

Fatwa No. (2595):

Q: Is the photo of a woman's face in a passport or other documents considered as `Awrah (private parts of the body that must be covered in public) or not? If the women refuse to take a photographs of their face, is it permissible for her to appoint someone else to perform Hajj

(Part No : 1, Page No: 719)

on her behalf? What are the conditions of the Muslim woman's attire according to the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet?

A: It is not permissible for a woman to put a photograph of her face in a passport or any other documents because it is `Awrah. The woman's photo in a passport and other documents may tempt others who see it. However, if she is unable to travel to perform Hajj except in this way, then she is permitted to do that, and it is not permissible for her to appoint someone else to perform Hajj on her behalf.

The whole body of a woman is `Awrah according to the evidences derived from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. So, she is obliged to cover her whole body before any one except her Mahram (spouse or unmarriageable relative), for Allah (may He be Exalted) says: (and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, or their fathers, or their husband's fathers) He (may He be Praised) also says: (And when you ask (his wives) for anything you want, ask them from behind a screen: that is purer for your hearts and for their hearts.)

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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