12914 - A Muslim woman wants to marry a kaafir

the question

I was asked by a Muslim girl who is an american but had been divorced a few times and is off with the Muslim community. She wants to marry a non Muslim but who believes in God. How can I stop her as I know it is not permitted. She says if it is permitted for men, why is it not permitted for women.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

It is not permitted for a Muslim man to marry a mushrik woman, or for a Muslim woman to marry a mushrik man. There are no exceptions to this except for marriage to women of the People of the Book (Jews and Christians), if they are chaste. This is what is indicated by the evidence of the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), and this is what the ummah is unanimously agreed upon. It is not permissible for us to oppose the ruling of Allaah with our reasoning. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allaah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision. And whoever disobeys Allaah and His Messenger, he has indeed strayed into a plain error”

[al-Ahzaab 33:36]

This woman has to fear Allaah. Whoever fears Allaah, Allaah will make a way out for him. She should also know that if she marries a non-Muslim man, even if he is one of the People of the Book, this marriage in unacceptable in Islam, rather it comes under the rulings on zinaa (fornication, adultery), because this is an invalid marriage contract.