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Explain the Concept of Human Rights in Islamic Thought in Specification of "Status of Women in Islam."

Introduction:

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبُطْلِ

"Do not consume one-another's wealth unjustly"

(Al-Baqarah)

Islam provides a comprehensive framework to respect and safeguard human rights. The religion of Islam is not limited to specific, color or caste, but it is a comprehensive guidance for all the humanity whether a person is a Man or Women. Islam provided rights to women when there was no concept of Human rights in the world. Women

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were persecuted and marginalized. However, Islam contains no such barriers of superiority. Islam emphasized that women is a blessing, not a curse, and both ^{men and women} are equal in the sight of Allah. Islam provided right to marriage, property, and education to women and ended any kind of discrimination between both.

The Concept of Human Rights in Islam:

Islam provides various human rights including

- Right to life
- Right to Property
- Freedom of Religion
- Right to Justice
- Right to earn
- Right to Privacy
- Right to Education
- Women's Rights
- Right to Inheritance

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لا إكراه في الدين

Let there be no compulsion
in religion.

(AL-Baqarah)

The Charter of Medina

Where Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H)

granted full religious autonomy
to Jewish and non-Muslims

an example of the Right given
to humanity even with
respect to religion.

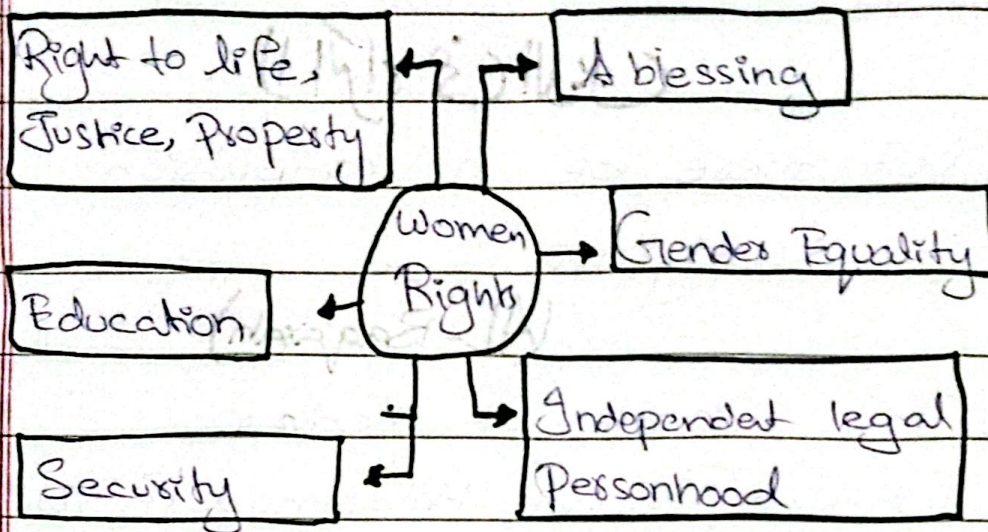
Status of Women in Islam:

Women rights were provided
in Islam 1400 years ago when
no such concept existed and
Women were regarded as
lower humans before Islam.

Islam significantly empowered
the role and respect of
Women in the Society.

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(a) Women: A blessing, not a curse:

Pre Islamic Arab regarded women as a curse and no right and respect was given to women. However, In Islam, Women's role is much empowered. The Quran explicitly condemns the evil practices of pre-Islamic era.

AL-Hadith

Heaven lies beneath the Feet of Mothers.

The elevated Mother's respect signify that Islam has honoured the women.

(b) Gender equality in Islam:

Man and women are equal in the sight of Allah and will be rewarded equally for their faith and righteous deeds.

الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ

Who Lord who created you from a single soul.

(An-Nisa)

(c) Islam granted women independent legal personhood.

A woman is not the

property of men and have the right to life decisions.

A woman has the right to accept or reject a marriage

proposal and her consent is mandatory condition in Islam

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا، لَكُمْ أَنْ تَرْتَوْا النِّسَاءَ كَرِهَ

O you who have believed, it is unlawful for you to inherit women by force (An-Nisa)

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(d) Safeguarding Women's Right to life, Justice, and Property.

A women's Right to life, fair treatment, and ownership is divinely protected. Women have an independent right to own, buy, sell, and manage property and assets.

وللنساء نصيب مما اكتسبن.

Unto women is a fortune from that which they have earned.

(An-Nise)

(e) Educational Rights Granted to Women in Islam.

Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim, male or female. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) dedicated specific times for teaching women and his wife Aisha, became one of the greatest scholars and narrators of Islamic knowledge.

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هل هل يستوي الذين
يعلمون والذين لا يعلمون

Are those who know, equal
to those who don't know?

(Az-Zumr)

Signify that the only discrimination
exists is between a knowledgeable
and not knowledgeable person.

(f) Ensuring Women's Security:
Primacy of Women.

Islamic Social System is
designed to provide physical,
financial, and emotional security
for women. Islam's main
goal of women's rights is
to create an environment
where women feel secure,
valued and empowered.

وإيا شروهن بالمعروف

Treat them fairly

(An-Nisa)

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Conclusion:

Islam has elevated Women significantly in every dimension whether in terms of respect, social, economic, political and leadership roles. Both Men and Women are equal in the sight of Allah and both have their own duties in Islam. Women rights is a pillar of comprehensive Framework of Human right created by Allah.