

Burqa debate

Introduction

Defining the motion

- People have a right to wear what they want in private
- Current burqa bans, which are the only thing we have for a basis, ban the full facial veil in public
- So that is what we must presume the motion is

Explaining my process

- I am going to show...
- The burqa is a problem
- Banning it isn't that bad
- There are benefits to such a ban
- So overall, the ban would be a positive change for society

The burqa is a problem for the wearer

What is it?

- We're all aware of what it is
- The head covering is the hijab, the face covering is the niqab

It isn't Islamic

- It's culturally Islamic – it's never mentioned in the Qur'an
- It only requires moderate dress
- Indeed, Persian women used to wear it before Islam

Nobody chooses the burqa

- Have you ever seen any non-Muslim wearing the burqa?
- None of my friends have ever chosen to it
- They are forced to wear it – by their religion

And why would they

- They aren't very flattering
- When I see them walking down the street in summer...
- They get really warm
- You can't see much out of them

Health problems

- Causes health problems
- You don't get enough Vitamin D

The burqa is a problem for society

It's sexist

- Here is a special piece of clothing – that only women have to wear

- Women lose their identity and image, but men don't
- Namus – the virtue of being sub servant to a man

It's offensive to men

- What's the point of it?
- It creates bad stereotypes
- "Thank you for not provoking my uncontrollable lust"

It's a religious symbol

- You wouldn't want people wearing it, just like you wouldn't want a nurse wearing a cross

Banning it isn't that bad

There is no freedom either way

- If you don't ban it, they are forced to wear the burqa
- So they don't have freedom either way

Current law

- Already banned in France, Belgium, Italy
- Netherlands are working on it, as is Australia
- It is banned in schools and universities in Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

Compare this to places with condone the burqa

- Afghanistan under the Taliban
- Saudi Arabia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Emirates require face veil as well because "the face of a woman is a source of corruption"
- I know which side of the fence I would rather be on

Security point of view

- We're not asking for anything unusual
- You can't walk into a bank or petrol station with a motorcycle helmet on
- A lot of shopping centres ban hoodies
- It's just rude to keep your hat on in doors
- Cheating in exams happens all the time

We can't live in a totally free society

- It would be nice to let people do whatever they want
- But we don't let people hurt others
- We put limits on freedom of speech

It's not a problem not to wear it

- As we've already discussed, it isn't that Islamic

- Muslims could just not wear it - BBC News estimates that "Only around 30 women wear this kind of veil in Belgium, out of a Muslim population of around half a million."

Some choices are bad choices

- We ban harmful drugs
- We've banned smoking in public buildings for example

Benefits of the ban

Give women the freedom

- Gives women the freedom not to wear it
- They can go out without the burqa and enjoy the sunshine

It promotes a more open society

- Communication is key
- You can't communicate properly while wearing a burqa
- Most communication is non-verbal – it's in your gestures and your facial expressions which obviously you can't see if the person you are talking to is in a burqa

It promotes integration

- The burqa is a clear separation of us and them
- This is bad
- We need a cohesive society

Conclusion

Introduction to conclusion

- The president of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, said that burqas are "not welcome" in France, commenting that "In our country, we cannot accept that women be prisoners behind a screen, cut off from all social life, deprived of all identity"

Benefits to the wearer

- Liberates women
- Restores their identity
- Gives them the freedom not to wear it

Benefits to society

- Makes for a better society, more communication
- Removes bad stereotypes of men
- Security concerns

Conclusion

- The burqa is something we don't want in our society

- It is not that much of a further sacrifice of freedom to ban it
- The benefits of banning it are significant
- I therefore urge you to support the ban on the burqa