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### Women in Islam

As times have shifted, and societies have become more educated, past religious cultures are no longer viable in the modern world. Religion is a living creature like it, with time, it grows to adjust with its environment. With this, we witness many religions adjusting its point of views and developing towards the rights of all. No longer are we suppressed based on our beliefs, color, and gender. One religion that has begun adapting is Islam, particularly its views towards women. Dr. Hassan, the tidal wave of spreading the unfairness of women's treatment, brings with her a strong understanding of why this unfairness developed and has yet to seize with modern times. She was born in Pakistan and lived her childhood in an Islamic culture bred around women being viewed as inferior. Throughout her teenage years, her father destined her to be married away with no choice at the age of 16. Through a spirit of strength, she said no. Defying all cultural norms and igniting the source for a change. From her actions, her father no longer talked to her. He viewed her as a disappointment. Dr. Hassan soon progressed and got her degree from a university in Great Britain and came back to Pakistan where she was met with suppression yet again. People refused to hire her in any field claiming it was because she was overqualified when, in reality, it was against Islamic culture for women to work. They were expected to stay at home and manage the lives of their children. The men viewed such a lifestyle

as a princesses life, but in reality, it was the cage limiting many women from flourishing. One day a group of women came up to her and implored her to start a theology in order to do something about the oppression in Islamic culture. At that time, there was a court case that ruled a 15-year-old girl guilty for infidelity because she was raped and impregnated. From that, her life mission began. She began to translate the holy book of Islam reading each and every page and soon reached an understanding for why this suppression existed. From her reading, it stated nowhere and in any way that women were below men or deserved to be controlled by men. The book instead reinforced the concept that God is good, kind, and caring to all. Merciful and compassionate. How could such precise phrases be taken as men are superior to women? Misconceptions began in one of the earliest stories, Adam and Eve. The stories were told as if Eve was made for Adams entertainment, making it appear as if he was above Eve. In reality, Adam was not generally even defined as being remotely superior. People inferred from this story that women are the pets of men. Plus many women believe that men are superior. It is hard to bring awareness for change to one who is not interested in changing. What it boils down to is most viewpoints of women being inferior is nothing more than misconceptions that have stayed around for generations. Men will say and believe women are inferior without ever having read the Qur'an to see their claims are false. As well as woman bred in these cultures sometimes enjoy being inferior. Knowledge is the cure for this unseen oppression. Dr. Hassan is taking a stand to spread knowledge and end these misconceptions. Dr. Hassan's movement is fascinating. She is uncovering centuries of misconceptions and false beliefs and attempting to reason why they occurred. It all seems to stem from a severe lack of personal knowledge. Lack of awareness and even just people never pondering the concept of women's rights. Misinterpreted stories spread

throughout generations have caused these beliefs to survive as long as they have. What Dr. Hassan has given to the world is a chance for hope — showing Islamic women that they can do better and that they are not inferior. She is showing women that there is a better life for them. Her work has not come without a price as with all movements. She has death warrants placed on her for her ideas. Nonetheless, she is a source of inspiration for those who seek the courage to spark change.