

Dear Maria Vamvakinou,

I like many Australians welcome this opportunity to make a submission regarding Multiculturalism in Australia. Your media release states that you “welcome the inquiry and the opportunity to hear directly from migrant communities” This is not being inclusive and I strongly believe that this opportunity should be extended to all Australians not only those from migrant communities as a point of non discrimination. After all we are all expected to live together harmoniously under our country’s constitution and laws. You also stated, “It is timely to consider whether a new policy on multiculturalism is needed, and how to ensure the Government’s social inclusion agenda also meets the needs of migrant communities”

Firstly, I need to ask what is meant by ,”the Government’s social inclusion agenda”? Is this different to assimilation? Inclusiveness needs to address the community as a whole not only ‘migrant communities’.

I am a baby boomer and like many other baby boomers to us Multiculturalism originally meant that we accept people from other countries because they want to come here and ‘be Australian’. Sadly, that perception has changed and today multiculturalism is generally accepted, especially by the so – called ‘left’ of politics, as meaning that all cultures are equal and we should adjust to accommodate all cultures and all values. This ultimately means losing the Australian ‘identity’ and becoming what? What does our identity become? Of course inviting people to share the good parts of their particular ethnic culture with us so that we can learn how others live is a good thing. This doesn’t mean that we have to agree with their values or share their world view. If they want to change this nation to suit their values then that crosses the line and becomes unacceptable. That is not racist – it is a fact that all cultures are not equal as all nations’ laws and values are not equally good.

As such I am offended by the Sharia Law compliance which has already infiltrated our society e.g. our banking system in Australia. Once you allow Sharia law to get a foot hold in our society you are allowing the erosion of our nations laws which are underpinned by Christian values upon which our nation was founded. It is because of these strong Christian values that we have a stable system of government and a harmonious society. Also allowing for example Halal certified foods is circumventing what otherwise would be considered gross cruelty to animals which is against the law. Evidence from Europe is now so clear that we should all know what the results of today’s multiculturalism really are. Multiculturalism has also led to ‘multi-faithism’ where all religions are promoted as good and equal. This simply is not true.

The reason that many people immigrate here is because Australia and it’s way of life and laws are based on Christian values and that our Democracy is all the stronger because of this. Already racial vilification laws have been enforced in certain states in Australia as a means to curb one of our fundamental rights - freedom of speech. If one dares to criticize or debate the pros and cons of Islam you are condemned as racist. (even though Islam is a religion not a race)

With the reporting of the social upheaval in the middle east and northern African countries we are seeing that people are fighting for ‘freedom and democracy’ but when asked what Democracy means to them it is very different to what we in western countries count as democracy. Many of them see Islam Sharia Law as Democracy and there are many Imams who have stated that Western Democracy is an offence to Islam. It seems that so often the word democracy can be so misused such as the Democratic Republic of China and The Democratic Republic of Congo – my mind boggles at such misuse!

I have travelled the world extensively and lived amongst many different cultures and still believe that there is no better place to live than my home Australia. I embrace the varieties of people and the vibrancy they bring to our society. I want to see my country remain peaceful and free under our system of democracy

We must remember that foremost, the freedom we have in Australia comes from believing that ALL people are equal but that all cultures and lifestyles are not.

This is not racist, it is reality.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.