



101399 - Ruling on displaying a logo containing a cross

the question

I am a pharmacist in Birmingham, England (United Kingdom). The logo of the National Health Service in our country is a cross that looks like a + (plus sign). My view at present is that it is prohibited to display this shape, because there are many hadiths which tell us that our beloved, the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), would disfigure anything that looked like a cross. Therefore I do not display this symbol at present, but I hope that you can affirm whether I was right not to display it, or does Islam allow me to display it? May Allah reward you with good and the best reward.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

If this logo contains the shape of the cross which the Christians venerate, and it is included in the logo because it is a cross, then it is not permissible to hang it up or display it, and you have done the right thing, because of the report narrated by al-Bukhari, 5952, from `A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her), that the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) would not leave anything in his house on which there was anything that looked like a cross but he would remove it.

Ahmad, 24567, narrated that Umm `Abd ar-Rahman ibn Udhaynah said: We were circumambulating the Ka`bah with the Mother of the Believers when she saw a woman wearing a cloak which had a pattern that looked like crosses. The Mother of the Believers said: Throw it away, throw it away, for the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), if he saw something like this, would remove it.

As for the shape of the cross, some of the scholars restricted to that which has a long line, the top of which is shorter than the bottom part, and some of them did not stipulate that.



Hence we say: if it is in the shape of the cross that is venerated there, then it is a cross.

It is also stipulated [in order for it to be regarded as prohibited] that it should have been put there because it is a cross, in contrast to if it is the mathematical sign (plus sign), for example.

Shaykh Ibn `Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) said: The cross is everything that is composed of two intersecting lines. This is how it was defined by the author of *Al-Munjid*. What is meant is if it is in the form of a vertical straight line that is crossed by a perpendicular line, regardless of whether the horizontal line crosses it in the middle or above the middle.

End quote from *Majmu` al-Fatawa*, vol. 6, *Khutbah fi Tahqiq at-Tawhid*.

In *Fatawa al-Lajnah ad-Da'imah*, 2/121, it says: The shape of the so-called cross, that today is a symbol of the Christians, is where one line is put across another line that is a little longer than it, in such a manner that the upper part is shorter than the lower part by approximately one third, and one line is perpendicular to the other.

`Abdullah ibn Ghadyan, `Abd ar-Razzaq `Afifi, `Abd al-`Aziz ibn `Abdillah ibn Baz.

It also says (6/183): It makes no difference whether the vertical line of the cross is longer than the horizontal line or is equal to it, or whether the upper part of the vertical line where the two lines intersect is shorter than or equal to the lower part.

`Abdullah ibn Qa`ud, `Abd ar-Razzaq `Afifi, `Abd al-`Aziz ibn `Abdillah ibn Baz. End quote. [ends]