

Dressing in Accordance with Halacha

The Halachos applicable to women's dress are not a matter of added piety, but are explicitly stated in the Shulchan Aruch. In addition to the prohibition itself, a woman who does not dress in accordance with *Halacha* also causes those who look at her to transgress.

Details of the *Malachos*:

Sleeves: The elbow must be covered in every situation, therefore one should not wear clothes with wide-open cuffs or sleeves that slide up, revealing the elbow even inadvertently.

Neckline: The neck itself can be uncovered. The following places must be covered: Sides - from the place where the slant toward the shoulder begins. Front - the 2 front collarbones and downwards (all-inclusive). Back - from the first vertebrae of the back downwards (all-inclusive).

Problems with necklines are very widespread. One should remember to pay attention to the position of the top button of shirts and the width of the opening of sweaters, knit tops or dresses with no collar. (It is worthwhile to pay attention to the opening created from one-button closures in the back of tops and dresses.)

Skirt/dress length: The knees must be completely covered at all times, whether sitting, walking, etc. Slits in skirts are forbidden because of *pritzus* even if one is wearing stockings and even if the slit falls completely below the knees.

General coverings: Clothing which is see-through (even partially) or knits with holes and the like do not constitute an adequate covering according to *Halacha*.

The above *Halachos* have been compiled by a team of Talmidei Chachonim and have been approved by the following Rabbonim (listed in no specific order):

HaRav HaGaon Rav Yosef S. Elyashuv, Shlita
HaRav HaGaon Rav Shlomo Z. Auerbach, Shlita
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For clarifications of the Halachos feel free to call: (02) 3722276 or (03)5706105. This page may be reprinted or for further copies please call: (02) 373314 (English copies), (02)3722276 (Hebrew copies).

SEP 23 '92 16:03 BATES WAFKOV 719 4353736

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Psak Halachia From Gedolei Yisroel

Tznius has been at the core of Jewish life throughout the ages. The obligation of the Jewish woman to dress with tznius has always been her pride and royal signature.

Therefore it is with deep sadness, that we note the recent breaches in the fortress of tznius: the appearance in our community of short skirts, slits, and too-short sleeves.

We are obliged to inform you that it is forbidden for a Jewish woman to wear a skirt which does not cover her knees completely, whether she is standing or sitting. Slits are forbidden. Sleeves must be designed so that they cover the elbow completely, even when the wearer is in motion.

We hereby hope to strengthen the hand of the Rabbonim and school principals who stand up in protest against this breach.

At this convocation וְעַתָּה מִן טוֹן טוֹן they will bring the message of Tora authorities, specific obligations and הלכה פוס regarding tznius

May this gathering awaken us to strengthen and uphold the glory of tznius.

פסק הלכה מגדולי ישראל

מדת הצניעות היא אחד היסודות שעליו נשען בנין עם ישראל בכל הדורות. מלבושי הצניעות שנתחייבה בהם בת ישראל, עטרת תפארת הם לה.

לראוננו, בזמן האחרון חודו פרצות בחומת הצניעות, במיוחד הפרצת הנוראה של המלבושים הקיצרים והשטעוץ מלבושים ששחולליותם קצרים רגל על כן הנו להודיע ולפוסם שאסור לבת ישראל ללבוש בגדים אשר יתגלה בהם אפילו משהו מהברך הן בשעת הליך והן בשעת ישיבה. וכן אסור המלבוש שיש בו שטע.

שהוליו הנוגד יהיו עשויים באפן שיכנסו את המדפנה לגמרי אף בכל תנועה שהיא.

באנו בזה לחזק ידי הרבנים והמנהלים שאחזו עוז לעמד בפנין והחליטו לערך בנוס נשים מיוחד בערב ר"ה ט"ו תשנ"ב לשטע דעת חכמים ופסקי הלכה בענין הצניעות. יהי רצון שנתעורר כלנו לדקון את הפרצות ולתחזיר את חומת הצניעות ליושנה ולתפארתה.

אלי שוויי
ראש ישיבת ושיבת פילדלפיה

אברהם יעקב הכהן פאם
ראש ישיבת תורה ודעת

משה שבער
אב"ד דעברעאן

שמעון שוואב
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AN URGENT APPEAL
FROM THE VA'AD HARABONIM OF FAR ROCKAWAY

The Rambam in Hilchos Deos (Perek VI Hal:1) writes that the nature of the human being is to be influenced by his environment and by those with whom he associates. "Therefore, a person should associate with 'Zaddikim' and 'Chachomim' so that he may learn from their actions." Many of our attitudes are unfortunately influenced by the secular society and culture which surround us.

Torah Judaism views the human body as the creation of Hakodosh Boruch Hu and as a vehicle for all that is holy. Intimacy and procreation are sacred and noble - so special that we treat the subject with special care.

An analogy has been made comparing the human being to a Sefer Torah - the holiest object that we possess. The Torah is covered by a mantle and kept in an Aron Kodesh until the time we read from it, and even then, between "aliyos" the Torah is covered. The human being - the handiwork of Hakodesh Boruch Hu - has such intense holiness that it too must be covered.

The laws of tznius engender respect for a woman as an individual and help her maintain her dignity as a person, rather than an object of lust. The laws of tznius encourage a healthy sense of taste, decency and propriety which govern all human interaction. Human intimacy is the cement that transforms two strangers into living, life-long companions, committed to each other and to the building of a Jewish family. The laws of tznius make possible a constructive and harmonious life by creating an atmosphere of restraint and dignity.

Today, it is obvious to all of us that the erosion of tznius, and its consequences, has led to the breakdown of marriage and family in the secular society - and has made terrible inroads into the Jewish community as well.

The following is a brief outline of some of the more pertinent laws of "Tznius" as they pertain to Jewish women.

Please note that these laws represent the position of the Shulchan Aruch and contemporary Poskim.

*** Sleeves of blouses and dresses are to reach over the elbow so that the elbow remains covered at all times.**

*** Necklines of blouses and dresses may not be exposed below the collarbone.**

*** A woman's dress or skirt must cover the leg over the knee and be of sufficient length so that the knee remains covered in a standing or sitting position.**

*Stockings should be worn regardless of length
of skirt or dress.*

It is precisely at this crucial juncture in American Jewish life, when we are all concerned about the slow destruction - through intermarriage - of Jewish families that we must strengthen our observance of the laws of tznius. This is the only way to protect ourselves and our families from the onslaught of the degenerate and debased life style prevalent in the surrounding culture. Only in this way can we preserve our status as a Holy Nation whose ultimate goal is to be a beacon of light for all the peoples of the world.

We appeal to all Jewish women to heed the Halachos of tznius, in the merit of which we can hope for the fulfillment of the Chazal:

בזכות נשים צדקניות נאלו אבותינו ממצרים

ובזכותם עתידין להינאל.

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