

Lesson outcome

- The aim of this lesson is to use independent research and a film clip to help explain what Muslims believe about abortion and how their views are similar to Christians.

Lesson objectives

- ALL will be able to explain what ensoulment is and the teachings about abortion that Muslims agree on.
- MOST will be able to make links between Islam and Christian beliefs on the issue of abortion.
- SOME will be able to formulate reasons why Muslims don't agree on the issue of abortion.

Starter

My view on
abortion
is....



My view on
abortion
is....



Islam and Abortion

- Use the information sheets around the room to help you find out the following information.
- What is "ensoulment"?
- What do Muslims believe about abortion?
- What are the differences of opinion between different Muslims on abortion?
- Divide your book into three sections to help you organise the notes you make.

Review

- We will go through the answers to the three different sections.
- Add anything that you missed and correct anything that you have got wrong.
- For students who have targets of a grade A or B, quotes are important.



Quotes to Remember...

Ensolment

- Muslims believe life is sacred and a gift from God and should be protected.
- They also believe that life begins once the soul has entered the foetus (ensoulment). This happens at 120 days or 16 weeks.
- *"Whoever has spared the life of a soul, has spared the life of all people"* (Qur'an 5.32)



Abortion: what do Muslims believe?

- Muslims believe that abortion is wrong - but can be allowed in some cases.
- The only case that all Muslims agree on is when the mothers life is at risk because she has responsibilities already and is part of a family.



Abortion: what do Muslims believe?

- Abortion is not allowed if the parents cannot afford to care for it.
- *"Kill not your offspring for fear of poverty; it is we who provide for them and for you."* (Qur'an 17:32)
- Abortion is not allowed after adultery or because the pregnancy wasn't planned.



Abortion: disagreements in Islam

- Muslims disagree on other reasons when abortion can be allowed.
- Some agree with abortion up to 16 weeks, others only up to 7 weeks
- If a foetus has a serious untreatable defect or blood disorder, then an abortion is permitted.



Abortion: disagreements in Islam

- Some Muslims would allow an abortion if the foetus had a deformity which would mean that the child could not live a normal life.
- Some Muslims would allow an abortion in cases of rape or incest, but others wouldn't.

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Mini plenary

- Why do you think Muslims have different opinions on abortion and don't all think the same?

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Making links

- You have now looked at abortion from many different perspectives....

I am a
Christian

I am
Pro-life

I am a
Muslim

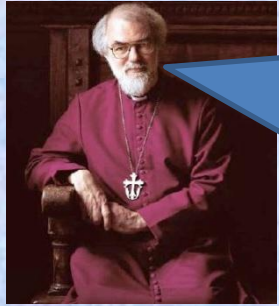
I am
Pro-
choice

Where are the similarities and the differences?

Juno - the dilemma

- Watch this clip from the beginning of the film "Juno" (time: 07:00 to 19:00)
- In the clip the main character, Juno McGuff, has a difficult decision to make.
- Whilst you are watching, think about the different options that are open to her.

Juno - your advice



I am a
Christian
and my
advice is....



I am pro-
life and my
advice is....

I am pro-
choice and
my advice
is....



I am a
Muslim and
my advice
is....

What do you notice about your
answers?

Why do you think this is?

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Plenary - thirty words

- Sum up what Muslims believe about abortion in less than 30 words.

