

# Introduction to Islam

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## Islam

- Islam is often associated with the Middle East.
- The country with the largest population of Muslims is Indonesia.
- Muslims make up 1/5 of the world's population
- Large numbers of Muslims are found in Asia (69%), Africa (27%), Europe (3%) and other parts of the world. (approximate figures)

## **A Brief History - Australia**

**A cave painting of an Indonesian prau, found in Arnhem Land** beeswax figures superimposed on the cave paintings suggests the figures appears to have been made before 1664, perhaps as early as the 1500s.

The northern coast and islands of Australia were circumnavigated and visited by the Chinese and Malay Muslim traders and fishermen well before the 15th century.

## **Cameleers in 1860s**

**In the 1860s a large number of Afghan cameleers arrived in Australia to work the camel trains which opened up the interior of the continent.**

**Oldest mosque in Australia (built 1861 by the cameleers) is situated near Marree in South Australia.**

## Islam in Australia

Islam in Australia is a minority religious group. According to the 2011 census, **476,291** people, or **2.25%** of the total Australian population were Muslims.

## Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

- Born in Mecca, Arabia in 570 AD
- Mecca was a place of ignorance and lawlessness.
- He was an orphan.
  - His Father, Abdullah died before he was born in 570 AD
  - Mother Aminah died when he was six, 576 AD
  - Grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, until he died in 578
  - Then raised by his uncle Abu Talib
- He was a shepherd but then became a Merchant
- He was illiterate
- He would retreat to a quiet place, a cave to reflect
- 610 AD 'Night of Power' (Age 40) visited by Angel Gabriel

## **Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)**

Read.... Read... Read

Read in the name of your Lord

Who created man from a drop of clot of  
congealed blood

Read for your Lord is most generous, He who taught by  
the pen, taught man what he did not know.

- The messages continued until the Prophet died in 632
- Messages were recited by the Prophet and memorised and written by his the companions.
- The Qur'an was collected together in 633 and standardised in 635

## **The Qur'an**

- The Quran has been preserved, unchanged
- Muslims believe the Qur'an is no new heavenly scripture. Only an authentic edition of previous heavenly scriptures.

"We sent Jesus, son of Mary, in their footsteps, to confirm the Torah that had been sent before him: We gave him the Gospel with guidance, light, and confirmation of the Torah already revealed – a guide and lesson for those who take heed of God.  
... We sent to you [Muhammad] the Scripture with the truth, confirming the Scriptures that came before it, and with final authority over them."

(Quran, 5:46, 48)

## Who is a Muslim?

- Muslim is an Arabic word that literally means 'One who submits' to Islam which comes from the root definition 'Peace' and means 'submission'
- A Muslim is one who believes and declares that "there is no God except one God and prophet Muhammad is the last and final messenger of God". This is known as Shahada (Declaration of Faith).
- Muslims also vary in their schools of thought and interpretations.

## Sunni and Shia

- 1.6 Billion of all Muslims agree that there is only One God and Muhammad (pbuh) is His messenger.
- Two main branches of Islam are:
  - Sunni (One who follows the Sunnah) approx. 85 – 90 %
  - Shia (followers ) approx. 10 – 15 %
- Political and power struggle
- Succession
  - Shia: Family of the Prophet / Descendants (ie. Twelve Imams)
  - Sunni – Any practising Muslim chosen by consensus (ie. The Four Caliphs )
- Examples of co-existence for centuries and share many fundamental beliefs and practices.
- Differences lie in the fields of doctrine, ritual, law, theology and religious organisation.

## **Main sources of Islam?**

- The main sources of Islam are:
  1. **The Qur'an**
    - Literal Word of God
  2. **Sunnah**
    - sayings
    - actions
    - life of the Prophet Muhammad.

## **Pillars of Islam**

1. **Shahadah** – testifying to creed
2. **Salaat** – daily prayers
3. **Zakat** – paying charity
4. **Sawm** – fasting in Ramadan
5. **Hajj** – performing pilgrimage

## 1. Shahadah – testifying to creed

“There is no God but God (Allah) and Muhammad is His Messenger”

- Must be a genuine belief that includes 6 articles of faith.
- Allah is the personal and unique name of God
- The title has no plural form and no gender.
- The Qur'an describes God as incomparable to anything (42:11).
- For humans to comprehend some of what God is a culmination of 99 special names from descriptions in the Qur'an are chosen out of an unrestricted number which Muslims reflect and find a personal relationship with God.

