



# MUSLIM WOMEN AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Mail of Islam Team

Published by:



**Mail of Islam Publication**  
**English Division**



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Assalamu Alaikum Dear Readers,

**MAIL OF ISLAM PUBLICATION** is the official publication department of [WWW.MAILOFISLAM.COM](http://WWW.MAILOFISLAM.COM)

*Mail of Islam* is the non-political, non-profit, multilingual world Islamic online Da'wah service currently works in various languages of the world.

We, Mail of Islam Publication, are responsible for the production of Islamic books in various languages. As such, we happy to release the book *"MUSLIM WOMEN AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES"* in English language.

Those who wish to print this book in its original form or to translate it into another language are permitted to do so with our prior permission. Further, we pray that Allah Almighty will bless them for this beneficial deed and we thank them very much. However, permission will be granted with the condition that the paper used in printing should be of a good quality and that the design of the text and setting should be properly and neatly done without mistakes. We would appreciate a copy of the book printed.

**English Division**

**MAIL OF ISLAM PUBLICATION**

10 July 2010

*All rights reserved*

*"MUSLIM WOMEN AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES"*

Copyright © 2010 [www.mailofislam.com](http://www.mailofislam.com)

Contact us - [mailofislam@yahoo.com](mailto:mailofislam@yahoo.com)

## CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	03
2.	What is Social Networking?	04
3.	Facts about Women and Social Networking	04
4.	Why Social Networking can be Risky?	05
5.	Online Risks faced by Muslim Women	06
6.	Social Networking sites and Religious view	09
7.	Security advices for using Social Networking sites	11
8.	Gain advantages from Social Networking sites	12

## INTRODUCTION

*Dear Muslim Sisters*, you may spend a lot of time on social networking or virtual world sites like Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. These popular sites are a great way for you to interact with friends using computers and mobile devices and have changed the way you communicate with your friends and family.

As others, everything has two sides. Good and Bad. Islam encourages Good and it opposes Bad.

Too often though, you include too much personal information, discuss inappropriate behaviors that could get you into trouble, or otherwise place yourself at risk by what you share online.

As a Muslim woman, you have certain rights as well as certain duties. Modesty and morality are very important things in your life. When you exceed your rights, you might face various problems in your life.

Further, you cannot live like a Non-Muslim woman. They did not accept Allah Almighty and Beloved Prophet (Peace be upon Him) But you have accepted them. You believe in the life after death and you know what is the Islamic boundary for a woman. So you have to follow them. When you fail to adhere the Islamic moralities in your life, you face various problems in your worldly life as well as hereafter.

The purpose of this e-book is to educate our Muslim sisters about the Risks associated with Social Networking Sites and give them security precautions with Islamic point of view.

until read the full book, please do not come to any decision.

May Allah protect our Muslim sisters from all the troubles.

## **Lesson 1 - What is Social Networking?**

Social networks are websites that provide a virtual community for people interested in a particular subject or to “hang out” together. These sites are like virtual clubhouses. Once you become a member and create a profile, you can interact and connect with family and friends via online activities like chat, email, photos, events and status updates.

Examples of social networking sites:

- \* Facebook
- \* MySpace
- \* Twitter

## **Lesson 2 – Facts about Women and Social Networking**

Online reputation company Rapleaf has released a new study of 49.3 million people, revealing gender and age data about social network users. On most of the main social networks - including MySpace, Facebook, Bebo, Hi5 - women outnumber men by a considerable amount. On Facebook, the 18-24 age group is largest, with 1,685,029 women in that age group compared to 977,753 men. In MySpace, the same age group dominates, with 7,091,214 women and 5,226,788 men.

Other highlights:

- \* Women ages 14-24 dominate activity on social networks and have more friends than men of the same ages.
- \* The average social network user has 2-25 friends.

### **Lesson 3 – Why Social Networking can be Risky?**

Perhaps the biggest problem with social networking can be summed up with the acronym “TMI” or “too much information.”

You should understand that if you reveal too much about your personal life, it could lead to problems—like susceptibility to cyberbullies, online predators, invasion of privacy and identity theft.

Example of TMI on social networking websites:

A student was rejected admission at a college after gushing about the school while visiting the campus, then trashing it online.

