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Jamaat-e-Islami Hind

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PRESS NOTE

Awareness Campaign on Muslim Personal Law

April 21, New Delhi: Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) is conducting an all India campaign called "Muslim Personal Law Awareness Campaign" from the 23rd April till 07th May 2017. You are kindly requested to attend the various programs and activities that are chalked out as part of the campaign and give due coverage in your esteemed newspaper / periodical / magazine / web portal / media outlet / News Channel. Following are some of the salient features of the campaign:

Background

Today a large segment of Muslim society suffers from ignorance about Islamic family laws and many in the community do not follow all the laws in their true letter and spirit. Courts of the land often pass judgments contrary to the position of Islamic Shariat on disputes related to Muslim Personal Law (MPL) and then these judgments become legal precedents. Legislative bodies also interfere in MPL while the media portrays a one sided image of MPL. However the judiciary, lawmakers and the media are seldom aware of real teachings of Islam; rather they are usually misled by the faulty conduct of Muslims themselves, which presents a distorted image of the Islamic law.

Legal position

The Shariat Application Act was enacted in 1937 on the insistence of the Muslim community. According to it, disputes about family matters between parties, both of which are Muslims, would be decided according to Shariat, irrespective of local custom or practice. Family matters include marriage, divorce, dissolution of marriage, inheritance and the like. After independence from British rule, the Indian Constitution continued to recognize the legal status of Shariat because it counted freedom of religion and conscience among fundamental rights given in Chapter 3. Freedom of religion obviously implies the freedom to follow Muslim Personal Law, because the latter is derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah themselves. No individual or group has the authority to amend the Divine law. Indeed Muslims are required by their faith to be aware of divine instructions about family matters. Besides personal commitment, Muslims are also required to resist any attempt from any quarter to change the Muslim personal law or dilute or abolish it. Muslims must assert their natural right to follow the religion of their choice.

Need for Educating the Muslim Community

Right since independence, Muslims of India have clearly stated that they reject the idea of uniform civil code. They have opposed all attempts by courts or legislative bodies to interfere in Muslim personal law. But Muslims have not been equally vigilant on the internal front. Adequate

efforts have not been made by them to educate the Muslim masses about Islamic teachings and to undertake reform of the Muslim society, in order to eliminate the violation of Shariat. It must be recognized that the primary reason for violation of Shariat is large scale ignorance of Muslim masses and lack of sincere commitment to Islamic norms. A large segment of Muslim society does not even know the basics of Islam. Many Muslims do not know the rules and instructions which would guide them in matters of marriage, divorce, inheritance and the like. Hence, there is an imperative need to educate, uplift and morally reform the Muslim society, as a whole.

Need for informing the society at large

Equipping Muslims with authentic knowledge about Islam and their moral upliftment are the primary steps. The larger Indian society should then be addressed by Muslims. The principles, objectives and values of Islamic Shariat and its legal rulings should be explained to all in a language which may be understood by our countrymen. They should realize that Islamic law promotes ethical growth, justice, equity, well-being and balance. It has the potential to create healthy family which is basic prerequisite for survival of society. The Muslim law protects the honor and dignity of women; it restores their human rights and ensures sensible liberty for them. It is expected that when the Indian public opinion is properly educated about the beauty of Islamic law, it will not be deceived by the ill-conceived notion of uniform civil code. Jamaat-e-Islami Hind appeals to all sincere persons to participate in its comprehensive campaign for reforming the Muslim society and for educating the people of our country at large.

Major events of the Muslim Personal Law Awareness Campaign in New Delhi

#	Date	Day	Time	Venue	Event description
1	21 April	Friday	3.30 PM	Press Club of India	JIH Press Conference on MPL Awareness Campaign
2	2 May	Tue	11:00 AM	Indian Women's Press Corp	JIH Women's Wing - Press Conference on MPL Awareness Campaign
3	3 May	Wed	7:00 PM	Rajinder Bhawan, ITO	JIH Symposium – "Gender Justice and Islam "
4	7 May	Sun	7:00 PM	Aiwan e Ghalib	JIH MPL Awareness Campaign Concluding Program

Besides the above event seminars, symposiums, public speeches and rallies would be organized in all major cities and towns of India.

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