

Beijing+25: Has the Mask of Gender Equality Fallen?

Talk 3: The Beijing Declaration Agenda and the Effects of its Dictates to Governments to Secularize the Provisions of Islamic Law

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(Translated)

Alhamdulillah Rabb al-Alameen and peace and blessing be upon our Prophet Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers, and all his companions, and those who follow him with Ihsan until the Day of Judgment, I greet you with the greeting of Islam, Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh.

After the West succeeded in excluding Islam from the conduct of this life, they worked - for centuries - to impose their view on Muslims and humanity in general, until they became the world's leaders in terms of the concepts that their Western Capitalist Civilization carries and which call for the promotion of freedoms of all kinds. They directed these concepts towards the woman because they were certain of her fundamental role in raising generations and in the progress and development of society, and strived to impose their Western secular vision of women on Muslim countries and the world. They worked, and continue to work, to make their view a comprehensive global one which all countries of the world, especially the Muslim ones, will follow. It is no longer hidden from anyone with insight what the West is planning and conspiring with regards to Islam and Muslims. The West employed all means to pass and impose their view of women on countries, so they ratified it in international agreements and conferences under the auspices of the United Nations such as the Beijing Conference for Women, which celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary. The West emphasizes every five years in this conference the demands of its stipulated articles and its approach to its work, and they strike all the prevailing judgments and concepts in societies that they consider obsolete and outdated. And they focused their attention on the provisions of the Social System in Muslim lands - which still retained some provisions of the religion of Islam - so they misled the Muslim woman and diverted her from her religion by spreading their corrupt concepts that delude her with equality with men, and their views of empowerment and emancipation. And feminist movements have contributed significantly and massively in focusing and beautifying the Western view of women for Muslim women to favor and embrace, deceived by the glamorous slogans these movements hold, and who drag weak women behind it, like the lizard drags its prey to a hole.

This worldview that the West tries to make Muslims and humanity in general revolve around has caused enormous damage to women, the family and society and has resulted in countless problems. How can it not be so when they have ignored the biological nature of women as carriers of the human race and put that aside and considered it marginal or with no effect, which contradicts reality, as this should be a key factor in defining the roles and rights between the two parties in the marital relationship and family life. This is alongside feminism's encouragement for men and women to selfishly define their rights and duties in accordance with their personal desires and individual choices, and which made the perspective that organized the man's relationship with women based on gender (female or male) such that family life is built on self-love and interest, ignoring what brings the good for the married couple and children, provides a calm family life, and guarantees security, stability and progress within the society.

In short, it aims to dismantle the remaining Shariah provisions related to the Islamic Social System and the structure of the Muslim family in particular. This is what the various provisions included in the Beijing Declaration have explained, from which Article 232 (a) has indicated: *"Giving priority to the promotion and protection of the full and equal enjoyment by*

women and men of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any kind of discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, or religion". This platform also sought to break down what they called the stereotypical view of the family (a man and a woman) and to call for multiple forms for it (a man and a man) or (a woman and a woman). So they described in their Article 29 that *"In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist."* and they call to formally "recognize" this "abnormal entity" and the children who are joined to it through adoption or artificial insemination or through surrogacy.

The document also called for raising the age of marriage and denouncing it when it was early, as it sees it as an obstacle for women to achieve their potential and their aspirations (Articles 39, 71, 93, 107 and so forth), which is contradictory to its provisions that give women and girls the right to enjoy a sexual life with whoever they want, and at whatever age outside marriage, and to advise them so that this enjoyment is safe and has no consequences (such as the transmission of AIDS) and guarantee them the right to have an abortion in the event of unwillingness to have children. In their view, sexual intercourse outside of marriage is not an obstacle to women achieving their potential and aspirations! There is no shame in making a girl or woman pregnant through adultery! As for the legal marriage, it is rejected because in their eyes, it is early and a hindrance for her to fulfill her hopes and dreams?!

Dear distinguished sisters, the disease and the pandemic that wants to ruin the body of the family and destroy society have become worse.... Poisoned ideas and concepts aimed at destroying the rest of the remaining provisions of Islam have spread in our society. So international, regional and national institutions have been established to achieve these destructive goals that claim the advancement of women and put her issues at the forefront of the Global Agenda and move forward to allegedly enhance her gains throughout the world.... These institutions include offices, committees, agencies and ministries whose work - all of them - revolves around the "issue" of women and their rights.

On the international level, bodies were appointed to be responsible for following up the implementation of Global Agendas. And the Beijing Declaration called for the world to support these bodies in order to achieve the goals set. The United Nations Organization comes at the forefront of these institutions and has established itself as the main global champion of women's and girls' issues, as it helps Member States to set global standards to achieve gender equality, and to include the issue of women in institutions concerned with the economy, development, culture and the environment, and it also works with governments and civil society to plan laws, policies, programs and services necessary to ensure implementation of those standards.

