

**SOCIAL ISSUES IN MALAYSIA
MUSLIM WOMEN'S
PERSPECTIVES**

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ZALEHA KAMARUDDIN**

ILMIAH PUBLISHERS

**SOCIAL ISSUES IN MALAYSIA:
MUSLIM WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES
(Work, Law, Politics And Education)**

Edited by

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“JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED”

Delays in Disposition of Matrimonial Cases in The *Shari’ah* Courts in Malaysia and Its Impact on Women Petitioners

Zaleha Kamaruddin

A Introduction

1.0 Background

The *Shari’ah* Courts have an important role to play in ensuring justice in terms of protecting the rights of women by avoiding unnecessary delay. The length of matrimonial proceedings, especially in relation to divorce, can have an impact on the status of women, financially and socially. A few research findings have shown that, in most cases, women are left in a state of limbo during matrimonial proceedings. If the length of these proceedings is excessively long, it would definitely bring injustice to the women concerned. More often than not, women are left without adequate finances to support themselves and their children.

The newly set up Ministry on Women and Family Development had been urged by some quarters to look into the long standing inefficiency of the administration of justice in the *Shari’ah* Courts more seriously and to take immediate action. Allegations and accusations were often made by several women’s organisations dealing directly with women who became victims of the inefficiency of these courts. It has gone to the extent that the *Shari’ah* Court has been said to be biased in matrimonial matters relating to women and, especially, guilty of