



Body Parts Included in the Prohibition

13. As mentioned previously, the term “uncovered area” refers to a *tefach*-sized area on any part of the body which is usually covered. This applies both to parts of the body **that must be covered** according to *halachah* as well as to parts **which are customarily covered by *frum*, upstanding women in that society.**

(Shulchan Aruch OC 75:1; Mishnah Berurah 75:2)

14. If *halachah* requires that a specific part of the body be covered, then even if the women in a certain location regularly disobey the *halachah* and do not cover it, their actions do not have the status of *minhag hamakom* (local custom). The *halachah* does not change just because locals are accustomed to seeing this area exposed, and it thus remains an *ervah*. *(Mishnah Berurah ibid.; Chazon Ish OC 16:8; Igros Moshe OC 1:42 and 43; Mechazeh Eliyahu vol. 1, 9:9-10; Levushah Shel Torah 49:12; see these sources regarding saying berachos in front of uncovered hair)*

