



BATTEN IN BRUSSELS

ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH FREEDOM AND WESTERN LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

"Freedom is not an absolute; freedom cannot be expected to tolerate that which would destroy it."

JACK STRAW'S recent statement of the obvious that Muslim women wearing the veil are "a visible statement of separation and difference" caused a predictable furore. The UK Independence Party is a party that believes in individual freedom and liberty, so we would be the last people to want legislate against anyone's choice of dress. The real debate should not be about what is considered acceptable dress for Muslim women but rather what it symbolises, and the growing impact of Islamic fundamentalism on British society, and the threat it poses to a free society.

The Niqab, or full veil, is not a Qur'anic requirement and its use is debated and disputed among Muslim scholars, but it is being adopted more and more by Islamic fundamentalists. Some fundamentalists believe that Islam is a universal religion and that their role is to convert or subdue all mankind and make Islam supreme and dominant. To them, Islam is both a religion and a form of government. They do not believe in the nation state, nor the separation of religion and state. They do not believe in free speech or the equality of women, and do not tolerate homosexuality. Democracy, as we understand it, is unacceptable to them, the only acceptable form of government being one based on Islamic law. These fundamentalists can never adapt themselves to being a minority in a non-Islamic society - they see it as their duty to convert or subjugate that society, with violence if necessary. The problem is that the fundamentalists and extremists appear to be winning the propaganda war and convincing the West that they represent Islam when in fact they are merely an extreme manifestation of it.

A significant section of Britain's growing Muslim population already seeks to assert its separate - and in its opinion superior - Muslim identity, rejecting integration into British society. Its tactics are to claim victim status and then force concessions from the authorities to accept its different Muslim way of doing things. The Muslim Council of Britain has

already called for Islamic Shari'a law to be incorporated into British law. The boundaries are always being tested and pushed back. Anyone who opposes them is likely to be called "Islamophobic", a term fast becoming as popular as "racist", as the modern equivalent of "witchcraft"; a means of gagging debate and code for "guilty until proved innocent".

Successive governments have refused to accept the threat posed to our society by Islamic fundamentalism and extremism and to take the necessary measures to meet it head-on. We should esteem our own values of freedom, free speech and liberal secular democracy and start defending them. One of the most important reasons that extremism has flourished in Britain is because of the funding it receives from abroad. For example in West Ham, in the London Borough of Newham, an international Islamic group called Tablighi Jamaat plans to build a super-mosque that will accommodate from 40,000 to 70,000 people. The cost is estimated to be at least £100 million. Where will the money be raised? Not from local Muslims in one of London's poorest boroughs but from foreign countries and donors who have an agenda to undermine our freedoms and way of life.

If we wish to protect our free society from a philosophy that belongs in the dark ages, then we must start to take decisive actions. I suggest that as a start we should do the following.

1. End mass immigration, and set about positively integrating and assimilating our existing immigrants and their offspring into our society.

2. Promote a cohesive society, for example by removing all signs in foreign languages in public buildings such as schools, town halls, and hospitals. If we do not share a common language how can we share a common society?

3. Strictly regulate arranged marriages with spouses brought from abroad, with a strict requirement that the applicants speak fluent English.

4. Government to withdraw finan-

cial support from fundamentalist organisations and instead offer moral support to Muslim organisations committed to a moderate, forward-looking Islam willing to assimilate to British society.

5. Strictly regulate and limit funds from abroad being used to build mosques and support imams in the United Kingdom. There should be a clear and auditable financial trail, with severe criminal penalties for infringement. As a matter of principle, no money should be acceptable from Muslim countries that do not allow non-Muslim places of worship on their own territory.

The Government should ask all Islamic organisations based in, or with links and affiliations to, the UK, such as OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference), Muslim World League, and the European Council of Fatwa (including the Muslim Council of Britain), to take actions to guide their followers. They have all publicly stated that acts of terrorism are un-Islamic and distanced themselves from it. To reinforce these messages the government should ask them to issue fatwas including the following:

1. That Islam is a religion of peace, and therefore that every armed Jihad in the UK is unlawful and prohibited.

2. That those Muslims who plan, incite or commit terrorist acts are apostates and non-Muslims, and a shame to Islam. The four suicide bombers who died on 7 July 2005 should be declared apostate as an example to others.

