

*The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,*

It is hard to conceive why the Australian Government wants to even think of ill proposed Bill. I Strongly oppose the draft ***Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012***. If some of members of our nation are involved in some cult, why, the Government is wasting time to protect some evil cult. In early 1990's when I was teaching at the University of Queensland in the Department of Mathematics that time significant % of university students were involved in witchcraft. Sadly one brilliant mathematician committed suicide. In early 1990's two witches kidnapped two British tourist near Namboure, Sunshine coast Queensland, the witches kill the tourists to drink their blood. When the witches were found guilty, both got twenty-five years jail.

But that time people have freedom to say that such religious practices are wrong. Does the Government wants to make it illegal to say evil is evil.

On other hand some Muslims believe woman's genital mutilation, child wife, and wife beating, is OK, will it be wrong to say that such practices are wrong.

In other words the Government wants to reward people who practice evil, but punish those who say evil is evil.

In early, 2002, Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) took me and Pastor Danny Naliah to VCAT tribunal because of bad law of Vilification in Victoria. The court case lasted for five and half years; cost millions of dollars to both parties. The Tribunal Judge Michael Higgins for some unknown reasons made hundred of mistakes and factual errors, to find us guilty of breaking the law. During my six days of cross-examination, I was told by all the three barristers, (the QC, the Senior Counsel and other barrister), that I should not read from the Qur'an or Hadith, the Islamic holy Texts, because Muslim may feel insulted. Muslim can feel and do feel insulted when some one makes public teaching of their religion. Because if public will know the teaching of their religion than many people will think twice before converting to Islam.

Thank God we won the case in the Appeal in Supreme Court of Victoria, where three Supreme Court Judges rejected the Tribunal's Judgment and disqualified the judge, and ordered Muslims to pay for the damages.

After more than five years of court-case Muslim signed an agreement, which states in part that in Democratic Society people respect each other and have right to criticize religion.

It is not sensible to discourage public from critical thinking and critical health discussion. I think it not good for any Government to make public dummies. I was brought up in Pakistan where critical thinking and critical discussion is discouraged, the results are obvious.

Does Australian Government want to change Australia into another Pakistan; I assure you it will do good to nobody.

### *Dealing with people and their Beliefs*

“Loving the sinner and hating the sin” is a common saying amongst Christians. It is self-evident, that what a person believes and who they are, are separate entities, and should be treated separately.

Consider some of the following:

- ◆ The Akha people who live in the mountainous regions of China and Thailand, kill twins or infants born with disabilities, in the belief that they are not truly human and are born as a sign of the spirits’ displeasure [\[1\]](#)
  
- ◆ Some of the worshippers of Kali (a Hindu goddess in Calcutta) offer human sacrifice[\[2\]](#).
  
- ◆ Sati is a Hindu custom where a wife is burnt alive with her dead husband[\[3\]](#).
  
- ◆ The burning of brides for lack of enough dowry [\[4\]](#)
  
- ◆ Child-brides in various countries[\[5\]](#)
  
- ◆ Violence in general and drugs and alcohol related violence in particular among various groups around the globe.

Having genuine concern and care for such people demands that we confront the issues, and set these people free from them even though this may involve reporting to authorities for intervention. Merely disagreeing with inhuman practices does not mean that we hate the people that take part in them; quite the contrary, it requires that we love and value them. It will not be Christian love to ignore or approve such practices.

Likewise, disagreeing with a *belief* does not mean that we hate the person. (A parent's love of their child isn't contingent upon correct belief or action.) Therefore, it is entirely inappropriate and nonsensical to suggest that legitimately criticising a belief (e.g. Islam) is the same as hating a person (the Muslim).

Regarding Islam, we need to criticise such things as its violence against women[6]<sup>[7]</sup> (which include such things as domestic violence[8] beating[9], stoning[10]) as taught in the Qur'an and Hadith[11]. As well, its inequitable and unjust laws called Shari'ah need to be exposed.

In fact, in the past, when Christian and non-Christian academics used to teach honestly the real facts there were rarely any conversions to Islam. By hiding certain aspects of teachings of the Qur'an and the Hadith one becomes dishonest, and a deceiver and betrayer of society. In the long run, people who ill-inform others not only damage individuals but society at large. Such dishonesty helps the cause of Islam finally to convert the society to the Islamic religion. There have been several nominal Christians, some pastors and missionaries, who converted to Islam; they left Islam as soon they came to know the real teachings based on the Qur'an, Hadith and life of Mohammad.

In free societies we should tell the whole truth in love. Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free". Remember it is truth, not half truth, which sets people free!

When we are relating to Muslims two things are going on: on one hand we are loving, caring and concerned for the person, and on other hand we are confronting their religious teachings that need to be exposed so that the general public becomes aware of the full picture.

Draconian laws to stop people telling truth can only develop draconian behavior among the public and results are never good, hence reject this draconian draft of ***Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012***.

Your sincerely,

Daniel Scot

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[1] Source: [http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib\\_pub\\_file/533\\_filename\\_bkculture.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/533_filename_bkculture.pdf) , accessed 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008

[2] Source: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,322673,00.html> accessed on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008

[3] Sati is the practice through which widows are voluntarily or forcibly burned alive on their husband's funeral pyre. It was banned in 1829, but had to be banned again in 1956 after a resurgence. There was another revival of the practice in 1981 with another prevention ordinance passed in 1987 (Morgan 1984). The idea justifying sati is that women have worth only in relation to men. This illustrates women's lack of status as individuals in India. [http://www.indianchild.com/sati\\_in\\_india.htm](http://www.indianchild.com/sati_in_india.htm) accessed on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

[4] Source: <http://www.indiatogether.org/wehost/nodowri/stats.htm> accessed on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008

[5] Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-07-16-child-marriages-aid\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-07-16-child-marriages-aid_N.htm) accessed on 11th November 2008

[6] Source: [http://cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/mehat/past\\_conferences/Masid.pdf](http://cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/mehat/past_conferences/Masid.pdf) accessed on 12th November 2008

[7] Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/20/AR2006102001261.html> accessed on 12th November 2008

[8] [http://www.irfi.org/articles/articles\\_901\\_950/violence\\_against\\_women.htm](http://www.irfi.org/articles/articles_901_950/violence_against_women.htm) accessed on 12th November 2008

[9] Source: <http://www.answering-islam.org/BehindVeil/btv3.html> accessed on 12th November 2008

[10] Source: <http://www.iheu.org/node/2776> accessed on 12th November 2008

[11] Sura 2:223 (using women like a field); 4:34 (wife beating); 65:4 (child wife) And those of your women as have passed the age of monthly courses, for them the 'Iddah (prescribed period), if you have doubts (about their periods), is three months, and for those who have no courses [(i.e. they are still immature) their 'Iddah (prescribed period) is three months likewise, except in case of death] . And for those who are pregnant (whether they are divorced or their husbands are dead), their 'Iddah (prescribed period) is until they deliver (their burdens), and whosoever fears God and keeps his duty to Him, He will make his matter easy for him. [*The Noble Qur'an*, Translated by Hilali and Khan].