

The first question of Fatwa no. 9693

Q 1: Many young girls correspond with boys. In their letters they write things that I would not dare to write or mention. This phenomenon is widespread in this society. Hence, we earnestly hope that you can do us the favor of writing a letter, supported by evidence, about how we should solve this problem. I have told many of them about how serious this matter is, but I cannot do much as I do not have deep knowledge, so I failed to convince them despite my repeated attempts.

A: One of the essential aims of Shari`ah (Islamic law) is to protect people's lineage and honor. For this reason, Allah (Exalted be He) has forbidden Zina (sexual intercourse outside marriage) and ordered that it be punished by whipping or stoning. Allah (Exalted be He) has also forbidden the means that may lead to Zina, such as a man being alone with a non-Mahram woman (not a spouse or an unmarriageable relative). Likewise, sinful looks, women traveling without a Mahram (spouse or unmarriageable relative) or going out of their homes wearing perfume and make-up, clothed yet naked, to attract young men and provoke their desires and tempt them away from their religion, are all forbidden acts. This also includes a man speaking to a woman in a deceitful manner, and her speaking to him

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in a soft voice so as to tempt him and provoke his desire, so that he will fall into her trap, whether this is done in person, over the phone, via correspondence or in some other means. For this reason, Allah (Exalted be He) forbade the wives of the Prophet (peace be upon him), who are chaste and pure, to make a display of themselves in the manner of the first Jahiliyyah (pre-Islamic time of ignorance), or to speak in soft voices so as to provoke the desire of those in whose hearts was a disease; and He commanded them to speak in a manner that was honorable. Allah (Exalted be He) says: (O wives of the Prophet! You are not like any other women. If you keep your duty (to Allâh), then be not soft in speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease (of hypocrisy, or evil desire for adultery) should be moved with desire, but speak in an honourable manner.) (And stay in your houses, and do not display yourselves like that of the times of ignorance)

So Muslim youths must fear Allah (Exalted be He), protect their chastity, and lower their gaze. They should refrain from speaking or writing any obscene words of immoral romance or deceit. Muslim girls are obliged to do likewise; to remain chaste and not to go out wearing make-up; and clothed yet naked. It was reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (There are two types of the denizens of Hellfire whom I have not seen yet: people with whips like the tails of cattle, with which they beat the people; and women who are clothed yet naked, swaying and causing others to sway (i.e. seduced and seducing), their heads looking like the humps of camels, tilted to one side. They will not enter Paradise or even smell its fragrance although its fragrance can be detected from such and such a distance.) (Related by Ahmad in his Musnad and Muslim in his Sahih)

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If young men and women obey Allah (Exalted be He) and His Messenger, and rise above worldly

matters, keeping away from sources of Fitnah (temptation) and suspicions, that will be better for them, purer for their hearts, and safer for their reputations and societies. Allah is the One sought for help.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee

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