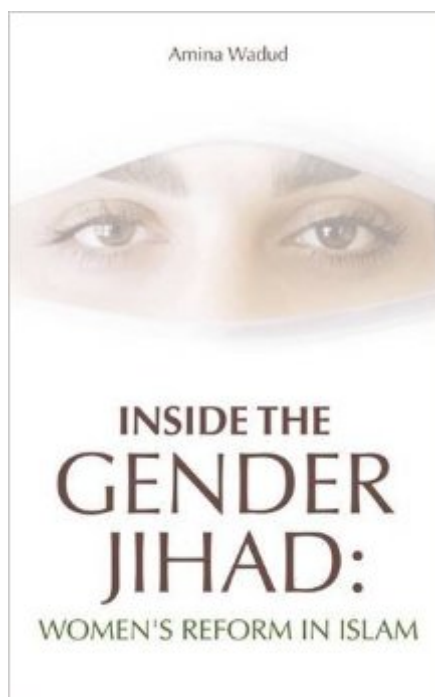


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# Inside The Gender Jihad: Women's Reform In Islam



## Synopsis

In this engaging study, Dr Amina Wadud, an Afro-American Muslim herself, introduces the feminist movement in Islam and delves into its challenges, its textual foundations in the Qur'an and its achievements. Beginning with her own place in the effort for greater justice for women in Islam, Wadud goes on to tackle a number of pertinent issues, including the state of Muslim women's studies as a discipline in mainstream academia and the role of Muslim women in the domestic space.

## Book Information

Paperback: 325 pages

Publisher: Oneworld Publications; 59543rd edition (June 6, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1851684638

ISBN-13: 978-1851684632

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.8 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #247,674 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Women in Islam](#) #166 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Gender & Sexuality](#) #462 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Feminist Theory](#)

## Customer Reviews

Inside the Gender Jihad argues the necessity for women's equality in Islam. Amina Wadud is a famous scholar and one of the founders in the Modern Women's Islamic Movement. This book attempts to interpret the Quran and Islamic practices to encourage gender equality in Islam and redefine a Muslim woman's role as more than simply for domestic purposes and child bearing. Wadud gives insight from personal relationship with Allah as a devoted Muslim, her academic research throughout the world over the course of thirty years, as well as her own personal experiences as an African American Muslim in the United States. The author states the relationship between theory and practice, and between Islamic ideas, ideals, goals and the historical development of sharia all bear some effect on efforts to construct gender equal Islamic reforms. The book is well organized and structured by giving various examples of the gender jihad in the the Quran and the need for it to be reinterpreted and refined to stay relevant and what it mean to be a Muslim woman in the post colonial globalized world. Her topic is extremely important

and necessary in telling about the lives of Muslim women especially in the United States. Inside the Gender Jihad can be read by just about anyone; however it is difficult to understand her intentions and some of her explanations without basic knowledge of Islam and the Quran itself. I found certain parts of the book were complicated and had to do some research of the Quran and Islamic terminology in order to fully understand her progressive Islamic philosophy. Amina Wadud is articulate and extremely knowledgeable in Inside the Gender Jihad and her goals are easily defined and achieved.

Author Dr. Amina Wadud is an Islamic Studies professor, author of several books advocating for a more active role for women in Islam, and in 2005 lead a New York City mosque in Friday prayers, setting the international world on fire. To say the least, Wadud is uniquely suited to write *Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam*. • We women live in an age in which everything we do is reflective of our gender. The academic nature of this book is more likely to make its contents respected among the academic and religious community. As a result, it is not a book many of us would want to curl up with on a Sunday afternoon for some *light reading*. • This is certainly not a point of criticism, just a point to help any readers of this review better arrange their reading schedule. In this volume, Wadud combines the both the blatant sexism and subtle micro-aggressions women experience daily, contextual historical perspectives, and her own experiences to create a clear, concise, moving call for greater discussion and dialogue surrounding gender justice in Islam (pg 4). Wadud points out that Islam is a lived religion. It is lived out by its followers and thus must be relevant to their lives. In other words, if a religion is so static that it cannot move and shift as the world changes, then it is not doing its job. (pg 2) Sexism hurts men just as much as it hurts women and Muslim men are certainly no exception. This is especially, but not exclusively, true in the Muslim household, where men are typically not seen as legitimate caregivers for their children and women are exclusively relegated to that realm. This is, of course, a reality for much of the world as well.

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