**Muslim Marriage Contract template – this should be read thoroughly and adapted by the couple.**

**Definitions:**

Mahr Prescribed amount (cash/kind, immediate or deferred) given by the

spouse(s)in consideration of the marriage;

Witness Two adult witnesses of good character;

Ijab/Qabul Formal marriage proposal and acceptance;

Spouse Individual after entering into marriage contract;

**Preamble to Contract**

The marriage agreement involves some obligations and rights toward each other sanctified by God Almighty. Apart from a formal contractual obligation marriage is also a relationship between two human beings, that is ideally based on love, mercy and kindness. The partners are therefore expected to base their behaviour not just on legal rights and duties but on the spirit of goodwill, generosity, consideration and sympathy, taking into account each other's individual likes and dislikes. They are expected to conduct all family affairs through mutual consultation in the spirit of giving more than less (Q. 83:1-3).

**Mutual Rights and Obligations**

Marriage is a union for life having mutually inclusive benefits and fulfilment for the contracting parties including the following:

* Agreement to live together in a mutually agreed place
* Companionship inside and outside home
* Procreation and raising of any children by mutual consultation
* Working collectively towards the socio-economic welfare and stability of the family
* Maintaining their individual property rights but contributing to the welfare of the family according to their capacity
* Maintaining social contacts with family and friends mutually beneficial for the family
* Managing their individual activities/roles inside and outside the home by mutual consultation

**Obligations of the spouse**

In addition to the mutual duties and obligations, each spouse undertakes not to:

* Abuse their spouse or child(ren) verbally, emotionally, physically, or sexually
* Desert / be absent from the marital home for more than 60 days unless by mutual agreement
* Withhold economic contribution towards their spouse / family
* Misuse / interfere with their spouse’s property

**Special Conditions**

* Both parties reserve the right to amend/alter the contract through mutual written agreement.
* Both parties undertake to stay loyal to each other and never to engage in extra-marital affairs.
* Both parties agree not to enter into a Muslim marriage contract in the UK or abroad with anyone else.
* Both parties have the right to divorce.
* In the event of the death of either party, they will be buried according to their own wishes, for example, according to the relevant religious traditions.
* Both parties fully agree that each of them is completely free to maintain their own faith and identity, and that each has a recognised and enduring right to their own religious practice and spirituality.

**Arbitration and adjudication**

* All differences between spouses pertaining to this contract, its interpretation and implementation should be amicably resolved between themselves.
* However, failing satisfactory resolution of differences, both parties undertake to settle their differences through family consultation and/or community leaders.
* In matters of child(ren), custody and property possession/division the parties undertake to do what is in the best interests of the child(ren), in consultation with them if appropriate.

**Termination of Marriage contract**

* Parties to this contract will endeavour to do their best to uphold the terms of this contract
* Failing to resolve differences through arbitration/reconciliation (as above) parties shall seek legal redress through a British civil court.

Edited from The Model Muslim Marriage Contract