

## Grand Imam Of Al-Azhar: Shaking Hands With A Non-Muslim Woman Is A Disputed Issue In Islamic Jurisprudence

Dr. Ahmad al-Tayyib, Grand Imam of al-Azhar, said that wearing the *niqāb* is left for women to decide, as such falls under personal freedom, and comes within the framework of the permissible [in Islam], explaining that “if the employer asks a female employee no to wear the veil at work, she should remove it.”

In his aired program ‘al-Imām al-Tayyib’ on Saturday, Dr. Ahmad al-Tayyib said that there may be a reason behind the belief of women that wearing the *niqāb* is the entirety of religion, pointing out that this issue requires efforts of fiqh scholars to define it.

He added that shaking hands with a non-Muslim woman is a point of dispute among scholars, as some think it is permissible, while others say it is *ḥarām*. He pointed out that shaking hands with a non-Muslim woman with the intention of having sensual pleasure is not permitted. [Huda `Abd al Rāziq, *al-Fajr*, Jun. 17, 2017] <http://www.elfagr.org/2637193>

### *Comment of editor:*

*According to primarily edicts of Islam about women, men are not permitted to touch any part of the body of the woman, whether she is Muslim or non-Muslim. It is not permitted, except for the woman who is forbidden to marry a man who is intimate for her, such as brother, son, uncle or nephew.*