**Enlightened Muslim Scholars agree what is written below:**

**Wife beating is barbaric and it relates to the times when Arabs and their culture was barbaric.  Women were looked down. They were treated as only sexual objects. They had no rights. Their main purpose was to procreate. Scholars who lived in different centuries have interpreted WIFE BEATING in more or less according to the cultural acceptance.**

**The translation of Surah 4:34 remained unchanged for centuries. And because women in pre Islamic world were treated as second class citizens, translation and interpretation also reflected the lower status cultural limits of those times.**

**Time changes, knowledge changes, wisdom also changes. We live in an ever changing climate of opinions and verifiable knowledge. What was right some time back is now proven wrong. Science is backed with reasons and it is important that we include reasoning also in the interpretation of Holy Scriptures too.**

**In the days of Prophet Mohammed, four witnesses were required to prove if a woman was raped. This is no longer essential in 21st century because through DNA testing immediately truth can be ascertained.**

**One of the sayings of our Prophet is, “Reason is the root of my faith.” Muslim world right now is lacking in scientific and technological expertise. Muslims are gradually changing and using science to bring changes to their everyday lives.**

**The best example is for hundreds of years man believed that the earth was flat. But science has proven all of them wrong. This leads us to using science to determine truth. Science and Reason must go side by side. Interpretation of Ayat 3:34 must be looked at intensely in the light of today’s conditions.**

**Misconception: Wife beating is allowed in The Quran**

**Background: This topic is one of the most controversial regarding The Quran. The mainstream teaching is that it allows a husband to take extreme stand as a last resort in specific circumstances (where wife is having sexual relationship with other men and is breaking up the home). Extremist Mullahs have argued that this means it sanctions domestic violence against women. Whilst this is the prevalent view, even amongst Muslims today, it is mired in many flaws, which will be discussed below.  Today Muslims are living in a radical dominated interpretation of beating the wife with back up from falsely invented Hadiths.**

**The first and perhaps the most important point to mention is that this view is based only upon the use of one word in chapter 4, verse 34 of The Quran shown below:**

**The men are supporters/maintainers of the women with whatever means God bestowed on them.  The husbands support their wives & children from the money they earn. The righteous women are loyal/obedient and protect their chastity. And as for those women you are disloyalty and combative, then you shall first advise them, later refuse to sleep with them in the bed, and finally idriboo (exert with authority morally and financially) them and if they change, then seek not against them vengeance. Truly, God is All Forgiving and Great. [4:34]**

 **And if your wife persist in disobedience and disloyalty, then appoint a judge from his family and a judge from hers to come up with terms of common agreement. If they both want to reconcile, then God will bring agreement between them. God is Knowledgeable. [4:35]**

**The Arabic word *idriboo* is commonly translated in the most conservative way as hit/beat/strike, however the flaws with this understanding are as follows:**

* **The derivative *idriboo* is formed from one of the most multiple meaning and diversely used words (DaRaBa) in the Arabic language, and is used in several ways in The Quran itself.**

**Old translators reflected the lower status of women during those times and this has remained unchanged for centuries.**

* **There is not one clear occurrence of this word meaning "beat" anywhere else in The Quran, and in almost all cases, this meaning is problematic or would not make sense.**
* **No Classical Arabic (the language The Quran is written in) dictionary gives the meaning of "beat" in a comparable example and none reference 4:34 at all.**
* **When The Quran uses this word to mean a literal/physical strike/hit, the preposition "bi" (with/by) is always used, but there is no such use in 4:34.**
* **This understanding causes internal contradictions within The Quran, and this is also probably why no knowledgeable commentator, past or present, uses The Quran itself to justify this view.**
* **There is no consensus amongst traditional commentators on the origin and interpretation of this verse, except on perhaps the basic points.**
* **If "beat/strike" is chosen, it would cause inconsistencies amongst Traditional Hadith (narrations) and Classical Arabic dictionaries, which show a variance in view.**
* **It contradicts the alleged reaction of Prophet Muhammad to wife beating, in which he is reportedly to have found it unjust and said woman have the right to retaliate. The traditional story goes that he was over ruled by 4:34, apparently.**
* **During Prophet life time. HE NEVER BEAT ANYONE OF HIS WIVES.**

 **The evidence from The Quran suggests the correct meaning of the word in this case would be TO ASSERT WITH AUTHORITY, hence authority involvement in 4:35. This also fits in with its usage elsewhere with direct objects.

It is strongly recommended to weigh and consider the following study which presents a very detailed and comprehensive analysis of the claim of** [**wife beating and domestic violence in Islam (www.Quran434.com)**](http://www.quran434.com/)**. It also notes that the vast majority take it to mean hit/strike/beat with varying degrees of application.**

**Iftekhar Hai, President**