# Title: Women’s Rights

**Key Questions:** How do we imagine a perfect world to be?

What do the followers of T\* imagine the perfect world would be like? Where do these ideas come from?

How can T’s\* answers about the quest for perfection help me?

Is it helpful to be imaginative or should I be pragmatic about the situations I find myself in?

When do we have to think hard to solve problems?

How have the followers of T\* explored their texts in order to find what they believe to be the answers to life’s problems?

What can the answers T\* give to life’s problems help me with?

Is it sometimes better to be realistic rather than constantly thinking of new or better things?

**Key Concepts:** The significance, importance and influence of stories and/or parables that communicate religious, moral and spiritual truths.

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| LO: to use the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ  to consider the rights women should have in the 21st Century. | March 8th is International Women’s Day. Ask students to discuss  What is this day?  Why do you think it is necessary in 21st Century Britain?  Read this qupte from the blog The Sundoku Chronicles blog:  “Growing up I got mixed messages, I need to get an education but most importantly I need to know how to be a good wife and make the sacrifices for the marriage to work. So I can have ambition but not too much because men don’t like women who achieve more than they do and it’s my job to have kids and look after house so I don’t really need to. I should get an education and work but it’s so that I am able to raise my kids properly. Everything was tied to being a wife and a mother. But she (ra) taught me that having goals and ambitions is a good thing, that even if the society has certain expectations, you can still achieve what you want to achieve. To not let society dictate what you can and cannot do in life. As a woman I can thrive and not be held back because I was born a woman. I can be more than a wife and a mother if I want to. I can have a thriving career and more. My life doesn’t have to just revolve around being a caregiver for others. I can do things for myself.”  In groups discuss  What mixed message has the author been given growning up? What were her culture or society expecting from her?  Did she agree with this?  Who do they think is the “she (ra)” who inspired the author?  Explain that the “she (ra)” was Khadijah. She was the prophet Muhammad’s ﷺ first wife who was a sucessful business woman as well as being a wife and a mother.  Look at these quotes:  “When I was born, some relatives came to our house and told my mother, ‘Don’t worry, next time you will have a son’,” Malala Yousufzai  “Instead of telling Muslim women to cover their heads we should tell them to use their head” Shirin Ebadi  Both these women, along with the author of the blog, would argue that it is misinterpretations of Islam that has lead to these ideas of women not being equal to men. .  In pairs discuss how the following quotes show this?  “Nowhere is it written in the Qur’an that a woman should be dependent on a man. The word has not come down from the heavens to tell us that every woman should listen to a man.” Malala Yousufzai  "In the last 23 years, from the day I was stripped of my judgeship to the years of doing battle in the revolutionary courts of Tehran, I had repeated one refrain: an interpretation of Islam that is in harmony with equality and democracy is an authentic expression of faith. It is not religion that binds women, but the selective dictates of those who wish them cloistered. That belief, along with the conviction that change in Iran must come peacefully and from within, has underpinned my work."  Shirin Ebadi  Read a selection of quotes about the Prophet Muhammad’s ﷺ  views on women.  How do the prophets views support the role of women as equal to men? .  Explore the womens’ rights section of the Inspired by Muhammad website. Do you think if more people saw this the amount who think that Islam encourages the repression of women would change?  Ask the students to quietly reflect upon the following questions:  Why do you think people misinterpret Islam?  Why are women important?  What can you do to help remove the need for International Women’s Day?  What do you think needs to be done to help break sterotypes of sunservient Muslim women? | <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>  <https://thetsundokuchronicles.wordpress.com/2020/07/26/khadijah-ra-a-phenomenal-woman-and-my-role-model-blog-tour/>  <https://pennyappeal.org/news/importance-women-in-islam>  <http://www.inspiredbymuhammad.com/womens_rights.php> |