

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

Jumada al-Awwal 15, 1444 A.H./ December 9, 2022 C.E

Rights of Companionship and Neighborhood

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Worship Allah; join nothing with Him. Be good to your parents, to relatives, to orphans, to the needy, to neighbors: near and far, to travellers in need, and to your slaves. Allah does not like arrogant, boastful people.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Kindness and benevolence to neighbors are signs of one’s complete faith and perfect Islam. These traits strengthen the bonds of love and fraternity and spreads the spirit of cooperation and solidarity among members of society. The Prophet (PBUH) said, **“He who believes in Allah and the Last Day should do good to his neighbor.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, **“He who believes in Allah and the Last Day should treat his neighbour with kindness.”** In another Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, **“Be kind to your neighbor and you shall be a believer.”**

Islam has strongly warned against harming neighbors, whether this harm is verbal, physical or in any form, as the Prophet (PBUH) said, "By Allah, he is not a believer! By Allah, he is not a believer! By Allah, he is not a believer." He (PBUH) was asked, "Who is that, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, "One whose neighbor does not feel safe from his evil." When some people came to our Prophet (PBUH) and mentioned to him a woman is performing much Prayer and Fasting, but she insults her neighbors, he (PBUH) commented, "She is in the Hellfire."

Neighborhood has various forms, as the Almighty Allah said, **"Worship Allah; join nothing with Him. Be good to your parents, to relatives, to orphans, to the needy, to neighbors: near and far, to travellers in need, and to your slaves. Allah does not like arrogant, boastful people."**

One of the most important forms of neighborhood is being neighbors at work. This applies to friends at studying, or colleague at any form of work, whether public or private work, and whether it is administrative, professional, leadership, community or voluntary work. All these are included under the Qur'anic term "neighbors: near and far." Colleague at work are both friends and neighbors, and therefore, the spirit of harmony and integration should prevail among them. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "The best of companions with Allah is the one who is best to his

companions, and the best of neighbours to Allah is the one who is the best of them to his neighbour.”

One of the most important rights of companionship is cooperation among colleagues, transference of experiences, giving advice, and information sharing in order to achieve good and perfect work in the best manner. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, “Allah loves someone who when works, he performs it in perfect manner.” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Whoever fulfills the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfill his needs.” Also, the Prophet (PBUH) said, “Religion is (sincere) advice.”

Among the rights of companionship also: avoiding harming others, and avoiding all causes of hatred, struggle, envy, and discord. All Provisions are destined by the Almighty Allah. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The Satan has despaired of being worshiped by those who engage in prayer in Arabia, but (has not lost hope) in creating dissension among them.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Jibril has inspired to me that no one shall die before living his full age and earning his full provision. So, be kind in seeking your livelihood, and do not seek it with disobeying Allah. Whatever provision of is with Allah, shall only be acquired by obeying Him.”

Among these rights also: Relieving their troubles, and acting with solidarity during their difficult times. This achieves the meaning of the one

body referred to in the Hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) that tells, “The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.” Also, the Prophet (PBUH) said, “He who removes from a believer one of his difficulties of this world, Allah will remove one of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection; and he who finds relief for a hard-pressed person, Allah will make things easy for him on the Day of Resurrection; he who covers up (the faults and sins) of a Muslim, Allah will cover up (his faults and sins) in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah supports His slave as long as the slave is supportive of his brother”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

There is no doubt that the rights of the companionship include forbearance and bearing harms that they may commit, and seeking the reward from Allah for this. Al-Hassan al-Basri said: “Good neighborhood is not limited to prevention of harm. Rather, it includes sharing the troubles of the neighbors, as such trait is the trait of good people, and an act that highly pleases Allah, as He (Glory be to Him) said, “Though if a person is patient and forgives, this is one of the greatest things.” Allah also said,

“Good and evil cannot be equal. Repel evil with what is better, and your enemy will become as close as an old and valued friend.”

How much do we need to be aware of the right of neighborhood in order to strengthen the social fabric and achieve stability and community security.

We ask Allah to guide us to do good deeds and to protect our country Egypt and all other countries of the world from any Evil!