



Supporting women and families: Cultural diversity – Understanding Islam and Muslim women

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The Royal College of Midwives Annual Conference 2010

Maternity services in a Changing World

Midwives and Cultural Sensitivity

- *'A midwife provides care for women and childbearing families with respect for cultural diversity while also working to eliminate harmful practices within those same cultures'*

Australian College of Midwives, Code of Ethics.



Muslims in the UK

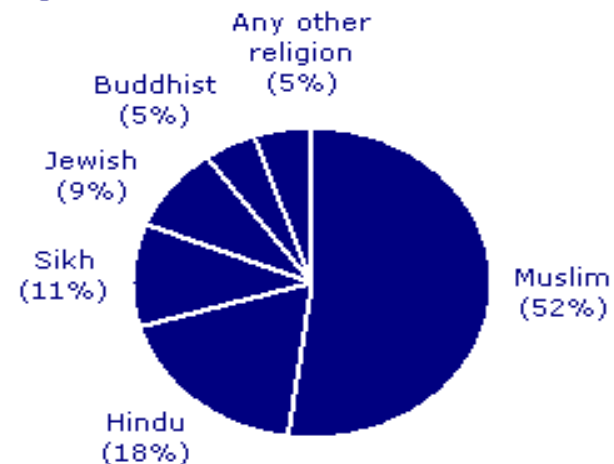
- *Muslims are the second largest religious group after Christianity.*
- *1.6 Million, 2001*
- *Muslims comprised 3 per cent of the total population and over half (52 per cent) of the non-Christian religious population*
- *By 2008 estimated to increase to 2.4 million*

Office for National Statistics, UK

Population of Great Britain: by religion, April 2001

	Total population		Non-Christian
	(Numbers)	(Percentages)	religious population (Percentages)
Christian	41,014,811	71.8	
Muslim	1,588,890	2.8	51.9
Hindu	558,342	1.0	18.3
Sikh	336,179	0.6	11.0
Jewish	267,373	0.5	8.7
Buddhist	149,157	0.3	4.9
Any other religion	159,167	0.3	5.2
All non-Christian religious population	3,059,108	5.4	100.0
No religion	8,596,488	15.1	
Religion not stated	4,433,520	7.8	
All population	57,103,927	100.0	

Percentages



What is Islam?

- *The religion Islam basically means "submission to the will of Allah (God)".*
- *5 Pillars (5 basic duties)*
- *1. Shahaadah (Testimony of Faith)*
- *2. Salah (Daily prayer)*
- *3. Sawm (Fasting)*
- *4. Zakah (Donation)*
- *5. Haj (Annual pilgrimage to Makkah)*
- *The Holy Quran*



Sumayyah Gettani

Characteristics of a Muslim

- *Humble*
- *Trustful*
- *Moderate*
- *Honest*
- *Balanced in mind, body and soul*
- *Considerate and compassionate to ALL human kind REGARDLESS of culture or Religion!*



Islam and Women

- Don't stereotype us
- Treat us with dignity and respect
- Know that culture may affect our decision making – **HOWEVER** good health care is everyone's right



Muslim women have rights

Islam does not oppress
women

Culture may



Women's Rights in Islam

- Revered
- Basic needs are met
- Kind treatment
- Own opinion's and choices
- Peace and harmony
- Right to work
- Life long learning



The right to kind treatment

***The Prophet
Muhammad (Peace be
upon him) said,***

***"Treat women nicely..."
and "The best amongst
you, are those best to
their wives..."***





Islam vs Culture

Culture is man's interpretation of the Quran

"The Truth and Understanding about women in Islam"



Speakers:

Aziza Abdel Halim

*President – Muslim
Women's National
Network
Australia.*

Ruth Perkins- Midwife

Aisha Jamus

Fasting during Pregnancy



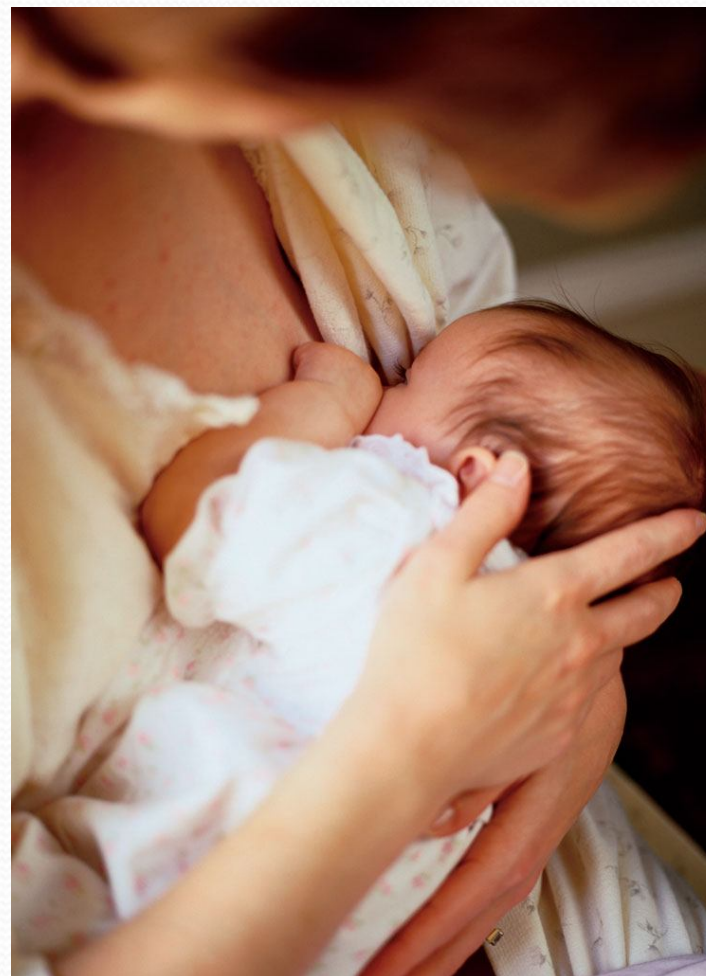
Islamic practices at Birth

- *"Athan" in the newborn ears*
- *Dates rubbed on upper palate*
- *Placenta taken home for burial*
- *Still birth*



Islam & Breastfeeding

- *Quran is states that '...for a full 2 years and given until 2 years and 6months maximum to wean...'*
- *Once baby is eating solids and not exclusively breastfeeding by mutual consent of the parents they can stop.*



Conclusion

- *Health of mother and baby*
- *Communication with family*
- *Treat everyone with dignity and respect*
- *Know that culture may affect our decision making*
– *HOWEVER good health care is everyone's right*
- *Don't stereotype*

