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Wearing Hijab in Sarajevo

The Hijab

A hijab is a religious veil worn by Muslim women. While the styles and practices of the hijab vary widely across the world, it is primarily worn to show respect and to comply with the Quran's instructions on modesty. For many Muslim women today, the hijab is a part of their identity.

Wearing Hijab in Sarajevo

In Sarajevo, Muslim women had a wide range of attitudes and perceptions towards Islam and its role in their daily lives. One does not simply become a Muslim by being born or raised by a Muslim family and environment. Instead, it is up to the individual to decide if they want to practice Islam and identify as a Muslim. To conform to the Islamic standards on modesty, Muslim women would need to wear a hijab. The hijab can cover specific body areas, such as the face, hair, and body. It can also refer to a woman's state of mind or entire manner of conduct. Many women are careful about how they portray themselves in public because they feel that wrong actions can reflect poorly on all veiled women or on Islam as a whole religion.

During socialist Yugoslavia, the practice of veiling in Sarajevo did not disappear, even though face-veiling was banned. In fact, many young women began veiling. This step was seen as a revival of Islam, which had been emerging in Bosnia since the 1970s. During this time, the hijab, which younger women wore, went unnoticed by many Bosnians. In Bosnia, every person had different views towards the hijab and Islam. While there were many women who wore the hijab, it was only a minority. The majority of people in Bosnia believed that the hijab was merely a foreign influence. Thus, they chose not to identify as believing Muslims.

Present-day Sarajevo

Moving forward to present-day Sarajevo, the hijab is still worn by many Muslim women. Today, the women are even more devout than they were in earlier times. In addition, many women are often scrutinized and discriminated against in the workplace because of their dress practices.

Differing Views

While the hijab has been around for centuries, it is still a major topic in today's modern world. There are many Sarajevans who view the hijab as something foreign. It is not something that they know of. Going back to socialist Yugoslavia, the hijab is something they wanted to eliminate. The government wanted people to reveal themselves, so their views conflicted with those who practiced Islam.

Personal Reaction

I am very much interested in learning about cultures and dress practices from different communities around the world. The way that people or groups dress is what makes them unique. I have always been interested in Muslim and middle eastern cultures. The idea of individualism is something that I particularly find fascinating. Each person has different views and opinions, and I believe that it is okay to identify with whatever you are comfortable with. This article focuses on dress practices in Bosnian society and relates those practices to modern times. People should be able to express themselves freely. If people choose to wear a hijab or not to wear a hijab, I think that is just fine. I think the main objective to take away from this article is to realize that individuality matters and it is okay to have differing views.

Works Cited

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[Wearing Hijab in Sarajevo: Dress Practices and the Islamic Revival in Post-war
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