



226184 - Ruling on men selling underwear to women

the question

What is the ruling on opening a shop to sell women's underwear? What is the ruling on men working in this shop? Is it permissible for them to enter this line of work?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Firstly:

There is nothing wrong with opening a shop to sell women's underwear, so long as one pays attention to Islamic rulings. So he should not sell anything but that which it is permissible for him to sell, which does not contain anything prohibited, like crosses, and he should not display these clothes on models in a way that may provoke desire or is contrary to modesty.

Secondly:

With regard to men working in such shops, in principle it is permissible for a man to deal with a non-mahram woman, buying and selling, renting, and so on, so long as the seller adheres to Islamic guidelines.

One of the matters to which attention should be paid with regard to selling these kinds of garments is to differentiate between two business formats:

1.

Large stores in which the goods are displayed and already priced, and the woman picks up whatever she wants, and the role of the seller is limited to working out what the customer owes only. There is nothing wrong with this format.



2.

Small stores in which the woman needs to speak with the worker and ask about the characteristics of various products, and the seller needs to present the product attractively and promote it, so the seller of women's underwear may indulge in talking in a way that causes embarrassment or there is the fear of temptation, especially nowadays when dignity is lacking and many women have little modesty.

Such work is not befitting for the pious Muslim who is keen to adhere to his religion, and he should avoid it, because of what is narrated of hadiths that warn against the temptation of women. That is supported by real-life stories of temptation experienced by many of those who work in such shops.

According to a hadith the authenticity of which is agreed upon, the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "I have not left behind me among the people any fitnah (trial) that is more harmful to men than women." And he (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Beware of this world and beware of women, for the first fitnah (trial) among the Children of Israel had to do with women." Narrated by Muslim (2742)

So selling women's underwear should either be done in large stores, as described in the first example, or it should be done in stores that are exclusively for women, in which women are in charge of selling things that are only for women.

And Allah knows best.