

## AVOID FREE MIXING

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أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

### Dear brothers and sisters

Free association (free mixing) is one of the diseases that plagues people today. In this post-modern age, this problem is often contagious due to the lack of religious education. Teenagers socialize freely regardless of gender causing the young generation who see it to be influenced and have a negative impact on them. The problem of free association can be curbed if all parties including government or non-government agencies work together to combat this problem. The main parties that need to look into this are parents, schools, and the community. In general, association means mixing. In Arabic, association is referred to as *ikhtilat* which

brings a special meaning to mixing or association between legally married men and women in various forms of interaction.

In following the current trend of modernity, this issue does not only occur face-to-face, but free association also occurs more often in the mass media because of the sophistication of technology that makes it easier for people to do whatever they like. Among the causes of free association among teenagers is the lack of religious conviction. They feel that leading a righteous life restricts their freedom. Just because they want pleasure, they do not care about the negative consequences as long as they feel satisfied. As a result, it is very easy for them to get caught up in things they shouldn't.

Lust and temptation are difficult to combat because of the lack of confidence in Allah the Almighty. Unlike those who study and appreciate religious knowledge; they will be able to restrain themselves from doing things that will plunge them into immorality, for example adultery. All of us know that free association without limits or restrictions is one of the causes of adultery. That is why Allah the Almighty forbids us from approaching adultery (*zina*) as He mentioned in chapter 17 (Surah al-Isra') verse 32:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزَّوْجَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا

**Which means:** “Do not go near adultery. It is truly a shameful deed and an evil way.”

This verse explains that Muslims should stay away from ways that can lead to adultery such as being together alone, promiscuity, browsing porn sites and so on.

### **Dear brothers and sisters**

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Abu Daud Rahimahumullah:

**Which means:** *“Command your children to pray when they are seven years old, and beat them for (not offering) it when they are ten, and separate them (boys and girls) in beds.”*

This hadith explains the emphasis on socializing among siblings by separating beds when they are ten years old. This shows that Islam emphasizes the organization of pure relationships, whether among siblings or relationships with the community.

### **Dear brothers and sisters,**

The duty of preserving dignity and self-respect should be carried out by every Muslim. In this regard, every behavior and action must be kept within the limits of association. Free association causes various social problems among Muslims in this country including teenagers running away from home, free sex, dumping of babies, drug addiction and etc which ultimately results in moral collapse. As a result, teenagers do not have a guaranteed future due to this situation.

Free association between a woman and a non-mahram man is caused by ignorance, weak faith, being influenced by friends and the influence of the mass media. This act can morally and personally cause damage and lower the dignity and

image of oneself and family. As the Prophet (pbuh) stated in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim;

لَا يَخْلُونَ رَجُلٌ بِامْرَأَةٍ إِلَّا وَمَعَهَا ذُو مَحْرَمٍ

**Which means:** “It is not allowed for a man to sit alone with a woman without the presence of a mahram.”

Free mixing (*ikhtilat*) between *ajnabi* men and women (strangers) is only allowed in certain circumstances such as emergency matters and matters of necessity involving human relationships related to society such as matters of buying and selling, witnessing, work matters, politics, matters of seeking knowledge, jihad and the need to carry out daily business. This necessity is allowed by the guidelines set by the *syar'a* (Laws of Islam) and is subject to the values of adab, as follows:

**First**, no close proximity between non-mahrams. If there is an urgent need to meet, find a companion to avoid any slander.

**Second**, covering the aurat perfectly when dealing with the opposite sex.

**Third**, maintain and lower your gaze when dealing directly.

**Fourth**, women should not use a soft and alluring voice when communicating with foreign men and do not show reactions and postures that incite lust.

**Fifth**, no contact between non-mahram men and women.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

In conclusion, socializing among human beings is not prohibited at all in life or religion, but it must have limits so as not to result in undesirable consequences. We have to admit that free mixing does more harm than good. In fact, a comprehensive and proactive effort must be made to organize social interactions so that they coincide with the teachings of Islam and are free from immoral elements.

Therefore, all parties especially parents, schools and even the government need to take appropriate initiatives to organize the Islamic way of socializing. Ultimately, the causes of free association must be avoided so that individuals, communities and countries can live in harmony without evil.

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قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَلِكَ أَزْكَى لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ. وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ. وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