



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Community Wellbeing Project

FOSTER CARE

IN THIS ISSUE

- Foster Care in Islam P#.1
- What is Foster Care P#.2
- Allowance for Foster Carers P#.3
- Encouraging other to foster P#.4
- Abandoned and neglected children P#.5
- Fostering Older Children and Hijab P#.6

FOSTER CARE IN ISLAM

Fostering is an extremely rewarding act in Islam and one that has been encouraged - giving it a highly respected role. It is not only permissible for a Muslim to foster a child, but it is also a Sunnah that can gain many rewards from Allah (SWT).

The Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was orphaned and fostered by many different family members. In turn, he cared for other orphans during his lifetime.

Allah Says in the Holy Quran:

"They ask you (O Mohammad) what they should spend. Say: Whatever you spend of good must be for parents and kindred and orphans and al-Masakin (the poor) and the wayfarers, and whatever you do of good deeds, truly, Allah knows it well." (Qur'an, 2:215)





What is Foster Care?

According to Islamic law, child adoption is forbidden. But child protection, and care

(Kifalah) is highly recommended.

By child adoption we mean, accepting a child and considering him/her as the adoptive parents' real child. By child protection, we suggest that the child is being taken care of by his/ her foster parents.

There has been a

SHORTAGE OF LICENSED MUSLIM FOSTER HOMES IN NZ

and as a result most Muslim children in foster care have been placed in non-Muslim foster homes. Outcomes for children and families improve when Muslim children are in Muslim foster homes.

When reunification is the goal, birth parents are able to focus more on rectifying the conditions which led to their child being placed in foster care instead of worrying about preserving their child's faith. Children also experience less trauma from removal when the environment they are placed in is similar to their home environment.

Islam places a great importance on the proper care, well-being, and upbringing of children, especially those in vulnerable situations.





Allowance For Foster Carers

Caring for a child is a career as well that really makes a difference to the lives of vulnerable children and young people.

But before becoming Foster carer, one must fulfil certain conditions as per NZ rules and regulations.

For further information please go to <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/caregiving/>

NZ government believes foster carers should be rewarded for their hard work. That's why foster carers are paid a generous allowance that covers the cost of caring for children and young people as well as being a reward for the work they do.

Fostering allowances are paid to all foster carers whenever they take a fostering placement and are paid on a fortnightly basis. The amount they receive as a foster carer depends on the placement type.

For further information, please go to <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/caregiving/financial-help/caregiver-allowance/>







Encouraging Others to Foster

It has also been related in books of prophetic history [sīrah] that there was a period of time when the Quraysh suffered severe economic difficulties, including drought and hunger, and Abu Tālib, the uncle of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), had a lot of dependents under his care. Seeing this, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) went to his other uncle, Abbās (may Allah be pleased with him), who was one of the richer members of Banū Hāshim, and requested him to assist in easing the burden on Abu Tālib. He (peace and blessings be upon him) suggested that each of them should take one child of Abu ʿAlīb under their care. Thereafter, they visited Abu Tālib together and put forward their suggestion, to which Abu Yālib agreed. As a result, Abbās (may Allah be pleased with him) took Jaffar (may Allah be pleased with him) into his care, while the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) took Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) into his care.





Case of Abandoned and Neglected Children

Islam has placed on nurturing children and looking after their welfare regardless of their economic or social background.

For example, in the time of Umar (may Allah be pleased with him), a man brought a child who was abandoned [laqīt] to him, to which Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) responded, "His expenditure is on us [the state]."

This established an **IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE** that the needs of such children are to be met by the state. So long as this child is a dependent, the state would fulfill all his needs and all the child's rights would be preserved – none having the right to take advantage of him. Further, if the person who is fostering him voluntarily chooses to spend on the child himself instead, it would be a highly rewardable act.

In this way, **Islam has emphasized** the care and concerns for any and all children in need with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable, such as orphans and girls, whose care and proper upbringing garners a very high rank in Paradise, as evidenced by numerous hadiths of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), including his statement, "Whoever takes care of two girls until they reach puberty, he and I will come like this on the Day of Resurrection" – and he held his two fingers together."





FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Community Wellbeing
Project

