

Al-Sayyid Al-Seestani [H.A] on Hġġġġ

From the below, taken from the verses from the Holy Qur`ān, the “General Rules” and the “Questions and Answers”, the following guidelines about Hġġġġ are concluded:

1. Women can only expose their face and hands
2. Clothing should be of a loose nature through which the contours of their bodies are **not** apparent
3. With respect to makeup; only mascara is permissible
4. With respect to jewellery; only rings and bangles are permissible
5. The tops of one’s feet may only be exposed during prayer if non-mahrams are not around

Verses related to hġġġġ from the Holy Qur`ān:

- o ‘...And say to the believing women that they **cast down their looks and guard their private parts and do not display their ornaments except what appears thereof, and let them wear their head-coverings over their bosoms...**and let them not strike their feet so that what they hide of their ornaments may be known; and turn to Allah all of you, O believers! so that you may be successful..’[24:31]
- o ‘...O Prophet! say to your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers that they **let down upon them their over-garments; this will be more proper, that they may be known, and thus they will not be given trouble; and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful...**’ [33:59]

General Rules: [A Code of Practice for Muslims in the West: Women’s Issues]

449. A woman is allowed to keep her **face and hands** uncovered in the presence of a non-mahram man, provided that she does not fear of getting into a *harām* act, that the exposure of her face and hand does not cause men to gaze at her in a forbidden way, and that it does not give rise to immorality in general. Otherwise, it is obligatory on her to conceal [her face and hands], even from those who are *mahram* to her.
450. It is not permissible for a woman to expose the top part of her **feet** to a non-mahram onlooker. However, she is allowed to keep her feet —top as well as sole— exposed during *salāt*, if she is in a place where she is immune from the looks of a non-mahram person.
451. A woman is allowed to use antimony (*kohl*) on her eyelashes and wear **rings** in both hands, provided that it is not intended for drawing lustful attention of men towards herself and that she is confident of not getting into a *harām* act. Otherwise, it is obligatory on her to cover [the eyes that have *kohl* and the hands with rings] even from those who are *mahram* to her.
452. It is permissible for a woman to go out, wearing perfume even if non-mahram men can smell her **perfume**; in so doing, she should not aim to arouse or attract such men.

Questions and Answers: [Various]

Q111: How about a woman who comes out in public and the upper part of her feet are exposed to the sight of non-mahram?

A: This is not permissible for her. (FM, p. 430)

[Current Legal Issues: Mu`āmelāt: part 2: Hġġġġ]

Q116: It is normal these days for a woman to put on mascara and make-up, wear rings, necklaces and bracelets for beauty and then go out in front of people in the markets and streets.

A: This is not permissible for her except for mascara and rings provided that she is safe from falling into forbidden activities and does not intend by it to excite non-mahram men. (FM, p. 430)

[Current Legal Issues: Mu`āmelāt: part 2: Cosmetics]

Q117: Is it permissible for a woman to go out of her house for some errands perfumed, with the fragrance of her perfume reaching non-mahram men?

A: She ought not do that. It is not permissible if it tempts a non-mahram man or normally causes him excitement. (FM, p. 439)

[Current Legal Issues: Mu`āmelāt: part 2: Cosmetics]

467. Question: A vast majority of Muslim women who observe *hijāb* are used to keeping their chins and a small part of the under chin exposed but they cover the neck. Is this permissible for them? And how big an area of the face women can expose? And are the ears included in that?

Answer: The ears are not part of the face, therefore it is obligatory to cover them. As for the part of the chin and the under chin that are seen when putting on the common head scarf, it is to be considered as part of the face.

[Code of Practice...: Women's Issues: Q&A]

472. Question: Is it permissible for a woman who does not observe *hijāb* to get rid of her facial hair, to straighten her eyebrows, and to wear natural and light make up?

Answer: Getting rid of facial hair and straightening the eyebrows do not prevent her from keeping her face open [while putting on the *hijāb*], provided she is confident of not getting sucked into something *harām* and that exposing her face is not done with the intention of inviting *harām* looks.

[Code of Practice...: Women's Issues: Q&A]

479. Question: Is it permissible for a woman to wear rings, bangles, or necklace for the sake of beautification?

Answer: It is permissible and it should be concealed from non-*mahram* men except for the rings and bangles, provided that there is no danger of committing that which is *harām*, or that exposing them should not be with the intention of drawing forbidden attention.

[Code of Practice...: Women's Issues: Q&A]

480. Question: In the West it is possible to wear coloured contact lenses. Is it permissible for a Muslim woman to wear them for the sake of beautification and then appear in front of non-*mahram* men?

Answer: If that is considered as an item of cosmetics, it is not allowed.

[Code of Practice...: Women's Issues: Q&A]

489. Question: Is a woman allowed to wear trousers and take to the streets and markets?

Answer: It is not allowed, if it reveals the contours of her body or would normally arouse temptation.

[Code of Practice...: Women's Issues: Q&A]