

### **Keep Hayaa while Traveling:**

Traveling by air can present some challenges to our requirements of Purdah and Hayaa. Many ladies feel they should take off their scarf and coat to pass through security. In my experience, however, you can be a law-abiding citizen *and* keep to your practice of wearing hijab and burka. What to expect:

When you come to the security check points it will be helpful to have a thin summer coat under your thicker winter coat, which you might need for the colder seasons. You will be expected to take your winter coat and shoes off for passing through security but you may leave on your summer burka and hijab. If the security people ask you to remove your summer coat or scarf, you can say that you wear these for religious reasons and you will prefer to keep them on. Then you will most likely be required to undergo a pat-down by a security guard of the same gender. In my experience it is very simple and not at all intrusive. They will simply 'pat' your head and around your neck and along your arms and legs and down your sides. It is very quick and the security guards explain themselves clearly. You may also request a private room for this pat-down.

I understand that scanners are now being introduced at airports since the Nigerian man concealed weapons in his underwear on December 25<sup>th</sup> 2009. These scanners show the naked outline of the body. As you can see by the following announcement, the body pat will still be an option in case you are selected for such scanning.

"The TSA said the scanners "do not produce photos." Rather, it said, the images "look like chalk outlines." One option offered to passengers who don't want to go through a scanner is a pat-down by a security guard of the same gender, the TSA said." ([http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100222muslims\\_airport\\_scans\\_violate](http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100222muslims_airport_scans_violate) )

I have traveled extensively both nationally and internationally and I have not removed my burka or hijab, which includes covering my lower face, on any of these occasions. Most importantly:

- Keep strong in prayer, ask Allah to be your Guardian and Protector
- Practice remembrance of Allah extensively while on your journey
- Never be defensive or argumentative to the security officers
- Don't travel with jewelry or buckles that might cause the metal detector to beep.
- Have clear expectations about keeping to your standards of Purdah and Hayaa

May Allah bless all our journeys and keep us safe so that we may continue to serve Him, our Jamaat and attend Jalsas, and may He enable us to practice our requirements of faith while we travel, Ameen.

Saliha Malik, National Secretary Tarbiyat.