3. That those verses in the Qur'an dealing with Jihad, and *Wala wa al 'bara* (allegiance to Muslims and immunity from allegiance to non-Muslims, regarding them as enemies) are not applicable in the UK - considering the fact that Muslims are full citizens of the UK in every way.

The vast majority of Britain's moderate, law-abiding and peaceful Muslims should welcome such statements from Islamic organisations that claim to represent them. Compliance would send out a clear message that these organisations embrace moderate Islam and Britain's

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democratic values. If they refuse to do so, we can draw our own conclusions as to where they stand. Freedom is not an absolute; freedom cannot be expected to tolerate that which would destroy it. Fundamentalist and extremist Islam is incompatible with freedom and Western liberal democracy. The real issue for those wishing to remain free is not an argument about headress but the threat posed to our freedoms and way of life by a minority of people and how the state chooses to deal with it - if indeed it has the courage to do so at all.

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QUOTE TO NOTE

"I am viscerally disgusted and dismayed by the suggestion that we should "ditch Churchill and follow Polly Toynbee".

As I wrote to Greg Clark today, I'd rather follow the devil than Polly Toynbee.

Viewed as a device to grab headlines, it is beyond cynicism. Viewed as a policy idea, it is (as someone has already observed) sub-Marxist. However as a mechanism to infuriate and alienate Conservative members and activists, it is likely to be a huge success."

Roger Helmer
Conservative MEP
for the East Midlands
Conservative Home
22 November 2006

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHRISTMAS POLITICAL CORRECTNESS



WARNING - POLITICAL CORRECTNESS:

Mary and Joseph - how it could have been!

On their way to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph - weary and exhausted - were accosted by an over-zealous traffic policeman who jumped out from behind the bushes and demanded to know what speed they thought they were doing on their donkey. As they clearly had no idea, he proceeded to read from his speedometer telling them with great delight that they were exceeding the legal limit by 1¼ miles per hour. The traffic policeman could not hide his excitement at meeting yet another target as he promptly issued them with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Despite their protestations that this really was an emergency, he then pointed out that Mary was not wearing a riding hat which conformed to the PAS 015 or EN 1384 riding hat standards.

When he then demanded to see an up-to-date horse passport for their donkey, and neither Mary nor Joseph could oblige, he thought all his Christmases had come at once and confiscated the donkey.

Heavily pregnant, Mary was then forced to walk the rest of the way to Bethlehem.

After arriving in Bethlehem and finding that all the inns were full, they stumbled upon a very nice inn-keeper willing to put them in the stable. Just as he was about to agree to let them stay, the inn-keeper had a horrible flashback to the Health and Safety inspection he had just experienced the week before. He

also then remembered that he had to bear in mind he was not allowed to discriminate against travellers, so, torn between two competing laws as he frequently was, he decided, on balance, to let them in. But he made sure he told Mary and Joseph that they would not be able to use candles for light as the candles represented a fire hazard.

The wise men heard about the birth of Jesus over the Internet and looked up the stable address on their journey planner. A risk assessment was carried out on the gold, frankincense and myrrh and they all failed and were taken away. Then, the social worker, who had been called following the birth, confiscated the beautifully hand-crafted toys that Joseph had painstakingly made especially for the new baby, saying that they were politically incorrect, sexist and not diverse enough.

Finally, Mary and Joseph went to register the birth of Jesus at the local registry office only to be told that they could not use the term "Christian name" on the birth certificate in case this caused offence.

So, it is a blessing that Jesus was born 2,000 years ago and not now, as it could have all been so different!



This is an extract from "The Politically Correct Scrapbook".

This book is a great Christmas gift idea for someone who is fed up with political correctness and has a sense of humour. Full of some of the most ridiculous examples of political correctness ever known, it is also packed with politically incorrect quotes, new politically correct words, examples of bizarre warning signs and is illustrated throughout. Freedom Today readers can buy this book at the discounted price of £6.99 per copy or £20 for 3 copies - which includes postage and packing anywhere in the UK. Please send any cheques, payable to "CAPC" to TFA Book Offer, c/o CAPC, Trevoise House, Orsett Street, London SE11 5PN.

John and Laura Midgley