14508 - Ruling on shaking hands with an old woman

the question

What is the ruling on shaking hands with a non-mahram woman if she is old? And what is the ruling if she puts a barrier over her hand, such as part of her garment etc?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

It is not permissible to shake hands with non-mahram women at all, whether they are young or old, and whether the man who is shaking hands is young or old, because of the danger of fitnah which that poses to both parties. It was narrated in a saheeh hadeeth that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “I do not shake hands with women.” And ‘Aa’ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: “The hand of the Messenger of Allah never touched the hand of any [non-mahram] woman, and he used to accept their oath of allegiance in words only.”

It makes no difference whether shaking hands is done with a barrier in between or no barrier, because of the general meaning of the evidence, and so as to block the means that may lead to fitnah.

And Allah is the Source of strength.