

Women Performing `Eid Prayer at Home

Sheikh Ahmad Kutty, a senior lecturer and Islamic scholar at the Islamic Institute of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, states: `Eid Prayer must be performed [in congregation](#). The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) ordered women of all ages, including those who were menstruating, to come out for `Eid gathering, even though it is well known that those who are menstruating are not supposed to pray. Therefore, his intention was to stress that no one should be prevented from participating in the joyous experience and celebration of `Eid. Therefore, there is no doubt that women should come out for `Eid Prayer to the masjid if it is held in a mosque. That is the [sunnah](#) of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). To bar women from praying in the mosque goes directly against the explicit and categorical statement of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), for he said, **“Do not bar the maids of Allah from attending mosques of Allah.”**

As for `Eid, the Prophet’s ideal practice was to hold the Prayer not inside mosque, but in an open space. He did so in order to facilitate for the largest number of people to attend the `Eid Prayer and listen to the sermon. Thus, we read in the authentic report from Umm `Atiyyah (may Allah have mercy on her) that “the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) ordered us to bring out every woman, including those who were menstruating, in order to witness things that are beneficial for them and the mammoth congregation of Muslims.”