

Inquiry into Multiculturalism

By Joint Standing Committee on Migration

Introductory comments - June 8, 2012

From Salt Shakers – Peter and Jenny Stokes

Australian Culture

Our primary focus is the preservation of our Australian culture and on protecting the freedom and liberty that we enjoy in this nation.

This is based on our Christian cultural and legal heritage.

Not all cultures are equal

Multiculturalism tends to assume that all cultures are equal and are equally worthy of respect.

However this is not the case...

Tribal cultures

In some tribal cultures child sacrifice was practiced – Aztecs, Incas, Hawaii – (Pele, goddess of the volcano). Naturally, we reject those practices.

India

* In India, Hinduism has a caste structure under which people are not equal.

* Widows were burnt on their husband's funeral pyres until the practice was stopped under British influence in 1829. Women were seen to be of less value.

Islam

* Islam also treats women as inferior: multiple wives, testimony of a woman only worth half that of a man (Quran 2: 282).

* Islam is a total political and religious world view – the goal of Islam is a world system under Islam.

The classic verse of Sura 9:5 *"Then, when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever ye find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush. But if they repent and establish worship and pay the poor-due, then leave their way free...."*

* Promotion of Islamic shari'a law as the law of the land.

* Killing of apostates – those who leave Islam.

References in Quran and Hadith..

Abul Ala Mawdudi wrote, "To everyone acquainted with Islamic law it is no secret that according to Islam the punishment for a Muslim who turns to *kufir* (infidelity, blasphemy) is execution."

He claimed that Quran, Sura 9: 11,12 justified this position.

Hadith - Bukhari, volume 9, #17

"Narrated Abdullah: Allah's Messenger said, "The blood of a Muslim who confesses that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that I am His Messenger, cannot be shed except in three cases: in Qisas (equality in punishment) for murder, a married person who commits illegal sexual intercourse and the one who reverts from Islam (Apostate) and leaves the Muslims." Ref: <http://answering-islam.org/Silas/apostasy.htm>

Respecting people – not cultures

In our submission, we mentioned that Victoria's *Multiculturalism Act* requires government

departments to report on how many languages they translate documents into. Rather than encouraging people to communicate in English, this entrenches multiple languages as the norm.

When Victoria passed the *Multiculturalism Act* in 2004, the proposed law said that everyone must 'respect all cultures'.

We contended that all cultures cannot be respected. The Act was changed to speak about respect for people, but not for cultures.

In addition, an extra clause was added to require people to follow the law of the land.

Reference to reporting in other languages:

"The Multicultural Victoria Act 2011 requires all Victorian Government departments to report annually on their achievements and initiatives in multicultural affairs, including their use of language services, multicultural communications and multicultural representation on government boards and committees.

<http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation>

International leaders say 'multiculturalism has failed'

Angela Merkel – Chancellor, Germany

October 2010

"Attempts to build a multicultural society in Germany have "utterly failed", Chancellor Angela Merkel says.

She said the so-called "multikulti" concept - where people would "live side-by-side" happily - did not work, and immigrants needed to do more to integrate - including learning German.

"And of course, the approach [to build] a multicultural [society] and to live side-by-side and to enjoy each other... has failed, utterly failed."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11559451>

UK Prime Minister David Cameron

Speech, February 2011

"At a security conference in Munich, [he argued the UK needed a stronger national identity](#) to prevent people turning to all kinds of extremism."

"He said under the "doctrine of state multiculturalism", different cultures have been encouraged to live separate lives."

He said ""Let's properly judge these organisations: Do they believe in universal human rights - including for women and people of other faiths? Do they believe in equality of all before the law? Do they believe in democracy and the right of people to elect their own government? Do they encourage integration or separatism?"

"These are the sorts of questions we need to ask. Fail these tests and the presumption should be not to engage with organisations."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12371994>

Cameron right on multiculturalism's failures

ABC, Drum, [Pallavi Jain](#) – who was a "correspondent, producer and anchor with the Hindi section of the BBC World Service".

<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/43660.html>

"There is good and bad in every culture of the world but to treat all cultures as equal without accountability is a warped notion because culture is neither static, nor a monolith. Rather the pursuit should be to imbibe the good and reject the bad in all cultures.

As a woman I cannot accept that cultural practises relating to gender in Saudi Arabia, India, Russia or South Africa are equal to those in Sweden, Norway or Australia. Thank God for liberal western values, even if they are not totally gender neutral at least they present me with some sort of choice."

Nicholas Sarkozy – President, France

February 2011

“We have been too concerned about the identity of the person who was arriving and not enough about the identity of the country that was receiving him.”

