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# Nikah/Marriage Procedures

This is an important document.

Read it carefully before contacting  
us for your Nikah.

# Nikah/Marriage Procedures

## Nikah is the bedrock of a healthy society

The society that one lives in has a direct effect on one's life. Hence every person desires for and strives to build a healthy society. Among the aspects that form the bedrock of a healthy society is the institution of Nikah. By means of Nikah one finds solace and comfort which enables one to fulfill one's duties to Allah Almighty.

Nikah also provides a lawful avenue to fulfill the basic in-born need of carnal desires.

A pure, stable and happy human race flourishes as a direct result of the bond of Nikah, while countless social evils are also dispelled by it. Take away the institution of Nikah and in a short time society will sink to such depths of moral degradation which are unimaginable.

Nowadays, the Western world has abandoned the institution of customary marriage (Nikah) and adopted in its place the "living together" concept. When the respective partners do not feel like "living together" anymore, they simply say "good bye" and part company. The result of this is glaring for the entire world to see, including the fact that children are deprived of the comfort, security and stability of a harmonious family environment consisting of both parents. Entire communities face total breakdown in a short time span.

Adapted from: <http://www.haqislam.org/>

## Part 1 – Nikah is an important step

1. Nikah is an important step in your life. A Nikah must only be undertaken if you are happy to engage in a relationship with the other person. There must be no force from any person(s).
2. Nikah is the only means through which sexual relations between a man and woman become lawful. Having such a relationship outside the bond of Nikah is totally prohibited in Islam and a major sin. Such relationships are also the catalyst for the breakdown we see today.
3. The bride and bridegroom must appreciate that life after Nikah (marriage) will almost certainly be "different" prior to Nikah. There are responsibilities to acknowledge, and it is essential both parties acknowledge this and fulfil these obligations.
4. Nikah is a great blessing and worship (Ibadah). Our prophet ﷺ has described Nikah as "half of Iman" (faith). Nikah keeps an individual away from sin, and brings peace and tranquillity in one's inner self.
5. The blessings of Nikah can only be achieved when both bride and bridegroom fulfil their respective responsibilities in accordance with *divine teachings* (Quran and Sunnah). Our love, compassion, intimacy, parenting etc all must be based on divine teachings. *It is thus essential you read up on this topic and make yourself aware of your responsibilities.*

6. Our prophet ﷺ has instructed us to look for piety when seeking a partner. In addition to this, there must also be compatibility in various aspects.
7. **Only undertake a Nikah if you are ready for the responsibilities of married life.** A Nikah must be for life (till death does us apart). Where you undertake a Nikah for any “other” reasons, this results in dissatisfaction, divorce, arguments and other serious consequences. **Ensure you are ready for your Nikah and fully aware of the consequences and responsibilities of Nikah.**
8. It is important to appreciate that sometimes certain marriages take place for “immigration” reasons – i.e. one party wishes to secure citizenship in the UK. It is important you **know your respective partner to be (and you are not going to become a victim of a “sham” marriage), and that you fully understand what a Nikah is.**
9. Before you make Nikah, your intention must be clear. If the correct intention (Niyyah) is there, you will receive great reward (Thawaab). Your intention should be “following the Sunnah of our prophet ﷺ, the Nikah being a means to keep away from sin”. The correct intention must also be made in respect to any offspring which you may be blessed with in the future.

## **Part 2 – Nikah procedures**

1. Al-Ansaar Welfare & Education provides a “Nikah service” as part of its services to the Muslim community. Our Nikah service is there to help those who wish to be in a *lawful and Halal* relationship.
2. The bride, bridegroom and all witnesses **must be over the age of 18.**
3. We will not conduct a Nikah if (for whatever reason) we are not satisfied with your credentials.
4. The bride and bridegroom must present two forms of identification, one with a photo and one with a UK permanent address. It is your responsibility to produce the original documents. *Witnesses do not need to produce ID.*
5. Two male witnesses MUST be present at the time of Nikah. **We will not provide any witnesses.** Hence, do not ask us up to provide witnesses, as this will simply be an embarrassment for you. *If the witnesses are not present for whatever reason, the Nikah will not be conducted.*
6. ***Note that the presence of two male witnesses (or one male and two females) is a requirement of Shariah and in accordance with the Hanafi school of thought.***

## **Part 3 – Nikah fees, deposit and times:**

1. A fee of £75.00 is payable for each Nikah. This money goes towards the Madrasa.
2. To avoid cancellations and to ensure our time is not wasted, we request part of the fee (a deposit) in advance (payable by bank transfer). You will be sent full information about this once we have agreed on a date for your Nikah.

3. A convenient Nikah date and time must be agreed between you and us. This date can be agreed by contacting us via email. ***Our preferred method of communication is via email. Ensure your email is precise and to the point, and with a contact telephone number.***
4. We generally conduct all Nikah ceremonies with as little as 72 hours notice.
5. **Nikah Times:** Our Madrasa for children aged 5 – 16 runs from 4.15 PM to 8.00 PM, Monday to Friday. **No Nikah ceremonies can be conducted within these Madrasa hours.**
6. Our Nikah times are as follows:
  - a. Within our office hours which are **9.30 AM to 11.30 A.M** (Monday to Friday).
  - b. The next best time after the above office hours of 9.30 to 11.30 is in the evening between **8.10pm and 8.30pm.**
  - c. The only time a Nikah can be conducted on the weekends is on a Saturday between **11.30am and 12.30am.**
  - d. We are closed all day on a Sunday. We will only consider a Nikah on a Sunday if someone from our team is available.
  - e. We are also generally closed over school holidays and on most public holidays. We will only consider a Nikah on these occasions if someone from our team is available.
7. It is important you come on time for your Nikah. Plan your journey well in advance, and ensure you have our correct address and postcode.
8. If you cannot turn up at the agreed time, **you must inform us as soon as possible.** Failure to inform us results in our time being wasted in waiting for you.

