

What is really behind M-103?

Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the rights of every person, regardless of sex, race, and religion, to both freedom of religion and freedom of expression. That means that a person has a right to practise his or her religion, but another person has a right to dislike that religion, to criticize it, and to satirize it. Thus the makers of the films *Life of Brian* or *Jesus Christ Superstar* were not prosecuted. But under Islamic sharia law, criticism of Islam is illegal and punishable. In many Muslim countries criticism of Islam is a serious (even capital) offence. We know that there are Muslims in Canada who would like to implement at least some aspects of sharia law. Could this be the purpose of Motion M-103? Could our MPs be the well-meaning "useful idiots" of an unstated agenda to silence any negative opinions or criticism of Islam by using the nebulous concept of "Islamophobia" to equate these with the promotion of hatred?

Join ACT! for Canada in opposing the misguided Motion M-103!

What is ACT! for Canada?

We are an organization of patriotic citizens who speak out about the threat presented by those who reject Canada's democratic system of government and seek to replace it with a totalitarian system of law – Sharia law – that is incompatible with the freedoms we take for granted.

Please contact us or visit our website and FaceBook page for more information.

ACT! FOR CANADA
5890 Monkland Avenue
Suite 16
Montreal, QC
H4A 1G2

info@actforcanada.ca
www.actforcanada.ca/
www.facebook.com/act4canada



The
House of
Commons
Islamophobia
Motion (M-103):
Is there a need for
it or is it
dangerous?

What is the Islamophobia motion about?

On June 8, 2016, Samer Majzoub, president of the Canadian Muslim Forum, initiated a petition calling on the House of Commons to condemn “all forms of Islamophobia.” The petition gathered almost 70,000 signatures. (Presumably it was widely circulated in mosques in Canada.) On October 3, 2016, Liberal Member of Parliament Frank Baylis (Pierrefonds – Dollard, Quebec) sponsored the petition (Petition e-411) and it was unanimously adopted by the House of Commons on October 26. This simply meant that the House agreed with the petition but the petition had no legal effect.

On December 1, 2016, Liberal MP Iqra Khalid (Mississauga – Erin Mills, Ontario) tabled a motion in the House of Commons (Motion M-103) entitled “Systemic racism and religious discrimination.” The motion not only urged the government to “recognize the need to quell the increasing public climate of hate and fear,” “condemn Islamophobia and all forms of systemic racism and religious discrimination and

take note of petition e-411,” but also requested that the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage undertake a study on how the government could “develop a whole-of-government approach to reducing or eliminating systemic racism and religious discrimination including Islamophobia,” and “collect data to contextualize hate crime reports” and present its findings to the House of Commons no later than 240 calendar days from the adoption of the motion. The motion was placed in order of precedence on December 6, 2016. While passing a motion in Parliament is not the same as passing a bill, it seems that the government could be planning to recommend laws against “Islamophobia” after the Heritage Committee finishes its study.

But is there a problem with laws against Islamophobia? Yes, there is.

Motion M-103 threatens freedom of expression

Islamophobia is not defined anywhere in Motion M-103 or in Canada’s legal system. The motion conflates “systemic racism and

religious discrimination” with the undefined offence of Islamophobia, raising the possibility of criminalizing the expression of any negative opinion or satirical depiction of Islam. Given that petition e-411 denies that there is any link between the religion of Islam and violence carried out in the name of Islam, anyone expressing the opinion that terrorists are acting in accordance with Islam could be committing an offence, despite the fact that terrorists often state their loyalty to Islam.

Discrimination and hate crimes are already illegal

It is perfectly legal to express negative opinions about Christianity and satirize it (e.g., the film *Life of Brian*), but someone who dislikes Christianity does not have the right to vandalize churches or personally harass Christian believers. Exactly the same criteria should apply to Muslims and Islam. There is no need for Islam to be singled out for special protection from criticism by any petitions, motions, or bills.