

ISLAM AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Best sources: http://wikiislam.net/wiki/Islam_and_Homosexuality

http://wikiislam.net/wiki/Persecution_of_Homosexuals

Here are some quotes:

The Hadith and Akhbar

Given the vagueness of the Qur'an regarding the punishment of *liwat*, Islamic jurists have turned to the collections of the [hadith](#) (sayings of [Muhammad](#)) and akhbar (accounts of his life). These, on the other hand, are perfectly clear and particularly harsh.^[11]

[Ibn al-Jawzi](#)^[disambiguation needed] records Muhammad as cursing sodomites in several hadith, and recommending the death penalty for both the active and passive partners in same-sex acts.^[12]

[Sunan al-Tirmidhi](#), again reports [Muhammad](#) as having prescribed the death penalty for both the active and the passive partner: "Whoever you find committing the sin of the people of Lut, kill them, both the one who does it and the one to whom it is done."^[1] The overall moral or theological principle is that a person who performs such actions (*luti*) challenges the harmony of God's creation, and is therefore a revolt against God.^[9]

[Al-Nuwayri](#) in his *Nihaya* reports that the Prophet is alleged to have said what he feared most for his community were the practices of the people of Lot (although he seems to have expressed the same idea in regard to wine and female seduction).^[11]

Such hadith nevertheless show that, while probably not very common in [Bedouin](#) society, homosexuality was not totally unknown in [Arabia](#) of the pre-Islamic period.^[11]

[edit] Jurisprudence

The various traditional schools of [shari'a](#) (Islamic law) disagree on what punishment is appropriate for *liwat*. The [Hanafi](#) school holds that it does not merit any physical punishment, on the basis of a hadith that "Muslim blood can only be spilled for adultery, apostasy and homicide"; against this the [Hanbali](#) school, identifying sodomy with adultery,^[9] holds that it must incur the death penalty.

[Abu Bakr](#) condemned a homosexual to be buried beneath the debris of a wall and prescribed burning alive as the penalty for all those guilty of such practices.^[13] In this respect, he was followed by [Abd Allah bin al-Zubayr](#) and [Hisham bin Abd al-Malik](#). For his part, [Ali bin Abi Talib](#) ordered the stoning of a *luti* and had another thrown head-first from the top off a minaret; according to [Ibn Abbas](#), this last punishment must be followed by stoning. [Abd Allah bin Umar](#) went a step beyond the condemnation by the Prophet, reckoning that these people would be resurrected in the form of monkeys and pigs.^[11]

[[edit](#)] Rulings by modern scholars of Islam

Based on the principles of the Qur'an and the Hadith, several eminent scholars of Islam, such as [Imam Malik](#), [Imam Shafi](#), Ahmad and Ishaq have ruled that the person guilty of homosexuality should be stoned regardless of his married or unmarried nature.^[1]

[Ibn Kathir](#)'s commentary on the words of Qur'an with respect to homosexuality are,

"The words of Allah 'And the two persons (man and woman) among you who commit illegal sexual intercourse, hurt them both' mean, those who commit immoral actions, punish them both. Ibn 'Abbaas (may Allah be pleased with him), Sa'eed ibn Jubayr and others said: By condemning them, shaming them and hitting them with shoes. This was the ruling until Allah abrogated it and replaced it with whipping and stoning. 'Ikrimah, 'Ata, al-Hasan and 'Abd-Allah ibn Katheer said: This was revealed concerning a man and woman who commit fornication. Al-Saddi said, it was revealed concerning young people before they get married. Mujaahid said: it was revealed concerning two men if they admit it bluntly; a hint is not sufficient - as if he was referring to homosexuality. And Allah knows best."^{[14][15]}

[Ibn al-Qayyim](#) is reported to have said,

"Both of them – fornication and homosexuality – involve immorality that goes against the wisdom of Allah's creation and commandment. For homosexuality involves innumerable evil and harms, and the one to whom it is done would be better off being killed than having this done to him, because after that he will become so evil and so corrupt that there can be no hope of his being reformed, and all good is lost for him, and he will no longer feel any shame before Allah or before His creation. The semen of the one who did that to him will act as a poison on his body and soul. The scholars differed as to whether the one to whom it is done will ever enter Paradise."^[16]

[Ahmad Kutty](#), senior lecturer and Islamic scholar at the [Islamic](#)

[Institute of Toronto, Ontario, Canada](#), in his lectures on the subject has expressed the view a Muslim practicing homosexuality needs to give it up since it is considered "one of the most abominable sins in Islam".^[17] Muslims like Dr. Nadia El-Awady, the Health & Science Editor at [IslamOnline](#), have attempted to discuss and understand homosexuality in an Islamic^[18] as well as a scientific light,^[19] citing its apparent ill-effects for the Islamic as well as the moral society.^[20] The Islamic UK-based group, the [Shari'ah Court of the UK](#) has issued a [fatwā](#)^[21] calling for a death sentence for playwright [Terrence McNally](#) for depicting [Jesus](#) and his followers as a group of homosexuals.

Many scholars of Shari'a, or Islamic law, interpret homosexuality as a punishable offence as well as a sin. There is no specific punishment prescribed, however, and this is usually left to the discretion of the local authorities on Islam.^[22]

"Homosexuality is one of the most disgusting sins and greatest crimes.... It is a vile perversion that goes against sound nature, and is one of the most corrupting and hideous sins.... The punishment for homosexuality is death. Both the active and passive participants are to be killed whether or not they have previously had sexual intercourse in the context of a legal marriage.... Some of the companions of the Prophet stated that [the perpetrator] is to be burned with fire. It has also been said that he should be stoned, or thrown from a high place."

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Another worrying statistic to be found among Muslims in the UK, is that although they comprise just 2% of the total British population, they commit 25% of all anti-Homosexual crimes