#### **Part 4 – Do I need my parents to be present?**

1. Marriages conducted without the “blessings” of parents are valid under Shariah (Islamic) law. Thus, you do not need permission from your parents or other relatives. However, as Nikah is an important step, it is in your interest to inform your parents and gain their support and blessings.
2. Parents are sometimes not supportive for a variety of reasons, with the most common one being they do not approve of your choice of marriage partner. Despite this, we will conduct your Nikah keeping the wider interest of the need to be in a ‘*Halal and lawful relationship*’.
3. Do note that Al-Ansaar Welfare & Education will merely conduct the Nikah (so that both parties may live together lawfully in accordance to Shariah); under no circumstances you will draw us into any personal conflicts. Al-Ansaar Welfare & Education must be made aware of such marriages.
4. Where we feel that the bride and bridegroom are “too young” to undertake a “Nikah” (e.g. the age is under 18), **then we will ask for parental consent / involvement.** Each case is treated on an individual basis. We do not ask for parental consent / involvement where the bride and bridegroom are over 18.
5. It is important to note that Islam does not promote or advocate “forced” marriages. Such marriages are usually the result of cultural practices and norms.

## **Part 5 - Other information:**

1. We only conduct a Nikah where both the bride and bridegroom are physically present.
2. You can bring along friends and relatives. In fact, the more people who attend your Nikah, the better.
3. In Islam, Nikah is a very simple and straightforward affair. The bride and bridegroom have to accept each other as husband and wife in front of two male witnesses. It's as simple as that.
4. It was the practice of our beloved prophet ﷺ to recite a sermon prior to the Nikah. Hence, a sermon (in Arabic) will be read before your Nikah is conducted.
5. We will keep confidential the details of your Nikah in the sense that we will not disclose any information to a third party, neither is our Nikah book (where a carbon copy of your Nikah certificate is kept) available for public inspection.
6. At the current moment Mufti Javid Pathan, Moulana Habibullah or Moulana Mohammed Farook Kazi conduct all Nikahs.

## **The actual ceremony:**

This is a very simple and straightforward affair.

The Imam (or person conducting the Nikah) will recite a short Khutba (sermon) in Arabic. This sermon consists of:

1. Praise to Allah.
2. Salutations on all prophets.
3. Repentance and other supplications.
4. Testimony to the fact there is ONLY one God (Allah).
5. Quran verses. Especially those that preach about piety and the fear of Allah.
6. Certain Ahadith (sayings of our prophet SAW) on Nikah.

The Imam will then:

- a) Ask the bride's consent.
- c) The Imam will then ask the bridegroom if he has accepted the bride in Nikah.
- d) The 2 witnesses will be witness to this Nikah ceremony
- d) If the Mehr (dowry) has been fixed, it can also be mentioned (but not necessary).

The Nikah is now complete.

A Dua (supplication) will then be made to end the ceremony.

## **Part 6 – Nikah certificate**

1. A certificate of Nikah is issued, one original and a second certified copy.
2. It is important you retain this certificate, as you may need it in the future (e.g. if you undertake Hajj / Umrah – the certificate can prove a Nikah exists between you especially as surnames are usually different at the time of Nikah).
3. The names on the photo ID will be the names that will be written on the Nikah certificate. We will not write any other names.
4. It is essential you keep these safe as duplicates are not issued.

## **Part 7 – Registering your Nikah under UK law**

Conducting a Nikah at Al-Ansaar Welfare & Education does not constitute a marriage at a UK registrar's office. Thus, it is important that you also register your Nikah / marriage with your local registrar office.

If you fail to do so, then in the future you may not be able to claim certain rights etc (in the event of a “dispute”, separation etc).

**Disclaimer:** Everything mentioned in this document is there as guidance only. It should not be taken as UK law. You should seek independent professional advice as relevant to your circumstances. We merely conduct the Nikah, and we do not provide any legally binding advice etc.

## **Part 8 – Nikah with “People of the Book” – Christians & Jews**

Nikah for a **Muslim Male** with what the Quran terms as “People of the book” is permissible if the other person (wife to be) falls under this category. It is important you take relevant steps to ensure the validity of this, as we do not provide any advice on this. We will simply conduct the Nikah in the belief that “your wife to be” is truly a person from the “People of the book”.

## **Part 9 – Nikah at a venue of your choice**

We may at our discretion provide a bespoke service where someone attends to conduct your Nikah in a venue of your choice. Every case is assessed individually, email us for more information. You will naturally have to meet all travel costs, which most probably will be made by train if outside a 40-mile radius.

### **Final note:**

- ✓ We **do not** conduct Nikah over the phone.
- ✓ We **do not** provide witnesses.
- ✓ We **do not** back date the Nikah.
- ✓ We **do not** do Nikah without a pre-arranged appointment.