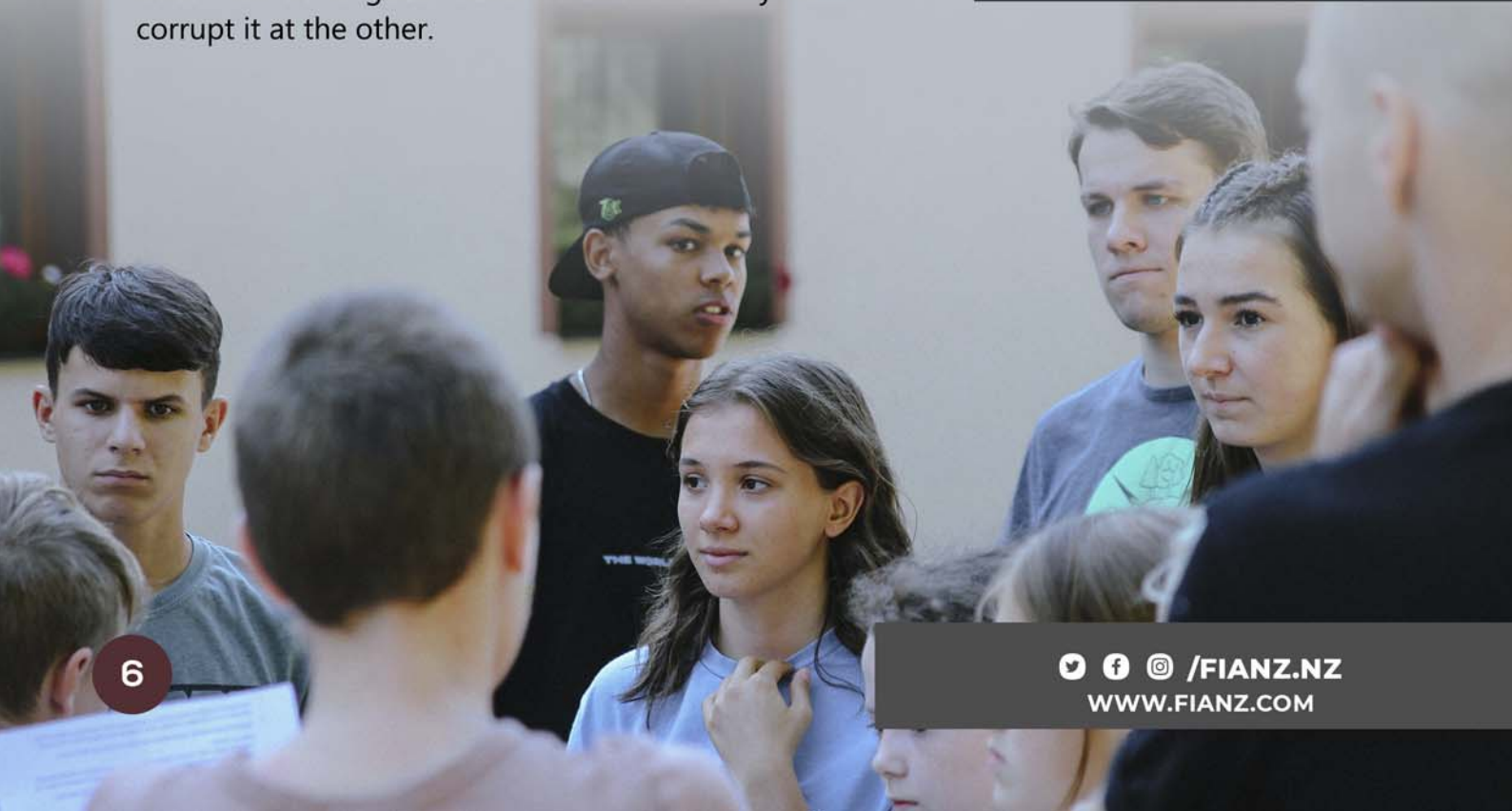
Fostering Older Children & Hijab

No doubt, with an increasing number of

Muslim households in NZ,

there is a growing need for foster care – for children who are not able to be with their parents for the time being. Knowing that their children are placed in a **MUSLIM HOME** where they will feel comfortable and at home is the at least one solace to the biological parents as they work through the process of regaining custody of their children.

At the same time, in situations where older boys and girls are placed in foster care, it is important that proper safeguards are put in place so that one does not do a good deed at one end only to corrupt it at the other.





There are a number of solutions to address the **ISSUE OF FOSTERING OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS:**

A number of contemporary jurists have issued guidelines regarding joint-living arrangements where non-maḥrams are also residing. This is similar to the situation where older children are placed in a Muslim foster care home.

In such cases, if precaution is taken to avoid seclusion [khalwah] between the unrelated males and females, and the older boys are told to lower their gazes and limit communication to that which is necessary and the women of the household observe hijāb, then such temporary fostering would be permissible due to the need, especially since the alternative could mean being transferred to a non-Muslim foster home.

The situation becomes more relaxed if the woman who is fostering the teenage boy is a much older woman [‘ajuz].

Likewise, another solution would be to have, for example, older girls placed in homes where only single women are present (i.e. divorced, widowed, etc.).

Another option is the placement of older boys and girls in Muslim residential care facilities. While these facilities are very scarce at the present, they are much needed so that proper care be provided to these children without encroaching on the rules regarding interaction between unrelated males and females.

If you need further information about **FOSTER CARE OR WANT TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT**

Please go to <https://becomeacarer.keyassets.co.nz/>
Or go to <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/caregiving/>



مشورة

MASHWARA COUNSELLING

Mashwara is an Arabic word to describe our approach to consultation, advice, information, support and direction to achieve positive outcomes for the wellbeing of whanau and the community.

WE OFFER:

- Relationship Services
- Family Problem Solving
- Individual Counselling
- Parent-Child Assess
- Men ' s Support

CONTACT US

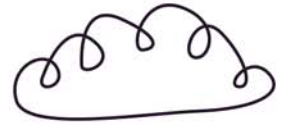
info@fatimahfoundation.org.nz

Phone 0800 222 432



سلام

Play Group SALAAM



Play Group Salaam is a pilot program to bring mothers and children together to play with Chai and Chat.



We strive to safeguard the collective tāongā of

Wairuatangā - spirituality

Manaakitangā - care and respect

Whanaungatangā - connections and belonging for
The benefit of the present and future generations.



PLEASE CONTACT AT:

wellbeing@fatimahfoundation.org.nz

info@fatimahfoundation.org.nz

Phone 0800 222 432

