

Source: Berita Harian (Translated Article)  
Date: Tuesday, 25 November 2008  
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## **Status of Women in Islam. Wrong understanding of Non Muslims rectified**

**-Proper understanding given during session organized by IRO and OnePeople.sg**

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Why men and women are separated during worship? Islam empowers the rights of men. Women in Islam are not allowed to wear brassieres.

These are some of the many questions and distortions regarding Islam which were clarified during the session on Women in Islam organized by the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) and OnePeople.sg recently.

Titled 'Women in Islam; Between Facts and Distortions', the lecture was given by Dr Bibi Jan Buhd Ayub, at the OnePeople.sg auditorium at Toa Payoh.

According to Dr Bibi Jan, one of the main distortions related to the status and women of women in Islam. Many among non-Muslims believe that women are oppressed and given low status in Islam.

"We still find antiquated cultures in some parts of the Islamic world which oppress women even though these do not have any linkage with Islam. The media makes the wrong analysis and spreads the distortion without understanding the basis and the causes" said Dr Bibi Jan.

"I had met an Australian who asked me whether it was true that Muslim women are no allowed to wear brassieres" added Dr Bibi Jan.

Some Muslims practice specific traditions without considering them with rationality and logic.

"More disturbing is the fact that there are people within Islam who wrongly interpret the Quran and the Prophet's Traditions."

The talk attended by about 50 people is a part of a continuing programme of the IRO and OnePeople.sg to enhance understanding and promote interfaith harmony.

The Director of OnePeople.sg Mr Ramesh Ganesan, hoped that participants obtained better understanding of the situation of women in Islam.

"I myself was attracted by the Islamic teaching that "Paradise lies under the feet of the mother." It shows that Islam accords high respect for women," he said.

One participant Ms Lee Mei Chuen, 40 years, said that the lecture provided answers for many questions and corrects the misunderstanding she had about the position of women in Islam.

"I no longer believe that women are given different treatment in Islam and I now am aware that both men and women play equally important roles in Islam" said Ms Lee.

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Photo caption "Women are given respect in Islam." Dr Bibi Jan (scarved) carries on the discussion with fellow participants at the end of the lecture which clarified that women in Islam are not oppressed but are given honour in Islam. Phot M.O.Salleh.