

English law applies to Islamic marriage, judge rules in divorce case

I can see what the Judge is getting at here, and on one level I am glad that the 'husband' was not allowed to use sharia law to keep his greedy hands on all the family assets. But any recognition of nikah/sharia 'marriages' in English law is anathema to me. I would rather couples in such a contract be regarded the same as trendy co-habiting couples, and their property divided accordingly. Rather than trying to incorporate sharia law into the English Common law I would rather see a campaign to tell Muslims that their 'marriages' are not recognised in England. That they are not wives, they are mistresses, their children are illegitimate and they are, in the old phrase, no better than they ought to be. That would be also criticising the thousands of English women who live with their men out of wedlock (I'm showing my age, and my prejudices here!) so it won't happen. Just as I believe that tweaking the marriage laws to call homosexual civil partnerships 'marriage' was not for the benefit of homosexual couples but a first step to eventually legalise polygamy, so I do wonder if the policy that informal co-habitations were not discouraged (diversity, don't you know) was not just to destabilise western society, but to deflect criticism of sharia nikah contracts.

Yesterday the Guardian had one of the better reports on the release of Tommy Robinson; today they have one of the