouri

Would you like to highlight some of the key challenges, but also some of the positive solutions to increase women's access to land in the Arab region.

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Clarissa Augustinus

what are some of the good options to secure women's land rights in customary contexts that are relevant to women living in Muslim-majority customary contexts?



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Clarissa Augustinus

Can cadastral surveying or mapping
secure Muslim women's land rights better
in customary areas?



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Rafic Khouri

What is the role of land professionals (and surveyors) in ensuring the land rights of women living in Muslim majority communities are protected?



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Oumar Sylla

- How important is securing women's land rights in Muslim majority countries in Africa?
- In which countries is it more urgent to advance this type of work?



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Reflections by the presenter and the panelists

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