

The author writes as the Western wife of an Arab from a conservative Muslim family. The stories are from the cultures that Muslims living in the West either came from, or still observe inside their homes. It's the shadow side of Muslim culture, which is invisible to most Westerners. The author explores the themes of status, the place of women, the veil, stereotypes, segregation, restrictions, family life, hospitality and witness.

Advice to clergy on preaching:

'Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.'

Anon

Will Aid - The best gift you can leave

Will Aid, a campaign that runs only once every two years and which is happening in November this year - provides a fantastic opportunity for people to put their affairs in order and help charities at the same time.

Will Aid is a campaign run by nine of the UK's best known charities: ActionAid, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, NSPCC, Save the Children UK, Sight Savers International, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (N. Ireland).

It is surprising that only less than 50% (average) of people have made one. This means that every year in England and Wales, people who have not made a Will leave over £2 billion. This money is then distributed according to the laws of intestacy – a detailed impersonal set of rules that dictate where the money goes. It can take years to sort out someone's estate if they die without a Will, leaving their nearest and dearest in great distress.

Founded by Scottish solicitor, Graeme Pagan, the Will Aid scheme has raised over £4 m in donations and very much more in legacies since its launch in 1988. The last campaign in 2002 raised nearly £500,000 in donations and a further £3 million in legacies.

Solicitors all over the UK have agreed to participate in the scheme. Wherever you are in the country, there should be a Will Aid solicitor within easy travelling distance. During November, Will Aid solicitors volunteer their time free of charge to draw up basic wills and ask the will-maker to make a donation to Will Aid. The suggested, but entirely voluntary, donation level is £65 for a single Will, £95 for a pair of wills or £35 for a codicil to an existing Will.

The Will Aid charities can work miracles and transform the lives of people here in the UK and all over the world. From helping street children in Ghana, to providing clean drinking water to a remote school in Tibet to providing vital care to the elderly in the UK. By taking advantage of the Will Aid opportunity this November, you will be helping the Will Aid charities to transform the lives of children, their families and whole communities around the world, as well as ensuring the security of your own loved ones – surely the best gift you can leave. To find a convenient solicitor visit www.willaid.org.uk, email enquiries@willaid.org.uk or phone 01460

We don't change the message, the message changes us.