

THE SHARI'A & HUMAN RIGHTS

THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF SHARI'A TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Individuals and groups advocating the establishment of the Shari'a (Islamic Law) and Shari'a courts in secular, constitutional democracies such as the United States, Canada and Great Britain, falsely claim that the Shari'a is compatible with the international human rights standards that guarantee the equal rights and dignity of all human beings. In fact, provisions of the Shari'a are inconsistent with 17 of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Here are a few examples of the Articles of the UDHR that are violated by provisions of the Shari'a:

Discrimination and Violence Against Women

Inequality before the law (Articles 1 and 7); Permissibility of domestic assault and battery (Article 3); Restrictions on employment (Article 23); Restrictions on freedom of movement (Article 13); Arranged, nonconsensual marriage of virgin women (Article 16);

Discrimination Against Non-Muslims (*Dhimmitude*)

Inequality before the law (Articles 1 and 7); Restrictions on political participation and equal access to public service (Article 21); Restrictions on freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18); Restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression (Article 19)

Discrimination Against Apostates of Islam

(Muslims leaving Islam)

Criminalization and imposition of capital punishment for changing religious beliefs (Articles 3, 5, 19 and 20)

Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians

Imposition of capital punishment for homosexual activity (Articles 3 and 5)

Cruel, Unusual, Degrading or Excessive Punishments

Punishment of stoning for adultery; Punishment of amputation for theft (Article 5)

Advocacy of Warfare to Establish Islam and the Shari'a

Advocacy of war (Articles 1, 3, 12, 28 and 30)

Permissibility of Slavery

Permissibility of the enslavement of non-Muslims (Articles 1, 3 and 4)

Consistent with the recommendations of international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, the laws, procedures and institutions established to guarantee the equal rights and dignity of all human beings should be based on international human rights standards, not on any particular ideological system, such as the Shari'a.