

Excerpts from remarks by Sarah Sayeed of The Interfaith Center of New York

.... In the hadith collection, Sunan of al-Tirmidhi, which narrates the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, it is reported that the Prophet instructed his followers to help their 'brothers', whether they were oppressed or oppressors. His followers responded, 'We understood [the need to] help the oppressed, but how should the oppressor be helped?'

The Prophet answered, 'Stop him from oppression. This is the help that you should give him.' Also, in the Quran, Chapter 5, "The Table Spread," Verse 8, we are instructed as believers: O you who have attained to faith! Be ever steadfast in your devotion to God, bearing witness to the truth in all equity; and never let hatred of any one lead you into the sin of deviating from justice. Be just: this is the closest to being God-conscious....