

**PROGRAM
and
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**



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ABORTIONS – THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

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The debate over abortions is as heated as ever nowadays. Many of the arguments in that debate emanate from religious ethical discussions in that field. Even though one of every four people in the world is of the Muslim religion, it seems that the Muslim ethical perceptions are sometimes being left out of the discussion when religious medical ethics are being discussed.

The first part of the presentation provides a glance at the Islamic point of view toward the abortion dilemma. It reviews the sources of Islamic law and discusses basic concepts of the role of the doctor, the sanctity of life, the issue of beginning of life and modern developments in Islamic medical ethics regarding abortions. All those reveal a complex, diversified religious approach, which has some similarities to other religious approaches, and, on the other hand, has its own uniqueness.

The jurisprudential part of the presentation focuses on the legal aspect of abortions in different Islamic states, dealing with the need to supply solutions to women who wish to abort and nevertheless, the need to enact laws that would not contradict Islamic principles. An example of three Muslim states (Egypt, Kuwait and Tunisia) demonstrates three different approaches toward legalizing abortions – a conservative approach, a more lenient approach, and a liberal one – all within Islamic oriented states. This leads to a conclusion that a more liberal attitude regarding abortions is possible in Islamic states, as long as traditional implications are taken into account.