| <u>Allah</u>         | The Greatest Name       |                   |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Ar-Rahman</u>     | 1 The All-Merciful      | <u>Al-Basit</u>   | 21 The Reliever                     |
| <u>Ar-Rahim</u>      | 2 The All-Beneficent    | <u>Al-Khafid</u>  | 22 The Abaser                       |
| <u>Al-Malik</u>      | 3 The Absolute Ruler    | <u>Ar-Rafi'</u>   | 23 The Exalter                      |
| <u>Al-Quddus</u>     | 4 The Pure One          | <u>Al-Mu'izz</u>  | 24 The Bestower of Honors           |
| <u>As-Salam</u>      | 5 The Source of Peace   | <u>Al-Mudhill</u> | 25 The Humiliator                   |
| <u>Al-Mu'min</u>     | 6 The Inspirer of Faith | <u>As-Sami</u>    | 26 The Hearer of All                |
| <u>Al-Muhaymin</u>   | 7 The Guardian          | <u>Al-Basir</u>   | 27 The Seer of All                  |
| <u>Al-'Aziz</u>      | 8 The Victorious        | <u>Al-Hakam</u>   | 28 The Judge                        |
| <u>Al-Jabbar</u>     | 9 The Compeller         | <u>Al-'Adl</u>    | 29 The Just                         |
| <u>Al-Mutakabbir</u> | 10 The Greatest         | <u>Al-Latif</u>   | 30 The Subtle One                   |
| <u>Al-Khaliq</u>     | 11 The Creator          | <u>Al-Khabir</u>  | 31 The All-Aware                    |
| <u>Al-Bari'</u>      | 12 The Maker of Order   | <u>Al-Halim</u>   | 32 The Forebearing                  |
| <u>Al-Musawwir</u>   | 13 The Shaper of Beauty | <u>Al-'Azim</u>   | 33 The Magnificent                  |
| <u>Al-Ghaffar</u>    | 14 The Forgiving        | <u>Al-Ghafur</u>  | 34 The Forgiver and Hider of Faults |
| <u>Al-Qahhar</u>     | 15 The Subduer          | <u>Ash-Shakur</u> | 35 The Rewarder of Thankfulness     |
| <u>Al-Wahhab</u>     | 16 The Giver of All     | <u>Al-'Ali</u>    | 36 The Highest                      |
| <u>Ar-Razzaq</u>     | 17 The Sustainer        | <u>Al-Kabir</u>   | 37 The Greatest                     |
| <u>Al-Fattah</u>     | 18 The Opener           | <u>Al-Hafiz</u>   | 38 The Preserver                    |
| <u>Al-'Alim</u>      | 19 The Knower of All    | <u>Al-Muait</u>   | 39 The Nourisher                    |
| <u>Al-Qabid</u>      | 20 The Constrictor      | <u>Al-Husib</u>   | 40 The Accounter                    |

