

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission no. 242**

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee on Migration:

I love living in Australia, particularly because of the multitude of cultures that it comprises. However, I never want to see freedom and peace here compromised due to a lack of wisdom on what tolerance and acceptance means. Yes, we are to invite all people to live here, *peaceably*. This means that everyone who affirms their agreement to this, to be "on the same page" of defining what this word peace means.

It does not mean that we choose to live peaceably only when everyone thinks the way we do, follows and practices the same religion we do, or holds the same values we do. It should mean we abide by the laws we are under (voted on and chosen by the people or the elected representatives in a democratic and free society). It does not mean having laws forced upon us that require us to think and believe what we are told. Isn't this what Sharia law does, and isn't seeing Sharia law rule in Australia the goal for many Islamic groups for this country? Yet they will claim to be a cultural group who want to live in peace! Their very definition of peace is skewed. They only uphold peace if you **submit first to their beliefs**.

Below is the slogan taken from an Australian website promoting Islam:
(<http://www.discoverislamaustralia.com/?gclid=CNrO7ezhi6gCFYIypAodnzy1Cg>)

*Discover Islam Australia is an Islamic Australian organisation based in Brisbane dedicated to **peace**, harmony and goodwill **through knowledge of Islam**.*

Two years ago I went to have my passport photo taken at Australia Post and was told to tuck my hair behind my ears. I did this because he said to. Then I found out later on a website that the Australian government has "catered for" a certain religion allowing a woman to leave on a head scarf in a passport photo, if it is against her religion to remove it. Why this exception made in the case of national security for this particular religion? This is a small example of the slippery slope we are on in succumbing to pressures to appear "multicultural". When was this exception added and why? Can't you see that this is a culture group that will continue to demand their way, little by little, until we find ourselves no longer multi-cultural but rather foreigners in our own country. This is currently happening in the UK and France in particular.

I just found this article written TODAY which highlights the plight in France as a result of their well intentioned multiculturalism policies: (and the same things are taking place in the UK)

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1530659/Muslims-are-waging-civil-war-against-us-claims-police-union.html>)

It said the situation was so grave that it had asked the government to provide police with armoured cars to protect officers in the estates, which are becoming no-go zones. The number of attacks has risen by a third in two years. Police representatives told the newspaper Le Figaro that the "taboo" of attacking officers on patrol has been broken.

I find this very scary that the police are not even safe to work to maintain peace and I can only surmise that it is now too late for these no-go zones to be restored to what they once were before "multiculturalism" initiatives were put in place.

Big mistake! Be careful, please, you elected people whom the Australian citizens are trusting to uphold our great way of life here. Do not hastily propose changes that will be irreversible. The religion and values I uphold require me to love and accept others (Muslims included) even if they do not hold the same beliefs as me. I see these, too, as Australian values. Can Muslims say the same about me if I don't believe in their faith or cultural practices? I know that the Koran doesn't allow them to love me if I don't submit to Allah and his teachings - in fact it tells them to hate me and even kill me. Is this peace?

Sincerely,