Thus, the United Nations and its affiliates (FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO, Amnesty International, and human rights organizations) have become a great platform for spreading corruption in the Islamic world, and the frontline in the fight against Islamic values and concepts. This is in addition to obliging the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other donor institutions to support the Beijing Platform for Action by linking the loans they give to countries with implementing reforms within the strategies and goals of the Beijing Declaration.

As for the national level and the level of the Arab countries in particular, national mechanisms have been established to support and assist international institutions and organizations in fulfilling their role and achieving their goals. So all the governments that have ratified the Beijing Platform for Action have established several and varied institutions to advance women and achieve gender equality.

In Lebanon, for example, the Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs was created (in the current government, it has been called the Minister's Office for Economic

Empowerment of Women and Youth) ... In Egypt: The Constitution stipulated in Article 214 thereof the independence of the National Council for Women, and that its opinion be taken on draft laws and regulations related to the functions of the Council in the field of protection and empowerment of Egyptian women.... In occupied Palestine: a special ministry for women's affairs and a number of women's committees were established as a steering committee for women's empowerment centers, and a technical committee to review the system of legislation governing personal and civil conditions ... In Tunisia: the Committee for Individual Freedoms and Equality was created in 2017 by presidential order, which was entrusted with the task of preparing reports on legislative reforms related to individual liberties and equality in accordance with international standards for human rights and contemporary trends in the field of liberties and equality... In Turkey: the General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW), was equipped with special powers as a branch of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services with the Presidential Decree No.1... It enforced legal changes in the Turkish Constitution, including Article 90, which rendered CEDAW and Istanbul Convention superior to the national legislation. Thus the Turkish Civil Code, Laws on Family Courts, the Turkish Penal Code; and a whole range of other laws were amended in line with every international agreement related to women and gender equality.

The Beijing platform is a Western Agenda that seeks to integrate the concept of gender equality in all policies and laws in all aspects of society and has employed governments, secular media, civil society organizations, and women's groups to achieve its goals. Hence, all of them have united in repeated and multiple attempts which reflects a great determination to remove all obstacles and barriers that prevent reaching the stated goal! An agenda that strives to change the Islamic provisions and claims to protect and defend the rights of Muslim women.

What are the results of these intense measures that claim fairness for women and giving them their rights and equality with men?! Is this what a Muslim woman aspires to?? Did she really- and in light of these laws - achieve her potential and did she push away the injustice claimed by her supporters??

Dear distinguished sisters, there have been several amendments and continuous efforts to change Islamic social laws - especially recently – such as the father's guardianship of his children - especially girls – which was considered a manifestation of violence against women. There was also a lot of talk about the equality of women with men in inheritance, and the mixing between males and females was encouraged in dance festivals, musical concerts and marathons, in addition to enacting other laws that explicitly contradict the verses of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (saw). Hence polygamy was forbidden and the age for marriage was set, and it became permissible for Muslim women to marry a non-Muslim, and other laws, legislations, and activities that lacerate chastity and promote immorality (as contained in CEDAW).

Malicious conferences have become clear to everyone with insight, and what happens in the structure of our societies today does not have any limit. These are conspiracies that work to make Muslim societies like Western societies with outrageous vice, forbidden relationships, and abnormal behavior (such as homosexuality) spreading in it (as well as adultery - rape – immoral street children - gay marriage, and even marriage of people with animals and objects.) ﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ تَشِيعَ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ ***“Those who love to spread immorality among the disbelievers, will have a woeful punishment in this world and the next. And Allah knows while you do not know (the consequences of this evil).”*** [An-Nur: 19]

One who detects the conditions of the social life in the Muslim countries and the bad status that the Muslim family is going through, he should be aware that the attack on Islam continues everywhere, because the West and its tools from women's organizations, governments, and societies do not fail to corrupt Muslims and harm them. Treading the same path and imitating the colonialists inch by inch and step by step leads to the hardship of living and great loss, while adhering to Islam and its Shariah in life, is life, salvation, and reassurance.

Dear distinguished sisters, among the negative effects of the call of equality between the sexes, is what we see from the hardship of living and bad conditions affecting the Muslim family in all its aspects (the collapse of the relationship between the spouses - the low value of motherhood - the disintegration of family life and society in general ...) as divorce rates increased in different regions of the Arab world, especially in Egypt, Jordan, and the Arab Gulf States. It has reached 85% in Jordan, and in Tunisia, the number of divorces per day is 41 cases. In addition, marriage rates decreased significantly due to the aversion of many girls and boys to marriage because they considered it a repressive structure and a barrier to personal freedom. In Egypt, the marriage rate decreased by 70% between 2004 and 2016. The call for gender equality and equal opportunities for success and self-fulfillment at work also resulted in delaying or avoiding childbearing, and the woman strived to assume a position to be equal with the man and turned her goal towards another role that was heavier on her and that placed great pressure upon her: the woman became a breadwinner and her relationship with the "original breadwinner" was strained, which led in many families to domestic violence not to mention the loss of her role as a mother and neglecting the rights of her children. The Indonesian Child Protection Committee (2016) released data revealing that there are 11.2 million Indonesian children today who are deprived of their mothers' care because of their work abroad. In Turkey; one in four marriages is divorced, 38% of all women faced at least once domestic violence, 440 women were murdered in 2019... Additionally young marriages are punished mercilessly, after raising the age of legal marriage to 17. Thus husbands and fathers of women, who married before the age of 17, are sentenced to at least 8-10 years of imprisonment even after 10 years of happy marriage and multiple children. Currently there are 4,000 husbands in jail, another 4,000 are fleeing arrest, and more than 16,000 children are currently deprived of their fathers on the accusation of raping a minor, who is their mother... Marriage has become an institution dominated by the competition between the sexes for roles and duties and has entrenched the selfish view and strengthened the self-worth of the individual at the expense of family life, in line with the Western approach and its principle based on interest and benefit, cancelling the true meaning of the relationship between the two spouses: integration and unity with the aim of fulfillment of their marital and family obligations.