|                          |    |                               |                            |    |                            |
|--------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| <u><i>Al-Jalil</i></u>   | 41 | The Mighty                    | <u><i>Al-Mumit</i></u>     | 61 | The Taker of Life          |
| <u><i>Al-Karim</i></u>   | 42 | The Generous                  | <u><i>Al-Hayy</i></u>      | 62 | The Ever Living One        |
| <u><i>Ar-Raqib</i></u>   | 43 | The Watchful One              | <u><i>Al-Qayyum</i></u>    | 63 | The Self-Existing One      |
| <u><i>Al-Muhib</i></u>   | 44 | The Responder to Prayer       | <u><i>Al-Waiid</i></u>     | 64 | The Finder                 |
| <u><i>Al-Wasi'</i></u>   | 45 | The All-Comprehending         | <u><i>Al-Ma'iid</i></u>    | 65 | The Glorious               |
| <u><i>Al-Hakim</i></u>   | 46 | The Perfectly Wise            | <u><i>Al-Wahid</i></u>     | 66 | The Only One               |
| <u><i>Al-Wadud</i></u>   | 47 | The Loving One                | <u><i>Al-Ahad</i></u>      | 67 | The One                    |
| <u><i>Al-Majid</i></u>   | 48 | The Majestic One              | <u><i>As-Samad</i></u>     | 68 | The Satisfier of All Needs |
| <u><i>Al-Ba'ith</i></u>  | 49 | The Resurrector               | <u><i>Al-Qadir</i></u>     | 69 | The All Powerful           |
| <u><i>Ash-Shahid</i></u> | 50 | The Witness                   | <u><i>Al-Muqtadir</i></u>  | 70 | The Creator of All Power   |
| <u><i>Al-Haqq</i></u>    | 51 | The Truth                     | <u><i>Al-Muqaddim</i></u>  | 71 | The Expediter              |
| <u><i>Al-Wakil</i></u>   | 52 | The Trustee                   | <u><i>Al-Mu'akkhir</i></u> | 72 | The Delayer                |
| <u><i>Al-Qawi</i></u>    | 53 | The Possessor of All Strength | <u><i>Al-Awwal</i></u>     | 73 | The First                  |
| <u><i>Al-Matin</i></u>   | 54 | The Forceful One              | <u><i>Al-Akhir</i></u>     | 74 | The Last                   |
| <u><i>Al-Wali</i></u>    | 55 | The Governor                  | <u><i>As-Zahir</i></u>     | 75 | The Manifest One           |
| <u><i>Al-Hamid</i></u>   | 56 | The Praised One               | <u><i>Al-Batin</i></u>     | 76 | The Hidden One             |
| <u><i>Al-Muhsi</i></u>   | 57 | The Appraiser                 | <u><i>Al-Wali</i></u>      | 77 | The Protecting Friend      |
| <u><i>Al-Mubdi</i></u>   | 58 | The Originator                | <u><i>Al-Mutu'ali</i></u>  | 78 | The Supreme One            |
| <u><i>Al-Mu'id</i></u>   | 59 | The Restorer                  | <u><i>Al-Barr</i></u>      | 79 | The Doer of Good           |
| <u><i>Al-Muhvi</i></u>   | 60 | The Giver of Life             | <u><i>Al-Tawwab</i></u>    | 80 | The Guide to Repentance    |

|   |    |                                |
|---|----|--------------------------------|
| <u><i>Al-Muntaqim</i></u>               | 81 | The Avenger                    |
| <u><i>Al-Afu</i></u>                    | 82 | The Forgiver                   |
| <u><i>Ar-Ra'uf</i></u>                  | 83 | The Clement                    |
| <u><i>Malik al-Mulk</i></u>             | 84 | The Owner of All               |
| <u><i>Dhul-Jalali<br/>Wal-Ikram</i></u> | 85 | The Lord of Majesty and Bounty |
| <u><i>Al-Muqsit</i></u>                 | 86 | The Equitable One              |
| <u><i>Al-Jami</i></u>                   | 87 | The Gatherer                   |
| <u><i>Al-Ghani</i></u>                  | 88 | The Rich One                   |
| <u><i>Al-Mughni</i></u>                 | 89 | The Enricher                   |
| <u><i>Al-Mani'</i></u>                  | 90 | The Preventer of Harm          |
| <u><i>Ad-Darr</i></u>                   | 91 | The Creator of The Harmful     |
| <u><i>An-Nafi</i></u>                   | 92 | The Creator of Good            |
| <u><i>An-Nur</i></u>                    | 93 | The Light                      |
| <u><i>Al-Hadi</i></u>                   | 94 | The Guide                      |
| <u><i>Al-Badi</i></u>                   | 95 | The Originator                 |
| <u><i>Al-Baqi</i></u>                   | 96 | The Everlasting One            |
| <u><i>Al-Warith</i></u>                 | 97 | The Inheritor of All           |
| <u><i>Ar-Rashid</i></u>                 | 98 | The Righteous Teacher          |
| <u><i>As-Sabur</i></u>                  | 99 | The Patient One                |



## **2. Salaat – Daily prayers**

- Muslims are required to pray five times a day.
  - Early Morning
  - Noon
  - Afternoon
  - Evening
  - Nightfall
  
- Represents the five most significant milestones of ones lifetime, ranging from birth to adult life, old age and death
  
- A conscious way of positive self-conditioning that results in in a constant awareness of God.

## **5. Hajj – performing pilgrimage**

- Muslims face the Ka'bah in Mecca when praying.
- Ka'bah simply means cube.
- Considered the first shrine in the history of mankind to be erected for the worship of the one God.
- Built by the first human being, Prophet Adam, later erected by Prophet Abraham and his son.
- No divinity nor is it worshipped, simply a unifying point of focus which brings order and harmony to the act of worship.
- All Muslims are required to perform a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime if one can afford it physically and financially.