If you are not careful on social networking sites, you could become a victim of invasion of privacy, malicious impersonation or identity theft. Invasion of privacy can happen easily if you share your password, are not selective about whom you add as a friend, or are not careful about what information you post online.

The key to preventing invasion of privacy is to make sure you are careful about what you share, with whom you share it.

In addition, you should understand that nothing is private when it is posted to online, no matter how many controls are in place.

## Lesson 4 – Online Risks faced by Muslim Women

I have listed out here various risks associated with social networking sites for the women.

### 4.1 Your photos are used for adult content website with or without editing.

Nowadays human evils use your photos for Porn websites and Adult Dating websites under the banner of Prostitute or Call Girls. Even the Hijabi's are not exempted from this malicious work.

They take the pictures of Islamic girls from the social network websites and edited with nude pictures (i.e, adjust the innocent girl's head to the nude body) and publish in Adult websites under the label as Muslim Prostitutes, Hijabi Prostitutes, Hijabi Girl available for S\*\*, Naqabi Girl Enjoying S\*\*.....

See this Youtube video. I show this video as an example to show you how easily your photos can be changed by photo editing software.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LySZbl1wXOw&feature=related>

### 4.2 Your photos are used for money earning

Many websites are using your photos to earn money without your consent. Yes, they use your photos in the advertisements in somewhere in the world, even you do not know. Some websites such as Matrimonial and Dating websites use your photos for attracting the users.

See this video; a girl's photo has been used in an advertisement, without her consent.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ISkY4X3yNA&feature=related>

### 4.3 Your photos can be used for bad intentions

Any part of your body can tease a man. You cannot tell, "In my photo I am fully covered, so men will not interest on it". Even your face, lips or eyes... anything may attract him. Therefore, they might use your photo for bad acts.

See this documentary video by US Department of Personal Boundaries; it shows the truth.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JbGlpnhPcE&feature=related>

Check out the below comments which were taken from the photos of our Muslim sisters. I hope these comments will tell you that how much men are teased!

- (1) Wow, what a solid figure she has ....
- (2) Wow, so big B\*\*\*s...
- (3) It will be pleasure to have her on bed.
- (4) oh! Her back is beautiful ....
- (5) Hey these chicks are really great!!! Can we have them? If yes pls mail me.
- (6) I like these photos but I like most the first girl who is in burkha.
- (7) Wow. Your eyes are very sexy.

My dear Muslim sisters, Do you like strangers comment you like this?

#### 4.4 Strangers can track your personal information and misuse it

Strangers collect information about you particularly from the social network sites. Specially your phone number, email address, school you attend, your workplace etc...This information may be misused by them later.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0luDZVw6Ac&feature=related>

#### 4.5 You cannot stop spreading your photos to strangers

Remember that once your picture is uploaded to online, you cannot take it back. Even you delete the files from where you originally uploaded, NO USE, it has already been spread out.

See this video:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/video/video.php?v=190695558695&ref=share>

#### 4.6 Even your private photo albums can be hacked

Today most of the Muslim sisters might tell, "I have secured my photos in private photo albums. Hence, only my friends can see it. Strangers cannot."

If you still think like that, please see this video. It explains how a private photo album can be hacked.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1O\\_ILJQJP4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1O_ILJQJP4)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEZ7yxa9uMU&feature=related>



#### 4.7 Hackers can take control of your account

Facebook hackers might take control over your account and misuse your information and pictures.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlfhjPST1Ls&feature=related>

#### 4.8 The information might harm your life

The information what you post in social network sites may harm you. Always think before you post.

E.g. a girl might post in her wall – "My parents are out of the country"

Strangers can track the information and will come to know that she might be alone in her home. Finally, the information what she posted will harm her.

See this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vpr4xBeg2U>

#### 4.9 US Government is watching you on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter !

US government monitors you through all the social network sites and gets information about you.

See these videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZNqj9W8TLw&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TN5phfu3mE&feature=related>

## Lesson 5 – Social Networking sites and Religious view

You have watched all the above videos. All those documentary works were carried out by Non-Muslims. If they give this much of priority for Women's dignity, then we, Muslims, how much want to think about it? But we do not.

Islam is the religion that taught the value of women's dignity to the world. But unfortunately Muslims forgot it. Today we learn it from Non-Muslims. Above one is good example for that.

