

Excerpts from the Opinions of Muslim Scholars

For: <http://muslimmatters.org/2008/03/17/hookah-sheesha-shisha-smoking-safer-than-cigarettes>

Reference Link: <http://www.emro.who.int/Publications/HealthEdReligion/Smoking/Excerpts.htm> (not functional as of January 2012)

Concerning the Islamic Ruling on Smoking

In the following pages we present a summary of each *fatwa*, or religious opinion, given by highly esteemed religious scholars in respect of the Islamic ruling on smoking. This section is followed by the full text of each *fatwa* to enable the reader to follow the reasoning used by the scholars in arriving at these conclusions.

Islamic Ruling on Smoking

It has become abundantly clear that, sooner or later, smoking, in whichever form and by whichever means, causes extensive health and financial damage to smokers. It is also the cause of a variety of diseases. Consequently, and on this evidence alone, smoking would be forbidden and should in no way be practiced by Muslims. Furthermore, the obligation to preserve one's health and wealth, as well as that of society as a whole, and medical evidence now available on the dangers of smoking, further support this view.

Sheikh Gadul Haq Ali Gadul Haq **Grand Imam of Al-Azhar**

Having read the several medical reports on the effects of smoking and the risks it poses to health and to society, I would say that it is absolutely forbidden (*haram*). Smokers should stop smoking and non-smokers should never take up the habit.

Dr Abdul Galil Shalabi **Member, Islamic Research Academy**

The Islamic ruling which one feels most happy about and which would leave our consciences clear is that smoking is *haram*. It is not wholesome due to its foul taste, bad smell and the serious health risks it causes.

Dr Hamid Jamie, **Former Secretary of Al-Azhar University** **Consultant, Islamic Fiqh Encyclopedia, Kuwait**

Now that medical experts and specialists have settled this issue, the general ruling on smoking would range from *haram* to censurable, bordering on *haram*. The same ruling would apply to trading in tobacco and tobacco products. Those who wish to trade in tobacco products ought to be aware of the consequences of their action.

Professor Zakaria al-Birry
Chairman, Islamic Sharia Department
Faculty of Law, Cairo University
Member, Islamic Research Academy
Member, Al-Azhar Fatwa Committee

Whether smoking is ruled to be *haram* or censurable, fighting it is certainly supported and approved in Islamic law, because, as a general rule, Muslims are urged to preserve and safeguard all aspects of their physical, mental, spiritual and economic health and well-being.

Sheikh Attia Saqr
Member, Al-Azhar Fatwa Committee
Member, Islamic Research Academy

Sooner or later, all forms of smoking are bound to cause illness and disease. Most serious of these are heart diseases and cancer of the respiratory system and the urinary tracts. Smoking also involves wasting money. Accordingly, smoking, from the Islamic point of view, is *haram*, and people should, by virtue of their religious obligations as well as common sense, refrain from it.

Sheikh Mustafa Muhammad al-Hadidi al-Tayr
Member, Islamic Research Academy

Since reliable religious and medical authorities have unanimously judged smoking and drug taking harmful and wasteful to the human body, mind and soul, and that they are an abuse of one's health and wealth, the Islamic ruling could only be that they are *haram*. All those who import, trade in or use these substances, whether in small or large quantities, should be liable to the appropriate religious and legal penalties.

Sheikh Abdullah al-Mishad
Member, Islamic Research Academy
Chairman, Al-Azhar Fatwa Committee

Since the damage caused by smoking to human life is so evident, there is no doubt that it is *haram*.

Dr Ahmad Omar Hashim
Chairman, Hadith Studies Department
Faculty of Theology, Al-Azhar University

Based on available evidence, we can categorically say that smoking is *haram*, and that it is the duty of all Muslims to fight this harmful and deadly habit.

Dr Al-Husayni Hashim (deceased)
Deputy Rector, Al-Azhar University

In view of the harm caused by tobacco, growing, trading in and smoking of tobacco are judged to be *haram*. The Prophet PBUH is reported to have said, "Do not harm yourselves or others". Furthermore, tobacco is unwholesome and God says in the Quran that the Prophet PBUH *enjoins upon them that which is good and pure and forbids them that which is unwholesome*.

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