

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission no. 216**

To Ms Maria Vamvakinou
Joint Standing Committee on Migration

I have just become aware of this inquiry and would like to give my opinion for your consideration.

I love my country. I think it is the best place in the world to live. I appreciate the input we have had from the many immigrants who have come here from all over the world, resulting in the rich diversity that exists today. Most of these people have adapted to our way of life, our system of government and have been proud to become Australian citizens. I believe we should welcome such migrants and do what we can to make their transition to life here as trouble free as possible, and treat them with compassion and understanding, especially those who have suffered at the hands of oppressive governments.

However, I do not believe we should rewrite our laws, constitution or history to accommodate them. Our country has a British heritage based on the Judeo-Christian belief system. Not every one here might agree with these values or traditions, and they are free to disagree, but it is a fact of life that this is what makes us what we are. If our beliefs and traditions offend people who come here, that is their problem, not ours. We don't force them to come here, or to believe what many of us do. They don't have to keep our traditions but are free to keep their own within our law.

I am not racist. I welcome migrants and people from other faiths. I respect their right to practice their own religion. I just ask that in considering what form our "multiculturalism" takes, we do not allow laws to be passed that in anyway interfere with our freedom of speech and religion and that we don't get so scared about offending people of other faiths that we discriminate against our own.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my opinion known to this enquiry.

Yours faithfully