SCREENING OF MUSLAMAN'S FRAYER HAM. IN MOSQUE

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ABSTRACT

Following the Islamic reform movement, there are some issues on women's prayer space. Masjid in UiTM campus is separated the women prayer space by solid plain curtain. As for women who pray behind the Imam, they can't see the Imam or see those who are in front of them. The space for the women also not comfortable and inconvenient as the women's space can be visible by the men from the outside of the mosque. Meanwhile in Islam tradition, Jama'ah means a congregation of people who are praying behind one Imam in continuous lines without any barrier or interruption. There is no Jama'ah when a person is in one room and his/her Imam in another room, the lines are not elements of continuity and the people behind the Imam are also not visible. This paper examines the evolving definition of gendered border in the mosque as a response to sexual segregation, which is specifically recommended by the Islamic law such as the Syariah. This article suggests that the border is neither transparent nor lower barrier, only to demarcate the separate area for women.

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