

Al-Azhar Sheikh: Women Can Be Marriage Officials

Al Masri Al Yawm

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Al-Azhar Sheikh Mohamed Sayed Tantawi said he supported the idea of women working as marriage officials, as this did not contradict Islamic Law at all.

In a private interview with al-Masry al-Youm, he said: "I approve the idea of women working as marriage officials because this job is not a top leading position, is legal and does not contradict with women's nature."

"The possibility for women to assume any job, including marriage official, depends on how compatible this position is with their nature and physiological composition," he said. "But women cannot lead Muslims during the prayer, as this is a top leading position."

Dr. Soad Saleh, professor of compared jurisprudence at Azhar University, also backed Ali Gomaa's Fatwa. She said: "I think this job just consists of mere recording and is not a leading position at all. For those who think that this is a leading position, I say that this is a special leading position that is legally allowed to women, as they are capable of doing this task."

She explained that she disagreed with Ali Gomaa's decision to rely on the Hanafi school of thought to allow women to undertake their own marriage procedures and to represent someone else at marriage as a proxy. She said: "We live in an era full of corruption where some adult girls do not choose their husbands wisely but just rely on passions."