

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
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10287 - Ruling on justifying evil actions by saying that a lot of people are doing it

the question

What is the ruling on a case when, if you tell a man or a woman, “What you are doing is haraam” – such as telling a woman not to wear short clothes, or telling a man not to smoke cigarettes – they reply by saying that everyone does that, or that all the women in our country dress this way?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The response that you describe is wrong, and the people’s evil actions cannot be justified. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And if you obey most of those on the earth, they will mislead you far away from Allaah’s path”
[al-An’aam 6:116]

Rulings on what is halaal and what is haraam are taken from the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), not from what people do, because people may be wrong or they may be right.