

Islamic Doctrine versus the U.S. Constitution: Questions for Muslim Public Officials and Political Candidates

There are irreconcilable conflicts between major tenets of Islamic Doctrine and the United States Constitution. And there are an increasing number of Muslims who either hold or are running for public office in the United States. Yet each person holding public office is required to take an oath of office to support that Constitution. So how can Muslims swear to support a Constitution that is in conflict with major tenets of their religion? It is time to ask Muslim public office holders/candidates the tough questions in public/townhall-type settings.

The following information comes from my book *Islamic Doctrine versus the U.S. Constitution: The Dilemma for Muslim Public Officials*. A free PDF copy of this book can be downloaded at:

<https://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/2019/12/03/csp-press-releases-primer-on-islamic-doctrine-versus-the-u-s-constitution/>

Preparation

Here are some things to consider:

1. Try to go to the event with a few friends so multiple questions can be asked, but don't sit together. Each of you can have your own question to ask the Muslim public official/candidate.
2. Be polite and calm.
3. Write out your question ahead of time, so all you have to do is read the question when the time comes. Don't try to memorize or summarize the question.
4. Read your question verbatim and push for a definitive answer.
5. Be ready to handle evasive responses (see the brochure: *Islamic Doctrine versus the U.S. Constitution: Handling Evasive Responses*).
6. Even if the Muslim public official/candidate is evasive or refuses to respond, you are still educating those around you about Islam.
7. Have the event recorded and post it to social media.

Questions

Islam and the 1st Amendment

No. 1: Will you go on record now and state that our 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech gives the right to anyone in the United States to criticize or disagree with your prophet Muhammad, and will you also go on record now and state that you support and defend anyone's right to criticize or disagree with your prophet Muhammad, and that you condemn anyone who

threatens death or physical harm to another person who is exercising that right?

No. 2: Our 1st Amendment guarantees freedom of religion in the United States. As part of that freedom, anyone in the United States has the right to join or leave any religion or have no religion at all. Will you go on record now and state that you support and defend the idea that in the United States a Muslim has not only the freedom to leave Islam, but to do so without fear of physical harm, and will you also go on record now and state that you condemn anyone who threatens physical harm to a Muslim who is exercising that freedom?

No. 3: Molly Norris used to be the editorial cartoonist for the *Seattle Weekly* in Seattle, Washington. In 2010 she came up with the idea of having an "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day." Because of death threats Molly Norris changed her name and went into hiding. She is still in hiding today.

Will you go on record now and state that you support and defend the right of anyone in the United States to draw a picture of your prophet Muhammad, and will you also go on record now to condemn anyone who threatens death or physical harm to another person who is exercising that right?

Islam and the 8th Amendment

No. 1: According to the words of Allah found in Koran 5:38 and the teachings of your prophet Muhammad, amputation of a hand is an acceptable punishment for theft. But our U.S. Constitution, which consists of man-made laws,

has the 8th Amendment that prohibits cruel and unusual punishment such as this. Do you agree with Allah and your prophet Muhammad that amputation of a hand is an acceptable punishment for theft in the United States, or do you believe that our man-made laws prohibiting such punishments are true laws and are to be followed instead of this 7th Century command of Allah and teaching of Muhammad?

*** Here is a follow-up question that if appropriate can be asked by you if there is time or by one of your friends later:

You stated that our man-made laws regarding [...] should be followed instead of the teachings/example of Muhammad (command of Allah in the Koran). Are you thereby stating that Muslims in the United States should follow the man-made laws of the United States if there is a conflict between those man-made laws and the teachings/examples of Muhammad (commands of Allah in the Koran)?

This follow-up question is a model that can be used after any of the similar questions below have been asked. ***

Islam and the 13th Amendment

According to Koran 33:21 your prophet Muhammad is the timeless example and standard of conduct for Muslims and Koran 59:7 commands Muslims to obey him. Your prophet Muhammad bought, sold, and possessed slaves, and allowed the Muslims around him to do the same. But our U.S. Constitution, which consists of man-made laws, has the 13th Amendment which prohibits slavery. Do you agree with your

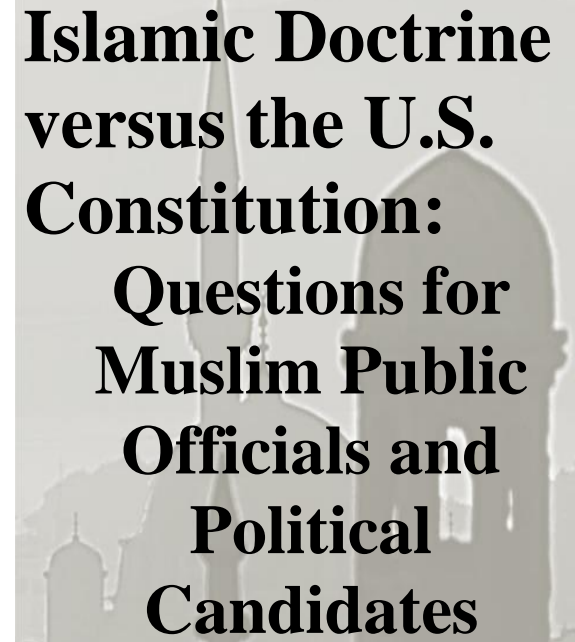
prophet Muhammad that Muslims in the United States are allowed to buy, sell, and possess slaves, or do you believe that our man-made laws prohibiting slavery are true laws and are to be followed instead of this 7th Century teaching of Muhammad?

Islam and the 14th Amendment

No. 1: According to Koran 33:21 your prophet Muhammad is the timeless example and standard of conduct for Muslims. At age 50 Muhammad signed a marriage contract with ‘Aisha when she was only six years old; when ‘Aisha was nine Muhammad consummated their marriage. Do you agree that American Muslim men today can follow the example of your prophet Muhammad and consummate a marriage with a nine year old girl, or do you think this example of conduct by your prophet was only appropriate for 7th Century Arabia?

No. 2: According to the words of Allah found in Koran 4:3, Muslim men are allowed, but not required, to be married to up to four wives. Being married to more than one wife in the United States is illegal according to our man-made bigamy laws. Do you agree with Allah that it is legal for a Muslim man in the United States to be married to more than one woman, or do you believe that our man-made laws prohibiting bigamy are true laws and are to be followed instead of this 7th Century command of Allah?

Dr. Kirby is the author of six books on Islam. His latest book is *Islamic Doctrine versus the U.S. Constitution: The Dilemma for Muslim Public Officials*. His books are available on Amazon.com.



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Part of a series on Islam

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