

Submission to the inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia

I have observed the transformation of Australian society from one which was insular to a cosmopolitan and vibrant society. I am very pleased that multiculturalism has speeded up the process. In my 50 years in Australia I have seen the times when the Catholics were the ones to hate. Then I saw the Italians. They were not only Catholics but dark too, they were hated for a while but were soon replaced by the Greeks because they were dark but they were not even Catholics! Greeks were let off the hook when the Lebanese arrived. They were subsequently replaced by Vietnamese followed by the Africans, After all you could not get any blacker than the Sudanese. Oh, I forgot, while all this is happening let us not forget the Aborigines. They are always in the background in case we run out of people to put down. The latest scapegoats are the Muslims.

Undoubtedly multiculturalism has benefited our society. I speak Arabic, French, Italian, Greek and English. I interact with a variety of ethnic people in Australia. I have travelled extensively and even studied Multiculturalism overseas under a Churchill Fellowship. I think I am qualified to speak on this topic.

Not all government policies are for the good of the country. We have a problem of private/religious schools and the policy of subsidising private/ethno/religious schools with taxpayer's money. Thanks to the government what these schools are doing is they are teaching children to become different from the rest of society.

By way of just one example I am quoting from an Islamic perspective, the attitude towards our society.

The future of Islam in Australia

Islam is here to stay and Muslims are going to play a significant role in Australia's future. The Muslims have already put religion back on the agenda with secularism versus religion the debating point.

The mosque remains the most vital social structure in Islam and our association with it must be increased. Secondly, we must ensure that the benefits that we as Muslims receive from Islam are also communicated to the wider non-Muslim community. We should be ambassadors of Islam and promote Islamically-based systems and alternatives as potential solutions to the problems faced by the wider community, such as: abstention to combat alcoholism; having a life-mission to prevent suicide, shared equity and rental instead of usury, etc.

Equipped with good will, hard work, increased faith, wisdom and dedication, Muslims in Australia will indeed ensure a brighter future for themselves and for Australia as a whole. Quoted from <http://www.muslimdirectory.com.au/directory/articles/islam-in-australia-from-1788-34/>

I find this statement arrogant and dangerous. It is a subtle way of saying "Sharia Law". How on earth can those Muslims, who think the above statement to be true, integrate into the wider society when they believe that we are flawed and need fixing

by them? How would a child in an Islamic school view the world if that is what is being taught at their school?

The basic tenet of multiculturalism is respect. I believe we should respect Muslims in Australia and expect the same in return. I expect all Muslims to value their religion for themselves. It is not their role to rectify Australian society by promoting Islamically-based systems in a country which separates religion from the state.

While we are enjoying diversity in Australia there is a sinister outcome in the UK. The video clip below shows how far the British Government has failed in its implementation of multiculturalism. This situation did not happen overnight. The signs must have been noticed years ago. Now that they know they have a serious problem, it will require a lot more effort to rectify.

I was shocked to read the placards at the demonstration; this is in Oxford Street, London. Read what they say:

- Trinity of evil: America, Britain, France
- Democracy will bring oppression
- Sharia the only solution for Libya
- It is he who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth (Islam), to make it superior over all religions even though the disbelievers hate it
- Sharia will dominate the world
- The Muslim nation is one nation to the exclusion of all others. Their land is One, their peace is One and their war is One
- Prophet said: "Allah show me the east and show me the west and the authority (sharia) of my Ummah was over it all"
- Gaddafi and all world leaders are tyrants
- Stop the crusaders
- America head of the tyrant regimes
- Jihad to defend the Muslims
- Crusader army go to hellfire
- Islam the solution for mankind

Shock, horror, now have a look at this:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq4el7gyPas&feature=player_embedded

I have stated that Australia has a problem with religious schools and the policy of subsidising private/ethno/religious schools with taxpayer's money. There is no time to waste. We should act now.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali is a Muslim, Somali born, turned into a Dutch feminist, activist and a prominent critic of Islam. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayaan_Hirsi_Ali
Ali was once a Muslim fundamentalist and wore a hijab. She is now in danger of her life and has bodyguards to protect her. With personal experience Ali writes that she does not believe that Islam has been "hijacked" by fanatics, but that fanaticism is intrinsic in Islam itself.

What does Ali think of religious schools? In her book "Ayaan Hirsi Ali and the battle against the radical Islam" she says not all religious schools should be shut down. Only the Islamic schools because "they are the only ones that do not respect the division between secular and divine law".

I hope we are able to preserve our beautiful diversity and multiculturalism as we know it in Australia.

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