### 3. Zakat – paying charity

- Zakat (alms) means purification and growth
- Muslims are obliged to **annually** pay a portion (approximately 2.5% or 1/40) of his or her total wealth for the benefit of the poor and needy.
- Zakat cannot be given to parents, grandfather, to one's children, grandchildren, husband or wife.
- Zakat must be given to those who are poor and needy.

### 4. Sawm – fasting in Ramadan

*“O you who believe! Observing As-Saum (the fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become Al-Muttaqoon (the pious)”*  
*[al-Baqarah 2:183].*

- Muslims are required to abstain from food, drink and other pleasures from dawn to dusk each year during Ramadan.
  - In addition, Muslims are expected to refrain from anger, envy, greed, lust, gossip, violence, bad language and other inappropriate thoughts and actions.
- Fasting is meant to encourage Muslims to seek nearness to Allah, be patient, and learn the hardships faced by the less fortunate.

## Pillars of Faith

1. Belief in Allah – Existence and Oneness of God
2. Belief in Angels
3. **Belief in God's Prophets**
4. **Belief in the books/scriptures revealed by God**
5. Belief in the resurrection (afterlife)
6. Belief in divine determination / destiny

### Belief in Prophets:

• According to the Qur'an, numerous prophets were sent to the people. However, a few of them were mentioned in the Qur'an. (Qur'an, 4:164). In a Prophetic report, the number is indicated at 124,000

#### 25 names of Prophets are explicitly named in the Qur'an:

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Prophet Muhammad (Muhammad)  | 14. Prophet Jethro (Shu'ayb)   |
| 2. Prophet Jesus (Īsa)          | 15. Prophet Joseph (Yusuf)     |
| 3. Prophet John (Yahya)         | 16. Prophet Jacob (Ya'qūb)     |
| 4. Prophet Zakarias (Zakariyya) | 17. Prophet Issac (Ishaq)      |
| 5. Prophet Elisha (al-Yasa)     | 18. Prophet Ishmael (Isma'īl)  |
| 6. Prophet Elias (Ilyas)        | 19. Prophet Abraham (Ibrahīm)  |
| 7. Prophet Jonah (Yūnus)        | 20. Prophet Lot (Lūt)          |
| 8. Prophet Ezekiel (Dhu'l Kifl) | 21. Prophet Methusaleh (Salih) |
| 9. Prophet Job (Ayyūb)          | 22. Prophet Heber (Hud)        |
| 10. Prophet Solomon (Sulayman)  | 23. Prophet Noah (Nūh)         |
| 11. Prophet David (Dawūd)       | 24. Prophet Enoch (Idrīs)      |
| 12. Prophet Moses (Mūsa)        | 25. Prophet Adam (Adem)        |
| 13. Prophet Aaron (Harūn)       |                                |

**Peace and Blessings be upon them all**

## Belief in the books/scriptures revealed by God

### Sahifa: scrolls as revealed to Prophet Abraham

1. **Tawrat / Torah:** As revealed to Prophet Moses
2. **Zabur / Book of Psalms:** As revealed to Prophet King David
3. **Injil / Gospel:** As revealed to Prophet Jesus
4. **Qur'an:** As revealed to Prophet Muhammad

## People of the Book

- In the Qur'an a concept known as the "People of the Book" is found. These People of the Book are non-Muslim adherents to faiths which have a revealed scripture. In Arabic they are called "Ahl al Kitab" meaning "the people of scripture" or widely referred to today as the Abrahamic faiths.

***"Those who believe, those who are Jews, and the Christians, and Sabeans, all who believe in Allah and the Last Day and act rightly, will have their reward with their Lord. They will feel no fear and will know no sorrow." (Sura al Baqara 2:62) (Sura al Maida 5:69)***

## Mary in the Qur'an

### Mary and Jesus in the Qur'an:

- Mary, the mother of Jesus (*Isa*), is the only woman identified by name in the Qur'an. She has a whole Chapter dedicated to her.
- If a Muslim denies Mary's chastity, purity, virtue, virgin birth, he loses his faith.
- Both Islam and Christianity esteem her holiness, humility, purity, and miraculous conception of the Word of God.
- Mary and Jesus are of particular significance in both traditions.

