

*Translated from Arabic*

Marriage in Islam is based on the consent of both parties, particularly the young woman. Such consent requires the young woman to have reached the age of maturity and reason, so that her consent is validly given. The age of 18 marks the stage at which a woman can validly express her will to marry. This guarantees that she can enjoy her fundamental rights to childhood, education and the capacity to assume the responsibility of marriage. Before that age, she will not have had access to those necessary rights and is not able to assume the responsibility of marriage; and God would not impose on His servants an obligation that they cannot fulfil.

God Almighty has said, “God does not place a burden on a soul greater than it can bear” [Qur’an 2:286].

The Prophet (peace be upon him) has said, “When I order you to do something, do as much of it as you can”.

In Egypt, the legal minimum age of marriage for young men and women is 18 years. That provision is consistent with international instruments; and God knows best.

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