

MARRIAGE POLICY

Document History

Year	Version	Owner	Change/Amendment
2018	1.0	General Secretary	N/A
2024	2.0		

Status: **Operational**

Classification: **Public**

MARRIAGE POLICY

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. Marriage

- 1.1. Marriage in Islam is a contractual union (Nikkah) between an eligible man and woman before witnesses for an agreed amount of mahr.
- 1.2. Nikkah is a commandment of Allah the Almighty, and a Sunnah of the Prophets (Peace and Blessings be upon them). There are numerous benefits of Nikkah including religious, moral, physical and psychological benefits, and its importance was emphasised by Rasulallah ﷺ.
- 1.3. Nikkah should be publicised, and conducted in public, as Rasulallah ﷺ has advised.
- 1.4. Scholars advise that is preferable to perform the Nikkah in the Masjid, ideally after salah, when a greater number of pious people will be present.

2. Marrying at Glasgow Central Mosque (GCM)

- 2.1. At GCM, marriages are presided over by a GCM Imam who solemnises the marriage, and a GCM Official who carries out the necessary safeguarding and ID checks and is responsible for administrative responsibilities.
- 2.2. GCM requires that a valid Marriage Schedule be produced on the day of the wedding for the Nikkah to take place.

3. Minimum Age

- 3.1. The minimum age for getting married in Scotland is sixteen (16). Any person wishing to marry must, therefore, be at least sixteen (16) years old.

4. Forced Marriage

- 4.1. A forced marriage is where one or both people do not willingly consent to the marriage. Their consent is obtained through force and fear or duress and coercion.
- 4.2. An arranged marriage is not the same as a forced marriage. In an arranged marriage, families and communities take a role in recommending a suitable marriage partner, but both parties are free to choose whether to enter into the marriage or not.
- 4.3. Forced Marriage is illegal and an appalling, indefensible practice. **Glasgow Central Mosque has zero-tolerance for forced marriage.**
- 4.4. If a GCM official suspects that either party has been coerced or forced, they will refuse to solemnise the marriage and alert the relevant authorities.
- 4.5. If you're trying to stop a forced marriage or need help leaving a marriage you've been forced into, contact either:

<p>Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline</p> <p>0800 027 1234 - 24 hour service</p> <p>Calls are free and confidential. You don't need to give your name.</p>	<p>The Forced Marriage Unit</p> <p>0207 008 0151 (From overseas: +44 (0)207 008 0151) fmu@fco.gov.uk Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm</p> <p>Out of hours: 0207 008 1500 (ask for Global Response Centre). A trained professional will give free advice on what to do next.</p>
---	--

MARRIAGE POLICY

5. Forbidden Degrees of Marriage; People you cannot marry

- 5.1. The Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 prevents marriage between certain groups of people including, for example, between a parent and child or between siblings. Similarly, there are prohibited degrees of marriage in Islam.
- 5.2. GCM does not solemnise marriage between prohibited groups under Scots law or in Islam.
- 5.3. For the avoidance of doubt, GCM does not solemnise same sex marriage.

6. Celebrants

- 6.1. GCM Imams are registered celebrants entitled to solemnise religious marriages. Celebrants are not registered to perform same-sex marriages.
- 6.2. For the avoidance of doubt, all religious marriages are solemnised subject to the discretion and availability of the celebrant. It is recommended that Marriage is solemnised immediately after one of the congregational prayers.
- 6.3. GCM only solemnises marriages between Sunni Muslims.
- 6.4. GCM does not allow religious marriage to be solemnised by temporary celebrants.

7. Marriage Ceremony (Nikkah) Form

- 7.1. If you would like to be married at GCM, you must complete and return the **Marriage Ceremony (Nikkah) Form**, available on the GCM website and at the Main Office.
- 7.2. The form must be submitted and approved by GCM before submitting a **Marriage Notice – Scotland (Form M10)** to the Registrar.
- 7.3. A booking will be made for the Nikkah. The booking will be provisional subject to the receipt of the Marriage Schedule.
- 7.4. A Nikkah booking does not imply the hiring or use of any part of the Masjid site for any purpose.

8. Fees

- 8.1. Glasgow Central Mosque does not charge a fee to solemnise marriages. We do recommend a voluntary donation towards the Masjid.

9. Marriage Notice – Scotland (Form M10)

- 9.1. Each party to a marriage must complete and submit a **Marriage Notice – Scotland (Form M10)**, along with the required documents and the appropriate fee, to the Registrar for the district in which the marriage is to take place
- 9.2. For a marriage to take place at GCM, the Marriage Schedule must be issued by the Registrar at Glasgow City Council.

NOTE: Timing is important. The minimum notice period is 29 days before the date of the proposed marriage. Notices must be submitted early enough to enable the Registrar to be satisfied that you are free to marry one another. Notices should be submitted 8 - 10 weeks before the marriage date. If either party has been married before, the notices should be with the Registrar 10 weeks beforehand. Delays to the submission of the notice could delay your marriage.