## Jesus

- Jesus is one of the great messengers according to Islam.
- Islam considers Jesus to be the promised Messiah.
- His name or attributes mentioned in 15 chapters in the Qur'an and occurs in 93 verses.
- His plain name as Isa (Jesus) mentioned 25 times, Son of Mary (*Isa b. Maryam*) occurs 23 times in the Qur'an.
- His miraculous birth, his mission, his miracles, attempt to kill him, and God's raise him to Himself are explained in the Qur'an.

## Jesus' return to the world

- Both Christians and Muslims believe Jesus' return to the world before the Day of Resurrection.
- His return is a common ground between these religions.
- Jesus Christ plays a major role in Islamic eschatology. According to the Prophetic tradition (Hadith), *Jesus Christ will come to the world a second time to judge with justice, and will also kill the Antichrist (al-Dajjāl)* (Bukhārī 1981; Muslim 1955, 244–6).
- Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (d. 1960), one of the great Muslim scholars, interprets these Hadiths as follows:

Muslims will enjoy peace with the pious Christians towards the end of time. This unity will ensure security, and they will strive together against the common enemy, namely irreligiosity.

**One section from The Qur'an:**

**Chapter: THE FAMILY OF IMRAN**

**Verses: 45-51**

Medinan sura which takes its title from the family of Imrān mentioned in verse 33.

- **45.** The angels said, 'Mary, God gives you news of a Word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, who will be held in honour in this world and the next, who will be one of those brought near to God.'
- **46.** He will speak to people in his infancy and in his adulthood. He will be one of the righteous.'
- **47.** She said, 'My Lord, how can I have a son when no man has touched me?' [The angel] said, 'This is how God creates what He will: when He has ordained something, He only says, "Be", and it is.'
- **48.** He will teach him the Scripture and wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel.

- **49.** He will send him as a messenger to the Children of Israel: "I have come to you with a sign from your Lord: I will make the shape of a bird for you out of clay, then breathe into it and, with God's permission, it will become a real bird; I will heal the blind and the leper, and bring the dead back to life with God's permission; I will tell you what you may eat and what you may store up in your houses. There truly is a sign for you in this, if you are believers.
- **50.** I have come to confirm the truth of the Torah which preceded me, and to make some things lawful to you which used to be forbidden. I have come to you with a sign from your Lord. Be mindful of God, obey me:
- **51.** God is my Lord and your Lord, so serve Him— that is a straight path."

## **Contemporary Issues Relating to Islam**

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### **Contemporary Issues**

- The challenges seen within the Muslim world today can ultimately be attributed to the decline of the Muslim world in the last century or two.
- This has had social, economic, intellectual and even spiritual implications for the Muslim world.
- There are other reasons:
  - Perception of the unknown
  - Portrayal
  - Stereotyping



## Contemporary Issues

- Jihad
- Terrorism
- Women in Islam
- Shariah

## Contrasting Views...

- "Jihad is 'holy war'. Or, more precisely: It means the legal, compulsory, communal effort to expand the territories ruled by Muslims at the expense of territories ruled by non-Muslims."  
(Daniel Pipes – Political Commentator)
- "I am doing a Jihad to educate western companions about the misperceptions of Islam."  
(Karen Armstrong – Author)

## Jihad Untangled

- The word jihad means to 'struggle' or 'strive' and applies to any effort exerted by anyone.
- In the religious context, the word jihad, as used in the Qur'an, refers to a spiritual struggle against evil in one's self and in various forms outside the self.

## Jihad Untangled

- There is no concept of 'holy war' in Islam.
- There are greater and lesser aspects of *jihad*.
  - The *greater jihad* comprises dealing with inner struggles in the pursuit of intellectual and spiritual enlightenment.
  - The *lesser jihad* is the social activism in protecting and developing society.

## Terrorism

- The words 'Muslim' and 'terrorist' have diametrically opposite meanings.
  - Islam means peace which stems from a close relationship one establishes with God. Peace is generated within, as well as with the social and natural environment.
- Hence, a true Muslim cannot be a terrorist nor a terrorist can be a Muslim.
- It is extremely offensive to innocent Muslims when these two words are used together.

## Terrorism is Often Political...

- "Deep anger at the presence of Western combat forces in Muslim Lands" (Pape and Feldman)
- In 1996, Osama bin Laden issued a declaration of Jihad whose aims were:
  - "To drive American forces out of the Arabian Peninsula, to end Israel's occupation of Palestine and to overthrow the Saudi regime that supports US policies."

