



**PRESS RELEASE  
NO EMBARGO**

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**AL JAMA-AH's legal team is working around the clock to have the proposed One Statute Marriage Bill Islamic compliant to put an end to suffering and oppression of Muslim women.**

Early in May last year, the party's leader and Member of Parliament Hon. Ganief Hendricks submitted a question to the Minister of Home Affairs to "restore the dignity of Muslim women by recognising the Nikah and change their status from 'not married' to widow/widower especially in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic." **(see question attached and reply from Minister).**

After more than 300 years of Islam in South Africa about one million Muslim women will soon have their Nikah (Muslim marriage contract) registered as a marriage with full legal consequences should the recommendations made by the Law Reform Commission in its draft One Statute Marriage Bill becomes law. The Statute Marriage Bill is expected to be passed soon following a ruling by the Constitutional Appeal court to have Muslim marriages recognised.

However, the One Statute Marriage Bill is not compliant with Islamic laws and AL JAMA-AH's legal team, a reputable Sheikh and the party's 11 lawmakers are working around the clock to propose amendments to the Bill. They are engaged in a wider public participation on proposed amendments to the Bill according to Islamic law. The party also delivered a pre-khutbah talk at the Strand Mosque, the historical place from where Islam was spread to the rest of Cape Town, on the party's progress made to have the Nikah recognised.

Since AL JAMA-AH's inception to Parliament, the party has prioritised to have the Nikah recognised by including making direct appeals to President Cyril Ramaphosa on the plight of Muslim women due to government's failure to recognise the Nikah. The party is also preparing to submit a Private Members Bill for alternative dispute resolution to deal with marital disputes.

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