

# Selected Issues in Family Law

Editor  
Nora A. Hak



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EDITED BY

NORA A. HAK



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## CHAPTER 2

### WOMEN IN SHARIAH: WITH RESPECT TO POLYGAMY AND DIVORCE

By

Murni Wan Mohd Nor and Nora Abdul Hak

#### Introduction

It has become a norm in today's modern world that the world Islam is associated with many misconceptions, such as terrorism, fanaticism, extremism, injustice, inequality and other negative adjectives. All of these notions only cause the average person to be misled. The focus on Islam has become more prominent, especially after the September 11 attacks. Much literature is written about Islam but whether the writings are accurate, remains to be seen. An area that most believe to be familiar with is the family law of Muslims. Many come up with the conclusion that Islamic Family Laws are biased, unequal and unjust. Most are of the opinion that women have very little rights and are subjected to the whims and fancies of men, with no way to protect them or seek redress.

A proper study of our Islamic Family Laws will prove that the situation is not what it appears to be. Cultural practices must be distinguished from the teachings of Islam. Contrary to popular belief, Islamic Family Law has revolutionized the rights and elevated the status of women far more than any religion and man-made law ever did. What must also be considered is the fact that these changes brought by Islam came at a

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