

FAIRTRADE MOSQUE WORSHIP MATERIALS



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2016



Fairtrade Fortnight is a time to celebrate Fairtrade, bringing communities together and raising awareness of how choosing Fairtrade means choosing products that change lives.

Each year focuses on a different theme – 2016 will highlight how millions of farmers and workers in developing countries work hard every day to grow the food we eat. Yet many don't earn enough to know where their next meal is coming from.

Read the Fairtrade Fortnight Action Guide to learn more about the difference Fairtrade makes, and how you can bring Fairtrade Fortnight to life in your community. Suggestions for A khutbah template is available to download from the Fairtrade Foundation website fairtrade.org.uk



READINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

You'll find a selection of hadith and readings from the Qur'an below to help structure a sermon, halaqah or meeting that looks at Fairtrade principles and values referenced in Islam. Some of these examples are also used in our Fairtrade and Islam resources.

- A hadith narrated by Bukhari states that the Prophet (pbuh) said: **'Allah shows mercy to a man who is kind when he sells, when he buys and when he makes a claim'**. Muslims are obliged to be fair sellers and consumers, treating one another with respect.
- The Islamic principles of respect, dignity and fairness in trade and business are reflected in the Fairtrade Standards, which cover fair pay, decent working conditions and equality among farmers and workers. The Prophet (pbuh) promotes these principles throughout his teachings, saying: **'Your brothers are your responsibility. Allah has made them under your hands. So whosoever has a brother under his hand, let him give him food as he eats and dress as he dresses. Do not give them work that will overburden them and if you do give them such a task then provide them with assistance'** (Bukhari).
- Consider Hilful Fudl, the famous 7th century example of Islamic commercial dealings known as 'Oath of Excellence'. An alliance was created by Meccans to establish fairness in trade after a merchant was wronged. The Prophet (pbuh) was among the members who agreed to the pact (formed before his prophethood). It has played a significant role in Islamic ethics, laying the foundations of human rights and justice. The Prophet (pbuh) held the alliance in high esteem. After receiving the message of Islam, the Prophet (pbuh) continued to acknowledge and respect the pact, stating that **'if I was to take part in it now in Islam, I would still do so.'** Fairness and equitable dealing remains a central part of Islamic teaching and behaviour, and has close parallels with the values and practices of Fairtrade.

Narrated by Al-Hameedi on the authority of Muhammad and Abdur-Rahman, both sons of Caliph Abu Bakr

- The ethics of trade as laid out in Islam have a lot in common with Fairtrade values and principles. Muslims are encouraged to make sure that both parties in a transaction are content with the outcome and that it benefits each side equally. Islam disapproves of the exploitation of workers and demands justice and fairness in trade. The Qur'an states

unequivocally that **‘God loves those who are fair and just’ (49:9)**. The concepts of fairness, equity, mutual respect and consideration for others are inherent in the moral teachings of Islam and so must be part of business dealings too. Supporting Fairtrade is a way for Muslims to exercise responsible consumption that benefits farmers and workers.

- A discussion could be held regarding the similarities between Islamic trade principles on the rights of workers and those of Fairtrade, where people can learn more about how farmers and workers are protected under Fairtrade Standards. With regards to fair pay, Allah says in the Qur’an **‘give just measure and weight, nor withhold from the people the things that are their due’ (Surah Hud v85)**. Considering that hard work and effort are qualities that Allah is pleased with, it is important that those who produce our food and clothing are entitled to pay that is equal to their labour. This is core to Fairtrade’s work.
- **Surah Mutaaffifin** (83rd Chapter of the Qur’an) addresses the topic of fraud and Allah states in this Surah that fraudulent activity is prohibited in Islam, particularly the refusal to pay a fair wage to labourers. Established commentators of the Qur’an, such as Yusuf Ali, believe that the Surah was revealed at a time when tradesmen in Arabia were trading unlawfully and that it was sent to correct this behaviour. This clearly conveys the message of fairness and its significance in Islam.



QUR’ANIC VERSES TO CONTEMPLATE DURING FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

‘O ye who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves in vanities: But let there be amongst you traffic and trade by mutual good-will’ (*Surah Nisa v29*).

‘give just measure and weight, nor withhold from the people the things that are their due’ (*Surah Hud v85*).

‘O you who believe! be maintainers of justice, bearers of witness of Allah’s sake...’ (*Surah Nisa v135*)

‘Woe to the defrauders, those who, when they have to receive by measure from men, exact full measure, but when they have to give by measure or weight to men, give less than due.’ (*Surah Mutaaffifin v1-3*)

‘Allah loves those who are fair (and just)’ (*Surah Hujurat v9*)

‘Deal not unjustly, and ye shall not be dealt with unjustly’ (*Surah Baqarah v279*)

Quotes from Hadith that show the commitment to fairness and justice demonstrated by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

‘Allah shows mercy to a man who is kind when he sells, when he buys and when he makes a claim’ (*Bukhari*).

‘Your brothers are your responsibility. Allah has made them under your hands. So whosoever has a brother under his hand, let him give him food as he eats and dress as he dresses. Do not give them work that will overburden them and if you do give them such a task then provide them with assistance’ (*Bukhari*).

‘Give the labourer his wage before his sweat dries.’ [*Ibn Majah*]

‘A truthful and trustworthy merchant is associated with the prophets, the upright and the martyrs.’ (*Tirmidhi*)

The Qur’anic quotes are taken from Yusuf Ali’s translation. Yusuf Ali’s translation of the Qur’an is one of the most widely known and used in the English-speaking world.

Imam Bukhari’s narrations are viewed as one of the most trusted collections of hadith.

Sunan Ibn Majah is one of the six most important hadith collections.

Narrations collected by Tirmidhi are widely accepted as Hasan (sound/credible).