



[OPEN](#) BBC News in video and audio

**News services**  
Your news when you want it



Last Updated: Friday, 10 November 2006, 02:55 GMT

[E-mail this to a friend](#)

[Printable version](#)

- [News Front Page](#)
- [World](#)
- [UK](#)
- [England](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Science/Nature](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Entertainment](#)

- [Have Your Say](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [In Pictures](#)
- [Country Profiles](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Programmes](#)

**RELATED BBC SITES**

- [SPORT](#)
- [WEATHER](#)
- [CBBC NEWSROUND](#)
- [ON THIS DAY](#)
- [EDITORS' BLOG](#)

**LANGUAGES**

## Lawyers 'can wear veils in court'

**Legal advisers and solicitors may wear the Islamic veil in court unless it interferes with the "interests of justice", judges have been told.**



This latest incident following the row over teaching assistant Aishah Azmi

The judiciary were told to use their discretion to interpret the temporary guidance, which covers all courts.

The advice was issued by immigration tribunals chief Mr Justice Hodge after a case had to be halted when a legal adviser refused to remove her veil.

The Lord Chief Justice said full rules on the veils issue were being drawn up.

### Case adjourned

Earlier this week it emerged legal adviser Shabnam Mughal had refused to remove her headwear during an immigration tribunal in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

She had been asked to do so by Judge George Glossop, who said he could not hear her properly.

Eventually Judge Glossop adjourned the hearing to seek advice from president of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) Mr Justice Hodge.

It is understood the hearing will now go ahead next week with a different judge presiding.

The case followed weeks of controversy over the wearing of Muslim veils.

**“ If a judge or other party to the proceedings is unable to hear the representative clearly then the interests of justice are not served ”**

Last month teaching assistant Aishah Azmi, 23, lost an employment tribunal case after being suspended from her position at a school in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, for refusing to remove her veil in class.

Mr Justice Hodge

Issuing the interim guidance on Thursday, Mr Justice Hodge said: "Immigration judges must exercise discretion on a case-by-case basis where a representative wishes to wear a veil.

"The presumption is that if a representative before an AIT tribunal wishes to wear a veil, has the agreement of his or her client and can be heard reasonably clearly by all parties to the proceedings, then the representative should be allowed to do so.

**MUSLIM VEILS CONTROVERSY**

**MAIN STORIES**

- [Survey finds support for veil ban](#)
- [School sacks woman in veil row](#)
- [Veil row lawyer is taken off case](#)
- [Lawyers 'can wear veils in court'](#)
- [Muslims must feel British - Straw](#)
- [Police chief urges veil row calm](#)
- [Cameron voices veils debate fear](#)

**ANALYSIS**



**Debate impact**

How the row appears to have boosted support for the veil

- [Teaching assistant retains focus](#)
- [Straw met by applause and boos](#)
- [Why Muslim women wear the veil](#)
- [Straw gets the debate he wanted](#)

**BACKGROUND**

- [The Islamic veil across Europe](#)
- [Straw poll: views on veil row](#)
- [Muslim panel's views](#)
- [Mixed reaction to Straw remarks](#)

**WATCH LISTEN**

[WATCH](#) Jack Straw interview

**TOP UK STORIES**

- [Inquiry into killer dog's history](#)
- [Train fare rises draw criticism](#)
- [Stay New Labour, PM urges party](#)
- [News feeds](#)

**MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW**

[MOST E-MAILED](#) [MOST READ](#)

- [Inquiry into killer dog's history](#)
- [Saddam death scenes 'deplorable'](#)
- [Cliff death woman watching waves](#)
- [Coming up: Food from the new EU](#)
- [Train fare rises draw criticism](#)

[Most popular now, in detail](#)

### 'Arrangements will vary'

"If a judge or other party to the proceedings is unable to hear the representative clearly then the interests of justice are not served and other arrangements will need to be made.

"Such arrangements will vary from case to case, subject to judicial discretion and the interests of all parties."

The guidance applies to all courts.

Lord Chief Justice Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers said he had asked the equal treatment advisory committee of the Judicial Studies Board to develop detailed guidance on the use of veils by all people involved in court cases - including the parties, legal representatives, witnesses, jurors and magistrates.

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)

#### FEATURES, VIEWS, ANALYSIS



**New food**  
Dishes that could move west from Bulgaria and Romania



**In pictures**  
Capturing life beneath the waves

 [OPEN](#)



**Time to move on**  
After the veil row, will 2007 be a better year for British Muslims?

#### PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- [E-mail news](#)
- [Mobiles](#)
- [Alerts](#)
- [News feeds](#)
- [Interactive TV](#)
- [Podcasts](#)

Most Popular Now | 59,443 people are reading stories on the site right now.

[Back to top](#) ^^

[Help](#) | [Privacy and cookies policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#) | [Contact us](#)