

Audio Documentary Script: The Unveiling.

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This audio documentary tackles the problem of the perception of veiled women in Egypt that has changed over the years, they face limitations regarding the places they can go out at and they get denied access in most of the high end restaurants and clubs.

Aimy: I am Amy and I am a muslim .I fast ,I pray and I do charity but I am not veiled, my mom isnt, my sisters arent and my grandma who is eighty isn't veiled either. But we were raised and taught how to respect ourselves, people and the religion.We were also raised knowing that hijabi is one of the main obligations in in Islam.However , the connotation of it is not what makes an optimized muslim woman . It is the true morals ,ethics ,beliefs and interpersonal behaviour these are what shape the true muslim .The head scarf would only then be the completion of the picture perfect muslim .The bare meaning of hijab on its own without the other components is just meaningless and superficial .If you do not complement it by doing the other things and this is ofcourse my opinion. However , some of my friends are veiled in fact my best friend is veiled and its problematic here in Egypt and me and Farrah here are going to tell you why.

*MUSIC:FADE IN AND UNDER :Inspirational background music for video success presentation royalty free(0-55secs from the start of the song)*

Farrah: But first Amy why dont you tell me about Hijab?

Aimy (AI): So Hijab is one type of several ways of covering up women in Islam. It is basically a headscarf worn on women's head to cover their hair for discretion purposes and to follow the Islamic traditions, Farrah do you want to add something else about hijab

Farrah (FM): Yes, Hijab has been around since the year 627 C.E "Mothers of the Believers" in Islam whom are the prophet Mohamed's wives got veiled and then it became mandatory up till this day.

*MUSIC:CROSSFADE AND UNDER : Dreaming of Arabia Oriental Lounge Music.(0-26secs)*

*Donya Abounour (DA): "A personal problem that I do have is that there are a lot of places in Egypt that don't allow me in to enter to eat or sit with my friends because I am veiled." (:12)*

*MUSIC: CROSSFADE AND UNDER: Cinematic free background music.*

Aimy: That was Donya Abounour and her problem is one that many hijabi or veiled girls of a higher socioeconomic class in Egypt experience through being denied access in bars, clubs or resto-bars.

*DA: "Being in this situation is really difficult to deal with because you feel angry you feel disappointed you feel hurt." (:07)*

Farrah: Donya expressed her frustration about the restrictions she faces because of the hijab. As Amy said veiled girls have many limitations restricting their lifestyle and their outings just because they chose to express their beliefs this way. They are told several different excuses as to why they are not allowed in.

Aimy: Yea for example Farrah that they harm the image of Islam Or that people who are already inside the place feel judged by hijabis. Donya has heard a couple of different excuses as well.

*DA: "When you ask them why they there are a number of reasons they give for example that they do not want any form of clothing that shows any religious affiliation." (:10)*

Aimy: This has sparked a wave of popular outrage among veiled women in Egypt, who consider this to be a violation of personal rights. In response to this rage a group of veiled women created a Facebook group entitled "Respect my veil," where they can publish personal stories of when they were not allowed in such places.

*NATSOUND: Texting/ typing and facebook notification*

Farrah: In addition to what Amy just said they also started a corresponding hashtag that became popular on Twitter, all the places that ban the entry of veiled women were stated, and it has gone viral on social media. Now back to you Amy.

Aimy: According to The Economic Forum studies conducted in 2016, 98% of Egyptian women are veiled however the cosmopolitan crowd has started to be more frequently discriminating towards hijabis, Donya here will share one of her experiences.

*DA: "There are times where in certain arenas or certain venues that I can't get in and once it occurred in the beach clubhouse in the north coast and I wasn't allowed in even though i am an owner and i have a membership card just because im veiled and i could see other people who are not owners but they are allowed in just because they are dressed in a certain way and this hurt me honestly because in egypt my home country there should be freedom of expression and freedom of speech." (:20)*

Farraah: I have personally witnessed this experience with my friends several times and i think Amy did too.

Aimy: Yes definitely more than once, each venue makes up their own rules now so you never know what you will hear when you arrive at the door.

*Mina Sadek (MS): "We have quite strict entry rules, people must have prior reservations sometimes we make people pay at the door to avoid any conflict inside." (:14)*

Farraah: Mina Sadek an organizer in one of the most popular clubs in Cairo, Pier 88.

*MS: "And about the dress code anyone can enter wearing whatever they want except certain accessories." (0:15)*

Aimy: Most probably certain accessories indicates hijab lets see what Mina mentioned.

*MS: "For boys we dont allow any kind of casual caps and for girls basically if someone is veiled, we don't allow them in." (:10)*

Farraah: So Aimy basically not anyone can get in.

Aimy: I guess so.

Farrah: Nourhan AbuGabal is also a veiled girl who was brought up in the upper class of social elite in Egypt.

*NA: "Well honestly for me I don't usually go to clubs not because it's haram or because I am veiled it's not my scene but when I actually want to enter a club bar or pub or whatever they say no because they are veiled." (:22)*

Aimy: Nourhan was also put in this situation, even though she describes herself as a more conservative girl but she still has the right to go to her friends' birthdays and celebratory parties.

*NA: "It's very weird because when I'm outside of Egypt no one ever tells me no but in Egypt they actually stop you which is very weird because it's very hypocritical because it's the country where Islam is dominant." (:21)*

Farrah: This incident causes girls like Donya and Nourhan to feel outcasted and confined.

*NA: "I am always I can't go and they don't invite me like it was one of my friends' birthday a week ago and he didn't invite me because it was done in a club and he called me I'm not gonna invite you just for you not to get embarrassed. I was like ok And I actually called the venue. Actually, I had my best friend's engagement and she said you can come. And, I called the venue they said no you can't come." (:23)*

Aimy: This is how Nourhan felt, The problem started facing Nourhan when she entered university.

Farrah: Other than feeling confined and creating personal issues as Amy said and creating personal issues this topic has a legislative aspect as well.

*DA: "Two years ago the minister of tourism came on TV and gave a speech on how it's not allowed for certain places or venues or events even to prohibit hijabi women from going in. So it's not part of the legislative so it's illegal and if you call up the police of tourism they would essentially shut the place down as doing something illegal." (:29)*

Aimy: Donya sheds light on this aspect yet the problem still occurs.

*MOSTAFA HODEIB (MH): "My name is Mostafa Hodeib I am a Colonel in the sector of police of tourism. Regarding the issue you were talking about the restaurants and clubs that don't allow veiled ladies. Any club and restaurant that prevent veiled ladies from entering we should proceed in shutting it down." (:19)*

Farrah: Mostafa is not only obliged to report but he is also required to make officers take action towards this place And I think Amy has something to add .

Aimy: Luckily we were able to contact Rania El Mashat the current minister of tourism in Egypt, but unfortunately we were not able to interview her but she replied via text confirming and I quote that it's illegal to ban hijabs from entering any public place and if such an incident occurs, The place should be reported.

Aimy: So now all of you veiled girls out there know your rights and know that you are supported so go out have fun and dont let anyone stop you.

Aimy: This audio documentary was produced by amy ismail and Farrah Abdelazim for the audio production course of the american university in cairo taught by professor kim fox in the spring semester of 2018

Farrah: Special thanks to donya abounour, nourhan abou gabal, mena sadek and mostafa hodeib.

*MUSIC: fade out.*