

Fatwa Number 06 – Saudi Arabia

Fatwa Number: 06/1989

Issuing Date: 19/02/1986 – 26/02/1986

Mufti: Islamic Fiqh Council

Issuing Authority: Muslim World League

Question: Changing one's sex from male to female and vice versa

Fiqh Rule: Those who have both male and female characteristics are allowed and obligated to seek medical care to reveal their true sex. Those who want to change their sex out of mere wish are not allowed and should be advised to repent.

Full Fatwa

Praise be to Allah, and may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon whom there is not a prophet after, our messenger and prophet peace upon him, Muhamed, and his companions and people. Now then:

At its eleventh session, held in Makkah from Sunday 13 Rajab 1409 A.H., 19 February 1989, to Sunday 20 Rajab 1409 A.H., 26 February 1989, the Islāmic Fiqh Council of the Muslim World League met to look into the subject of male to female transition and vice versa, and after research and discussion amongst its members has decided the following:

Firstly, males who have fully grown male organs and females who have fully grown female organs are not allowed to transition to one another. Attempting this transition is a crime that deserves punishment as it is an attempt to change Allah's creation. Allah made it sinful to make such a change, as is pointed out in Satan's words: "I shall order them to alter the creation of Allah " .

In the Sahih Muslim book, according to Ibn Masud, "Allah has cursed those women who practice tattooing and those women who have themselves tattooed, and those women who get their hair removed from their eyebrows and faces (except the beard and the moustache), and those who make artificial spaces between their teeth for beauty, whereby they change Allah's creation." He added, "Why should I not curse those whom the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) cursed and who are cursed in Allah's Book? Allah, the Exalted, has said in His Book" meaning the verse, "And whatsoever the Messenger Muhammad (ﷺ) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it) " .

Secondly, those whose organs have both signs of masculinity and femininity shall be decided on according to what is dominant in their case. If their masculinity is dominant, then it is permissible for them to be

treated to eliminate what creates suspicion around their musicality. If their femininity is dominant, then it is permissible for them to be medically treated to remove what causes supposing around their femineity. Hormonal or surgical treatment is allowed, as this is an illness, and the treatment here is used to cure the illness and not to change Allah's creation.

Peace upon our prophet Muhammed and his companions and people, And Praise be to Allah.

Names of The Members

Vice President

President of the Council of Islamic Jurisprudence

Dr. Abdullah Omar Nassif

Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Baz

Muhammed bin Gubair

Dr. Bakr Abdullah Abu Zaid

Abdullah Al-Abdulrahman Al-Bassam

Saleh bin Fawzan bin Abdullah Al-Fawzan

Muhammed bin Abdullah Al-Sabeel

Mustafa Ahmed Al-Rezka

Dr. Youssuf Al-Qaradawi

Dr. Muhammed Rashid Raghieb Al-Qabbani

Muhammed Al-Shazli Al-Nifar

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Dr. Ahmed Fahmi Abu Suna

Dr. Muhammed Al-Habib bin Al-Khawja

Muhammed Salim Adoud

Muhammed Mahmoud Al-Sawaf

Dr. Talal Omar Bafqiyah (Decision-Maker of the Council of Islamic Jurisprudence)

