

# Don't wear red clothes or short skirts, ultra-orthodox rabbi tells Jewish women

Posted: Thu, 22nd Sep 2016

In a [letter](#) sent to 5000 homes, an ultra-orthodox rabbi warned women in Stamford Hill not to wear "eye-catching" clothes, telling them to dress modestly, avoiding bright colours and short skirts.

The [Jewish Chronicle](#) reports that the letter, written by Rabbi Eliyahu Falk, was approved by the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations.

It says that women should not wear clothes with an "unusual style as they would be eye-catching. Similarly, the clothes must not be red, a bright yellow or a fluorescent colour" which, the rabbi warned, could be "very eye-catching".

"Calm colours" were desirable, the Rabbi wrote, because "hot colours solicit attention".

He said that it was absolutely "essential" that clothes are not see-through, and cautioned that "many blouses and skirts manufactured nowadays are see-through to some degree".

To avoid this, women should only wear "such blouses ... with the protection of a loose fitting shell or T-shirt".

Rabbi Falk said that "the length of a skirt or dress must extend until at least 4" (10cm) below the end of the knee." He said that this is "required because only with this additional length is one assured that the knees will remain covered even when running, sitting down, climbing stairs etc."

He added that it was an "absolute obligation" to dress modestly and that the "shape" of women's upper bodies should not be "apparent".

The rabbi then gave more detailed instructions about skirts, saying that women should make sure their "hips and thighs" were hidden and "camouflaged".

He said there was nothing more "wholesome and beautiful" than modesty and that women were privileged to have the "duty" of dressing "in a way that befits the precious Jewish woman and girl".

Dina Brawer, founder of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance said that the 'guidance' was controlling.

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [FoRB](#), [Women](#)

## Related Campaigns

- 

### **Women's rights**

End religious subordination of women and girls.

[Read More](#)

- 

### **Freedom of religion or belief**

Secularism protects freedom of religion or belief for all.

[Read More](#)

## **Related Articles**

### **The universality of human rights needs defending**

Seventy-five years on from the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its promise of freedom and equality remains a distant dream for those living under religious rule, says Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

### **Ep 58: Reforming marriage law**

What's wrong with marriage law in England and Wales, and how can it be made fit for purpose in the twenty-first century?... [Read More »](#)

### **Women Leaving Islam: the rights of those who leave religion must be protected - Opinion Out Loud Ep 008**

The film *Women Leaving Islam* shows the risks facing those who stand up for the fundamental right to leave religion... [Read More »](#)

### **Women Leaving Islam: the rights of those who leave religion must be protected**

*The film Women Leaving Islam shows the risks facing those who stand up for the fundamental right to leave religion... [Read More »](#)*

## **Seven women who refused to be silenced by religious bullies**

*On International Women's Day, Megan Manson celebrates the stories of seven brave and determined women in the UK who... [Read More »](#)*