## Women in the Quran

- Men and women are equally expected to fulfil all religious duties and both are included in the final, ultimate reward:
  - “... Whoever does an atom’s weight of good, whether male or female, and is a believer, all such shall enter into paradise...” (Qur’an, 40:40)
- Both men and women have responsibilities towards one another:
  - “And for women are rights over men, similar to those of men over women.” (Qur’an, 2:26)

## Women in the Hadith (Prophetic Narratives)

- “The best of you are they who behave best to their wives.”
- “An acquisition of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim, male and female.”
- “Heaven is under the feet of the mother.”

## Changes That Came With Islam

- Islam gave women a say in their marriage.
- Islam gave women the right to divorce.
- Islam gave women and children a set share of inheritance from their husband or fathers property.
- Islam commanded both men and women to gain knowledge.
- Islam gave women the right to voice her opinion.

## Challenges of Today

- Following culture instead of religion
- The media
- Third world conditions
- Poor leadership and poor governance
- Colonisation
- Freezing of Islamic law
- Lack of female scholars
- All women face the challenge

## Principles of Shariah

1. **Life** – every person has a right to live in safety and earn his or her livelihood.
2. **Property** – owning and preserving one's personal property is a fundamental right.
3. **Human mind** – no one, including the self, society and state, should coerce or remove the ability to think freely.
4. **Belief and religion** – there is no compulsion in religion and every person has a right to keep and pass their religion to future generations.
5. **Family and lineage** – humans have the right to raise a family.

## Why Shariah Seems Underdeveloped

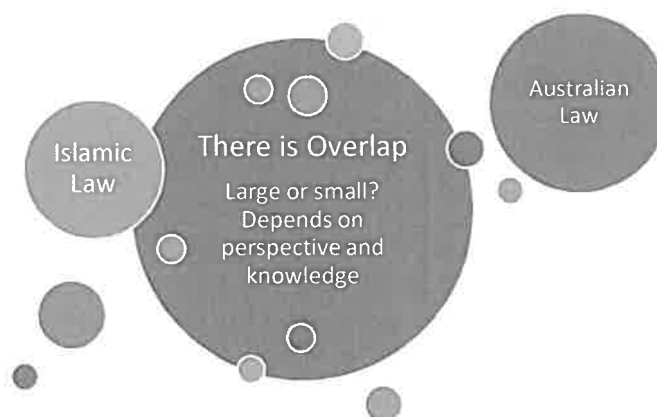
-  Discouragement of new legislation after the middle ages as society did not change.
-  Destructive effects of European colonisation as legal systems collapsed.
-  Oppressive secular regimes replacing Shariah with concoctions of Western legal system.
-  Fast change in society and emergence of new issues in the last 150 years.
-  Hasty application of centuries old Islamic law by eager Islamists who wanted to bring back Shariah.



## Shariah in Australia

- Most Muslims **do not** want to replace Australian law with Shariah and impose Islamic law on all Australians.
  - This is simply **not possible** even within the Shariah itself where Islamic law cannot be imposed on non-Muslims.
- What Muslims want is to do the right thing ethically and religiously in addressing ethical problems.
  - Some arrangement similar to Beth Din (Jewish Rabbinic Courts) can be set up.
  - But this is too soon as there are no legal experts who could preside over these courts in Australia.

## Overlap Between Islamic Law and Australian Law?



## How Islamic Are Islamic Countries?

- Research published in *Global Economy Journal* which the measures:
  - Economic IslamicityIndex (EI2)
  - Legal and Governance IslamicityIndex (LGI2)
  - Human and Political Rights IslamicityIndex (HPI2)
  - International Relations IslamicityIndex (IRI2)
- **Top 10 Ranking:** New Zealand, Luxembourg, Ireland, Iceland, Finland, Denmark, Canada, the U.K., Australia and the Netherlands.
- **Muslim countries:** Malaysia came first amongst Muslims countries - listed 38<sup>th</sup> and Kuwait 48<sup>th</sup>.  
*Global Economy Journal, Vol. 10 [2010], Iss. 2, Art. 2*  
<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/gej>

## Conclusion

- Jihad is a comprehensive word which means "struggle".
  - The greater jihad for Muslims is the struggle against their ego.
- Terrorism goes against the Islamic principles.
  - Terrorist acts are often undertaken for political reasons.
- Women are not subservient to men according to Islam.
  - Many of the problems we see in the Muslim world are due to poverty, lack of education, bad cultural practices.
- Most Muslims are not seeking Shariah the way the media portrays it.
  - They are happy to practice it in their personal life.