The president made the declaration in a TV debate last night after being asked if the policy of encouraging the religious and cultural differences of immigrants was not working.

He told viewers: 'My answer is clearly yes, it is a failure.

'Of course we must all respect differences, but we do not want a society where communities coexist side by side.’

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1355961/Nicolas-Sarkozy-joins-David-Cameron-Angela-Merkel-view-multiculturalism-failed.html>

Vilification and discrimination laws

- * Anti-discrimination laws
- * Federal Racial Hatred Act
- * Victoria’s Racial and Religious Hatred Act

All of these laws create division instead of harmony. They encourage people to look for hurt, rather than focus on getting along together.

In many instances, cases have been brought, not because of statements about individuals, but because of statements made about religions themselves. The case brought by the Islamic Council of Victoria against two Christian pastors who ran a seminar about Islam, highlights the problem of these laws.

Freedom of speech, as well as freedom of religion, is undermined by such laws.

Race or ethnic origin – and religion

At the federal level, complaints can be made on the basis of insult or offence.

The Racial and Religious Tolerance laws at state level use the ‘incite hatred’ clause, which puts the bar at a higher level – but is still very problematic.

We recommend that all of these laws be repealed – at both federal and state level - as they promote division between people.

What is a culture?

Is it more than just ‘ethnic origin’.

The Polyamory association is now calling for the recognition of their ‘culture’...

Culture is not necessarily just ethnic background – it could also be a set of beliefs and practices.

In that respect, multiculturalism is often narrowly defined.

Marriage and family

Marriage in Australia is based on the Christian principle of ‘one man and one woman for life’.

Islam promotes polygamy – a man can have four wives (technically polyandry). This is actively promoted by some Muslims – such as Keysar Trad.

Alternative legal systems

There should be one law for all.

We note that AFIC – the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, in their submission, advocated the introduction of Islamic shari’a law in Australia

This is totally unacceptable – and we were pleased to note that the then Attorney-General Robert McClelland has stated that:

“Sharia law has no place in the Australian legal system.”

We were pleased to see that Current Attorney-General also rejected any form of sharia law – in March 2012.

See <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/roxon-baulks-at-role-for-sharia-by-australian-muslims/story-fn59niix-1226302118960>

In a similar way, introducing Koori courts for aborigines, also implements a two-tier legal system . All alternative legal systems create divisions .

Islamic sharia law must not be introduced in Australia. We must have one law for ALL Australians.

Associated problem – halal certified food

The halal certification of food has become a divisive issue.

The certification process makes money for both Islamic groups, such as AFIC, and individuals.

Much halal certified food is not labelled as such.

For instance, Nestle has many halal certified products – they pay a fee which is passed on to consumers – but consumers are not told.

Companies are being told that this doesn't affect other Australians – but it does.

Meat products – ritual killing method with prayer to Allah.

Non-meat products – simply paying a fee to be told it is suitable for Muslims to eat.

This actually implements a total inspection system of our manufacturing processes to ensure it complies with Islamic sharia law.

We recommend that, if food is halal certified, that it be labelled accordingly so that the consumer is informed.

Keysar Trad on migration:

Reference to comment about Keysar Trad's statements on migration as noted in our submission...

Section from our submission:

In this one, *RACISM: An Islamic Response Part 2 Islam and Prejudacy*, from December 1996, he wrote on the issue of migration - especially saying that Muslims could be coming to 'settle' in Australia if we don't let them come as 'migrants'!

Read it at http://www.scribd.com/full/17890820?access_key=key-vesdtqwenkth1a3yn1s

First, the title was actually *Racism: An Islamic Response*. Keysar Trad wrote Part 1, which was titled 'Elitism' and the point relates to that article.

The article is online at http://www.geocities.ws/korn14w4n/artikel_2/214.htm

The actual quote:

“RACISM: An Islamic Response – by Keysar Trad...

In a way, they feel safe because of the quantity of water which surrounds this country, so they feel fortified behind this great body, it gives them a feeling of security. But the reality is, the land belongs to God, not to them, and if those foreigners, whom they fear as migrants are not permitted to enter as migrants, they will come as settlers, in numbers so large that they will not be able to process them, hold them, or stop them. What will they do then? If these foreigners who are restraining themselves, because they see a legal hope, that they can come to this vast mainly uninhabited land for whatever reason, are told that there is no longer a legal way to come here, what will they do?

What will a starving person do when he wants food?

They will no longer respect these laws which were drafted in a cocoon away from the reality that the land of Australia does not belong to white European man. In fact, if the original inhabitants had their way, or if we want to employ Pauline Hanson justice, then white man should pack his bags and leave this country, for your people Pauline, have been the worst of guests!"