

**Committee Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600**

Dear Committee Chair, Ms Maria Vamvakinou

It is our pleasure to share with you our view in Multiculturalism in Australia.

To understand the reason Europe failed in their Multiculturalism policies, one has to define 'culture'. According to the University of Minnesota, CARLA centre, culture is defined as 'the shared expression of behaviours, interactions, and affective understanding that is learned through a process of socialization. These shared expressions identify the members of a culture group while also distinguishing those of another group.' When Australia adopts Multiculturalism as a way for us to live together, we have to accept that, we are all Australians, regardless of our country, place of birth or our religion.

Our commitment to Australia, even though we are from different cultures, is to live side by side peacefully. We have to retain Australia as a free and independent nation by upholding our federal and state Christian based constitution and obey it as one law for all its citizens, to accept the Australian democratic way of life and to teach our children how we can live together to build our country Australia, using our cultures to enrich Australian cultures and teach others how we cook, dress, eat, drink.

Europe failed, because their leaders found themselves not dealing with cultures but religion, they are dealing with people from different countries from Egypt, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, but all these people do not believe in culture; they prefer to identify themselves as Muslims instead of Egyptians, Iranians, Moroccans, Pakistanis and Iraqis. In essence, their cultures are their religion.

When we look at some European countries, for example Great Britain; we find that the most problematic case there, after decades of multiculturalism, is that Islamic communities instead of integrating, are increasingly closing themselves into ghettos, and fundamentalist behaviours.

In this situation, they failed because the government stayed silent; watching but not interfering under the banner of the ideology of multiculturalism and freedom. They are now suffering because it is Islam, not culture that they are dealing with. Muslims, at their essence, are culturally opposed to the idea of nationalism. Multiculturalism does not factor in their thinking, regardless of where they live. For them, there is only one God, one way of life, and one Islamic law- Sharia.

What we see now in Europe is separation between the nations; beside the existing systems of laws and courts, there are Sharia finance, Islamic Sharia Council, Islamic courts and Islamic laws. According to "BBC Radio 4 programmed Law in Action", some Muslims even use the Islamic laws and courts as an alternative to the English criminal system in Britain.

Another example is the increasing tolerance in European countries toward polygamy. In theory, polygamy is prohibited in Europe. But increasingly, in the name of multiculturalism, Muslim immigrants are registered as polygamists in the European continent: if a man is Muslim and married in his country of origin with 4 wives, we cannot but accept this as a given. All this goes against European laws and constitutions – which affirm monogamous families – but, in the name of a misplaced respect for "cultures", any solution is deemed acceptable, as it was reported on the asianews.it website.

And now in Australia, we are starting down the same path; we talk about Sharia Finance today, tomorrow about Sharia Law, courts, etc.

Ibrahim Siddiq-Conlon, a trained architect and former Christian from South Australia, told 60 Minutes reporter Michael Usher, that Islam and multiculturalism can never coexist. In the interview he said: ***"I hate democracy, absolutely. With my heart, my speech and my hands, as much as I can"***.

The interview, as transcribed by the 60 minutes website, goes on to say:

MICHAEL USHER: You're living in a democracy.

IBRAHIM SIDDIQ-CONLON: Well, unfortunately. I would love the majority of Australia to be Islamic...

MICHAEL USHER: If you believe Ibrahim Siddiq-Conlon, Islam and multiculturalism can never co-exist.

IBRAHIM SIDDIQ-CONLON: Muslims are oppressed right now. For example, our women find it hard to wear their veils or their burqas. We can't get mosques approved.

MICHAEL USHER: He says all true Muslims must adhere to the Islamic law, or Shari'a, and fight to destroy any other political system.

IBRAHIM SIDDIQ-CONLON: So actually we're being oppressed by your current system.

MICHAEL USHER: You want to bring down the Government?

IBRAHIM SIDDIQ-CONLON: Well, that's the aim of every Muslim essentially. Every Muslim has been commanded to, as I say, hate any other system except Islam and work for it.

There are many examples of what has been happening in USA and Europe, do we have to believe we got it right or just wait until there is no back way? As 60 minutes reported, it under the guise of that "multiculturalism" that has "provided the perfect cover for Islamic extremists to infiltrate Europe and plot their deadly attacks against democracy".

Even with my personal experience, my Muslim neighbour, decided to move his children from an Islamic school in Melbourne, after his son came home one day spouting Muslim ideology about how Muslims should not accept non-Muslim or even greet them.

We say that these "cultures" are just 2.5% of the nation, but have we looked at the statics about how they are increasing? In Britain, the Muslim population multiplied 10 times faster than the rest of society, as research by the Office for National Statistics reveals.

Australian politicians saw we are getting "multiculturalism" right, but this is not the case; do you see any other culture in Australia trying or even talking to destroy or change our democratic system?

My recommendations are:

- Changes to Australia's settlement programs.
- Reduce the people coming by boats and do not let them take over the percentage of skilled migrants whom we need to take Australia further to the future.
- Control our borders and accept those whom are able to integrate in our Australian society; not forcing us to integrate into their cultures.
- Keep our tradition and our Australian Value and way of life; allow us to continue say to each other at Christmas, "Merry Christmas".

- Teach our children at schools our Christian value without any discrimination or any fear that we may discriminate others, because those others do not allow us to even worship in their countries.