These are suspicious calls that we should ignore and reject because they work to achieve the goals of the rotten enemies of the nation who are working to spread their rotten Western culture. It is a disrespectful, naïve, and ignorant behavior to be deceived with the stated goals of the United Nation, its institutions, mechanisms and laws!

It is not right for us - the Muslims - to obey such conferences, as what is based on Shariah, we take it, and what is inspired by the West and its decisions, laws and agreements, we discard it, especially after we became aware of the authorities that organized these conferences and promoted them and issued their recommendations... authorities which ignored and marginalized, and even criminalized Islam, sometimes directly and sometimes not. This makes us cast a shadow of suspicion and confirm the existence of the spirit of conspiracy and ill intent set out against women in general and Muslim women in particular, as they are working to change the the fitrah of Allah upon which He has created all people in terms of the diversity and complementarity of their roles. They decided that there is a new

religion that we must follow other than the religion of Allah that was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (saw), that is compatible with advancements in time. They claim that the legislation and laws that were set in the time of the Prophet, his companions, their followers, and the followers of the followers cannot be valid for humanity today: Unquestionably, evil is what they decide!

The advancement of women is only in accordance with Islam and compliance with the rulings of Allah Almighty who equated men and women in commissioning (Takleef), reward and punishment and unchained the woman from the slavery of the West and honored her with the best honor, and He (swt) is the One who best cared for and nurtured the affairs of people, all with comprehensive care emanating from their faith and consistent with their instinct through a set of Sharia rulings, as the Creator of a woman is more worthy of knowing what she is owed of rights and obligations, so that the people who promote secularism are unable to compete with Islam over who gets the credit for understanding and helping woman! They cannot compete with us and our great religion, while their secularism, its illusion, and the falsehood of what it has called for have emerged. In an interview conducted by France 24 in 2019 with the feminist Nawal El Saadawi, who stated, *"there are people who have built palaces with secularism. Secularism throughout history is a delusion used by capitalist political systems to trade with it, the same as with democracy ... I paid the price of secularism ... I paid the price that I really wanted to separate God from politics"*

Hence - my sisters - do not become deceived by the lies of the West with their empowerment and imaginary rights! Do not look for goodness from such conferences, for how can those who were unable to succeed in their original version of fairness for "Western" women know the path of success and give Muslim women her rights and empowerment.

All of the conspiracies of the West did not and will not succeed to undermine the greatness of this religion, for there are virtuous Muslim women who are aware of their religion and its legal rulings. And the terms of such agreements have not and will not overcome us and our families, for the sons and daughters of the best nation produced for mankind adopt the concepts of their religion and not the concepts of the West and its values and corrupt culture: the civilization of AIDS, pornography, immorality, the systematic loss of the concept of marriage, the disintegration of motherhood and the disintegration of the family unit. Indeed, the Muslims take their knowledge from the civilization of Islam in which there is guidance and light... Allah (swt) says: **﴿قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ نُورٌ وَكِتَابٌ مُبِينٌ * يَهْدِي بِهِ اللَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ وَيُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ﴾** ***"O People of the Scripture, there has come to you Our Messenger making clear to you much of what you used to conceal of the Scripture and overlooking much. There has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book. By which Allah guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darkness into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path."*** [Al-Ma'idah: 15-16]

In conclusion, my dear sisters, would you accept that in your country there will be meetings and seminars of this corrupt work and these are its goals?! Do you accept such calls that clash with our great religion and seek to repeal its rulings from our lives? Do you agree that they spread fitna among our sons and daughters and promote the rotten capitalist culture amongst them? Would you accept for them, you, and the Ummah of Islam the humiliation, loss and harm? I assure you that your answer will be "No", so raise your voices my sisters and speak out saying "No to these conferences!" "Take your hands off our sons and daughters and our families!" "Take your cheap goods and your rotting regime and leave us!"

The System of Allah and its provisions and legislations is enough for us for in it lies all the good and the success for us and for all humankind!