



الاتحاد الاسترالي للمجالس الاسلامية
**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.**

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANISATION

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• Halal Certification & Accreditation

• Muslims Australia Magazine

• Islamic Schools Projects

• Zakat & Charitable Services

• Imams & Religious Services

• Dawah Work

• Interfaith Dialogue

• Political Advocacy

MEMBER STATE COUNCILS

Muslim Council of NSW

Islamic Council of VIC

Islamic Council of QLD

Islamic Council of WA

Islamic Council of SA

Islamic Council of ACT

Islamic Council of NT

Islamic Council of TAS

Islamic Council of

Christmas Island

MEMBER SOCIETIES

Over 100

9 September 2011

The Hon. Chris Bowen

Minister of Immigration and Citizenship

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600.

Dear Minister Chris Bowen,

Muslims Australia (AFIC), on behalf of the Australian Muslim community, wishes to express its serious concern regarding Senator Cory Bernardi's invitation to the Dutch politician Geert Wilders to Australia.

Geert Wilders has called for a 'polluter pays' headscarf tax in his own country, a ban on the Quran and Islamic schools and has compared the Quran to Hitler's Mein Kampf¹. His visit is intended to cover various countries including Australia to establish a "worldwide anti-Islamic organisation," is unlawful in at least three Australian states (Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania) which outlaw both racial and religious vilification². Mr Wilders has faced prosecution in Holland for inciting hatred and discrimination³. Furthermore Mr Wilder's call to amend immigration policies to prohibit immigration from majority Muslim countries regardless of their faith incites racial hatred and prejudice towards people from those countries.

Wilders has attracted protest in many countries where he has not been welcome. This includes the UK where he was denied entry in 2009, the British government stating that he would "threaten community harmony and therefore public security"⁴. He was also asked to leave the West German tourist resort of Monschau due to local government concerns that his presence will taint the town "with suspicion that it was sympathetic to his views"⁵.

Over the last decade, all tiers of Australian government and civil society in Australia have striven tremendously to bring all communities together. A direct result of this social harmony is the growth of trade and enrolment of foreign students in our universities. Islamic industries are flourishing in Australia including the Halal meat industry and the growing Islamic Finance initiatives which have also gained traction in many countries. A visit by Mr Wilders to Australia stands to jeopardize billions of dollars in trade between Australia and majority Muslim countries.

¹ <http://muslimvillage.com/2010/09/01/anti-islam-dutch-mp-heading-for-australia/>

² http://www.hreoc.gov.au/racial_discrimination/cyberracism/vilification.html

³ <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5710559.ece>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ <http://www.thelocal.de/society/20100316-25909.html>

We ask that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to deny any application it receives from Mr Wilders to enter Australia. We strongly believe that his entry to Australia will incite hatred against people of the Islamic religion, cause great distress amongst many Australians and will motivate strong protest towards the Australian government. Despite our best efforts to the contrary, his visit will certainly create disharmony in the Australian community.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ikebal Adam Patel'.

Ikebal Adam Patel,

National President and CEO of Muslims Australia - Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC)

CC: Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, MP