

Islam Question & Answer

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1192 - Women cutting their hair short

the question

What is the ruling about women cutting their hair short for reasons of necessity? For example, in Britain, the women think that washing thick hair is too difficult in a cold climate, so they cut their hair short.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allaah.

If that is indeed the case, then it is permissible for them to cut their hair short, but only as short as is necessary, and they are not permitted to cut their hair short to look like kaafir women, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Whoever imitates a people is one of them."

(Fataawa al-Lajnah al-Daa'imah, 5/182). Similarly, they are not permitted to cut their hair short in ways that resemble men's hairstyles, because of the hadeeth of Ibn 'Abbaas (may Allaah be pleased with them both) who said: "The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) cursed men who imitate women and women who imitate men." (Reported by al-Bukhaari, 5435). And Allaah knows best.