10. Marriage Schedule

- 10.1. A marriage cannot proceed without a valid Marriage Schedule
- 10.2. The Marriage Schedule will be issued to you by the Registrar. The Schedule cannot be issued more than seven days before the marriage and must be collected in person by one of the prospective parties.
- 10.3. The Marriage Schedule must be produced before the Marriage Ceremony to the GCM Official and registered Imam. A Marriage at GCM will not be solemnised without a valid Marriage Schedule.

MARRIAGE POLICY

- 10.4. Immediately after the ceremony the schedule must be signed by both parties, by the person performing the marriage and by the two witnesses. Thereafter, it must be returned to the Registrar within three days in order to register the marriage.
- 10.5. A small space may be used at the discretion of the GCM Official for the signing of the schedule, for example, the library. Only the parties and witnesses should be present. The space cannot be used for any other purpose.

11. Marriage Certificate

- 11.1. After the marriage has been registered you can obtain copies of the marriage certificate from the Registrar.

12. Etiquettes when getting Married at Glasgow Central Mosque

- 12.1. The Hadiths mention: A man announced loudly in the Masjid, "Has anyone seen my red camel?" The Prophet ﷺ said, "May you not find it! Verily, the Masjids were only built for the purpose they were built." (Source: Şaḥīḥ Muslim 569.) Imam Al-Nawawi said, "The Masjids were only built for what they were built, meaning, for the remembrance of Allah Almighty, prayer, knowledge, good lessons, and so on." (Source: Sharḥ al-Nawawī 'alá Şaḥīḥ Muslim 569).
- 12.2. The Masjid is a place where we should try to avoid commotion, unnecessary noise and mess.
- 12.3. At all times, the shari rules governing the avoidance of free mixing between opposite sexes must be observed. Those attending for a Nikkah should not loiter in any part of the Masjid.
- 12.4. Glasgow Central Mosque does not allow the playing of music on any part of the Masjid site or on its grounds.
- 12.5. The consumption of food and drink is restricted to designated areas in the community halls only, however a Nikkah booking does not include the use of any halls or rooms.
- 12.6. If families wish to distribute sweets after the Nikkah, only sealed bags are permitted to be distributed in the common foyer (defined in the male area as the foyer around the base of the minaret; or in the female area the corridor containing the shoe racks). Distributing sweets in the prayer halls is not permitted.
- 12.7. Wedding photography or videography of any kind is not permitted on Masjid grounds. This extends to the prayer halls, courtyard & gardens, carpark, foyers and corridors.

13. Marriage Process

- 13.1. To book a Nikkah, a **Marriage Ceremony (Nikkah) Form** must be completed and signed by both parties, must be submitted to the GCM Main Office.
- 13.2. A GCM Official will check the form and confirm availability of a celebrant for the proposed date/time.
- 13.3. Both parties should then complete and submit the **Marriage Notice – Scotland (Form M10)** along with the required documentation, to the Registrar. A list of required documentation, as well as further guidance, can be found at: www.glasgow.gov.uk.
- 13.4. The Registrar can conduct extra checks which may delay the Marriage. If the date is to be changed, please contact GCM at the earliest opportunity to check availability.
- 13.5. The Marriage Schedule is normally made available in the seven days prior to the marriage, and has to be collected in person by either the bride or groom, from the Registrar.
- 13.6. On the day of the Nikkah:

Prior to the Nikkah

- You should arrive at the Main Office at least one hour prior to the Nikkah.
- You must bring the Marriage Schedule and photographic ID for both parties.
- Safeguarding checks will be carried out with the bride.
- The bride will be asked to confirm her consent to the marriage, the agreed amount of Mahr, and consent for her Wali or a Wakeel to represent her at the Nikkah.

During the Nikkah

- The Nikkah will be performed inside the main Masjid prayer hall after the congregational prayer.

MARRIAGE POLICY

- When the congregational prayer ends, the Imam (celebrant) will announce the Nikkah and ask the relevant parties to come forward. The Groom, the Wali or Wakeel of the Bride, and two witnesses should sit near the Imam.
- The Imam will begin by reciting the Khutbah/Qur'an.
- The Imam will confirm the names of the parties and will ask the Wali or Wakeel of the Bride to confirm the Bride has given her consent to the marriage proposal for the agreed amount of Mahr.
- The Imam will ask the Groom to confirm he consents to the marriage for the agreed amount of Mahr.
- The Imam will conclude the Nikkah following which a du'a (supplication) will be made to seek blessings in the marriage.

After the Nikkah

- The celebrant, parties and witnesses will sign the Marriage Schedule
- The signed Marriage Schedule must be returned to the Registrar within three (3) working days in order to register the marriage.
- After the marriage has been registered you can obtain copies of the marriage certificate from the Registrar.

14. Further Information

14.1. Further information is available on the Glasgow City Council website:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17037>

14.2. National Records of Scotland website: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/registration/getting-married-in-scotland/how-do-i-go-about-it>

14.3. Glasgow Central Mosque Website:

<https://centralmosque.co.uk/service/marriage/>