

09/04/2014

Submission to the Scottish consultation authority, on the proposed Carers legislation.

Provision of care and duty to Provide care.

It is a firm established point in the Koran that husbands provide care for their wives, children and grandchildren, and that it is their duty upon them. Thus carer's are either the husband/father himself, or a delegated person from them to look after the interests of the person requiring care. Thus in the Islamic culture, care for the person in need is also organised and managed by them. Here we see, in the two surat examples<sup>1</sup>, firm authority for this view, as well as a hadith emphasising the point, that husbands are required to take good care of their wives, both spiritually and financially.

What is care in Islam - Types of care

In Islam it is a firm established point that care is available in a different variety of ways. Thus we can see Medical, family, favour, martyrdom, and home based care, all based in the Koran and Hadith and all possible through husbands and male guardians. These types of care are different to the western based type of care found in a straightforward care and the person being cared for approach. Here we can see the duty to provide care in action, such as through the building of strong family ties in order to care for example the extended family unit members as part of the normal family, due to religious and cultural reasons.

Care and healing ayats in the Koran

Here we find in this context the Koranic ayats relating to the issue of care and healing<sup>2</sup>, both medical based, but also found in general usage, with the emphasis here being on the focus of care from Allah himself.

Medical hadith - Types of care

Visiting the sick,<sup>3</sup> incantations<sup>4</sup> and healing prayers<sup>5</sup> are all ways in which care takes place towards sick and vulnerable people. It is important to note the emphasis here is on the reliance on Allah through prayer, and the carer needs to have this right facilitated by people who deal with them. Thus we can see the need for prayer rooms and places for wudu and prayer breaks for example when having to visit professional staff such as doctors in surgeries accompanying the cared for person.

Agencies providing care -

There are now a variety of organisations that deal with care issues such as social services, carers and private care, care watch criteria for care as an example<sup>6</sup>. The issue here is to recognise and provide for the carer's needs such as for respite care care to undertake acts of worship, including time to participate in Hajj for example.

Specific support for carers such as muslim chaplains, and the need for these in every hospital providing

---

<sup>1</sup> Surat An Nisa 4.34, and Surat An Nahl 16.72, Book of Wedlock Hadith

<sup>2</sup> Care and Healing ayats include, 3.102, 5.105, 9.50, 25.77, 28.12, 39.9, 2.261,<sup>3</sup> 3.49, 5.110, 9.14, 10.57, 16.69, 17.82, 26.60, 41.44.

<sup>3</sup> 4 Chapter 5649

<sup>4</sup> 32 Chapter 5735, 33 Chapter 5736, 34 Chapter 5737, 35 Chapter 5738, 5739, 37 Chapter 5741, 38 Chapter 5742, 41 Chapter 5751

<sup>5</sup> Hadith 5743, 5744, 5745, 5746.

<sup>6</sup> Examples of good care from care watch include; Medication management, support with spiritual activities such as groups at the mosque, housework and light duties, preparing and cooking meals, food shopping and planning activities, help with money management and other relevant mental health interventions.

outreach work and spiritual support for muslim carers, and those they care for.

Islamically sensitive service provision for carer's provided to support them, needed in society, e.g. to help with courses on stress management for Muslim carers.

A full budget allocation from the Scottish executive to fund Islamic care projects and care initiatives for Muslims necessary, e.g. a Carers support worker for muslim women, or a Islamic medical calligraphic art therapy class that involves both the carer and the person cared for.

Understanding family needs in carers roles by consulting with the husband on aspects of care, e.g. seeking him out to be the main contact and next of kin, and respecting this situation such as as the named person, guardian or appointee through a power of attorney, and helping to facilitate a role as the medical welfare contact in the family.

Also the role of Al Wadud -that is love in family relationships where care is involved e.g. the role of the muslim mother in having to look after and care for a sick or disabled child, and the right to have this bond protected and nurtured by bodies in dealing with their care needs such as respite breaks.

All carers support plans should allow for the respect of Islamic faithful family life to be supported with carers provided with full inclusion into support plans for their religious needs e.g. If a husband has to provide care for a sick wife, then recognition that he wishes to be able to go to the mosque on Friday<sup>7</sup> for community prayers and that such faithful events have to be supported, such as through respite care as part of their care needs to be built into any support plan.

Information and advice to be given to Carer's in a religiously sensitive manner, such as relevant Islamic service provision, and in all community languages, e.g. Arabic.

Carers support through eligibility criteria should include Islamic faith needs, such as the need to respect Islamic family life, e.g. by the provision of female muslim staff for a female muslim carer to be able to relate to easier.

Also regard must be had by the Government in relation to two pieces of legislation on this issue, the Equality Act and the Human rights Act. Here regard has to be made to Islamic family life, and to accommodating the needs of religious minorities in provision of services. Both of these would count as being relevant to the issues discussed.

Also it is worth noting that the consultation does not have a question on the issues of religious needs and ethnic minority needs and views, which means these aspects of society have been excluded.

In conclusion, I would like the consultation to give proper regard to issues that concern carers from a Muslim viewpoint and that take into consideration the needs of Muslim ethnic minorities such as those who are part of the Muslim society, including the Arabic and Pakistani minorities as examples.

Thank you and I would appreciate a reply from you on these issues.