

2nd June 2010

Dear Senator,

Recently you called for the ban of the Burka. Please offer your definition of what you believe a Burka is? My understanding is that the Burka is a traditional dress commonly worn by Muslim women more so in Afghanistan, not in Australia. Banning a dress with cultural significance seems extremely un-Australian and goes against the spirit of our nation.

I suppose what you really meant is the Niqab rather than the Burka. Or is it possible that you were calling for the banning of the Hijaab? I implore you to do a bit of research and understand what exactly you are talking about, especially when your comments vilify members of the Australian population.

Firstly, you want to ban it because as you say it is used in Burglaries. So, why are you not calling for a ban on the Beanies, Lady's Stockings, Balaklavas, Sunglasses, Helmets, etc. etc. which are also used in burglaries? Why ban the Niqab only???

Next you say it is a form of repression for the ladies. If you took notice of the Australian Muslim community, you'd realise that not all Muslim women wear the Niqab, Burqa or Hijaab. In fact Muslim women choose to dress as they please, where modesty is of importance. The freedom to choose does not constitute repression. If that were the case should not all ladies be wearing the Niqab? Banning the Niqab removes the freedom of choice and this would be the greatest act of repression. Seems like something is wrong here.....Islamaphobia!?

In your blog you refer to a letter by some lady who talks about the Niqab or the Hijab being a form of repression and not liberating women. Firstly, let me inform you that women were liberated well over 1400 years ago. Women have a choice of doing what they wish. However, please find below a link that says it all.

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/the-west-veils-plenty-when-it-condemns-the-burqa-20100515-v5hh.html>

You are always going to get those who say ban the Niqab they want to be liberated and those who say no we are liberated by wearing the Niqab. I can send a thousand links about those pro and against the Niqab. I can also send links about those who say you are just on about Islamaphobia and nothing more. I have Australian friends who tell us that they admire us. When asked why, they say they admire the dress code we have as it reminds them of the days of Moral values and respect.

Tell me something senator, have you really been around and asked the ladies that wear either the Hijab, Burka or Niqab are they being oppressed? If they say yes then tell them they do have a choice not to wear it. They are not being forced to wear it. But I assure you, you will find that those wearing it will tell you that it is their choice to wear it and they are not forced to wear it. Actually they may even tell you that they feel more liberated wearing it as they do not have men staring at them from head to toe and up again.

Come now Senator, let's not say ban the Niqab because it is used in Burglaries or is a form of repression. May I suggest that you first go around and ask the ladies why they choose to wear the Hijab or Niqab. You will be surprised at what you will find.