Dear Muslim sisters,

Allah Almighty said in Al Quran:

"Say to believing women, that they cast down their eyes and guard their private parts, and reveal not their adornments save such as is outward; and let them drape their head coverings over their bosoms, and not reveal their adornment."

"O Prophet! Tell thy wives and daughters and the believing women that they should cast their outer garments over their persons (when abroad): that is most convenient that they should be known (as such) and not molested: and Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful"

Here Allah Almighty did not tell that women should cover their beauty only in the direct, not in the Internet.

My dear sisters, you say that you love Allah Almighty and his beloved Prophet (Peace be upon him). But when it comes to the subject of beauty, you start to ask various questions. You begin to talk about feminism. Really, I do not understand this theory.

Whenever men (other than your Mahram) start to enjoy your beauty from any means, do not forget, Sins are not only written for him but your sin account also added up if you fail to fulfill your duty. What is your duty? Conceal your beauty to other men.

As a Muslim, we all have learned about the punishments in the Grave and Hell. Until today, we have just heard about the punishments in the Grave but now it also revealed out to open our eyes and understand the truth!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGkJy6RGwy4>

Today the adornment of this world conceals your eyes from understanding the truth. When you see other women's photos in FB or other websites, you start to ask yourself, "Why should I not upload my photos as my friend did?" YES. Indeed, the adornment of the world conceals your eyes from the truth.

If your heart asks you that question, you ask these questions from your heart.

1. When I am punished in my Grave or Hell, (May Allah protect us) will any of my friends come to save me?
2. When Allah Almighty ask me the reason that why I was not covered, if I tell to him that I was attracted by my friends and so I did as they did. Will Allah accept my reason?
3. Who will save me from the punishment of Grave?

**DO NOT SEE WHAT THE WORLDLY PEOPLE DO.....  
DO SEE WHAT ISLAM WANTS YOU TO DO.....**

## Lesson 6 – Security advices for using Social Networking sites

You might ask me, if it so, should I not use Social Networking sites?

Really, I did not mean it. Certainly, you can use Social Networking sites. But remember your boundaries. Do not exceed them.

Remember, whenever you exceed your limits, the final victim is none other than you. So take care about your online activities.

### 6.1 Security precautions from Online Security Experts

These are the security tips given by various online security experts to protect you from the online risks.

I kindly recommend you to adhere the following advices strongly:

1. Do not post your photos to Online forever.
2. Do not show your address, phone number and email address of your home or workplace publicly.
3. Do not show date of birth (especially year) and age.
4. Do not make unidentified people as your friends, unless you trust them strongly.
4. Do not use credit card information through the social network sites.
5. Keep your profile closed and only allow your friends to view your profile. Change your all privacy settings as "ONLY FRIENDS CAN VIEW"
6. Do not post anything in your Wall that could come back to haunt you. E.g., "I am on the way to my home" It is danger for your security.
7. Set up a separate email account that does not use your real name and use that to register and receive mail from the site. That way if you want to shut down your connection, you can simply stop using that mail account.
8. Use strong password. (Atleast 7 letters combine of alphanumeric letters)

## Lesson 7 – Gain advantages from Social Networking sites

As I told before, everything has two sides. Good and Bad. When we exceed our limit, we face the bad part of it. Anyhow, today lot of people maximize the advantages from Social Networking sites. Here are some tips:

1. You can have good communication with your relations and friends that will help to share new ideas and opinions.
2. You can do online Islamic Da'wah (propagation) via Social Networking sites.
3. You can use your account to teach or share the knowledge with others.
4. You can do online marketing for your company or any other social care institutions.
5. You can promote your websites for free.

### WHY DO NOT YOU TRY IT?

Narrated by Abu Huraira (May Allah be pleased with him):

**The Prophet (peace be upon him)** said, "Faith (Belief) consists of more than sixty branches (i.e. parts). And Haya (This term "Haya" covers a large number of concepts which are to be taken together; amongst them are self respect, modesty, bashfulness, and scruple, etc.) is a part of faith."

Book - Sahih Bukhari  
Volume 1 : Book 2 : Hadith 8

*Log into our Multilanguage Website & learn more about Islam*

[www.mailofislam.com](http://www.mailofislam.com)