

## Islamophobia: We need to talk

We are discussing ideas, not attacking people.

If we can talk about problems in other communities why can't we talk about problems in the Muslim Community?

In fact we are often otherwise encouraged to take ownership of the problems of other communities to see if we can help – think of child abuse and poverty induced crime - “It takes a village to raise a child”; Gay rights; Treaty issues; overseas disasters. We are expected to engage with the problems of others all the time.

We have a right and responsibility to engage and support our Muslim friends – but not simplistically or uncritically.

How are critics sometimes treated?

*See YouTube: “Tommy Robinson Oxford Union”*

Is the problem “fundamentalism”?

“To criticise a person for their race is manifestly irrational and ridiculous, but to criticise their religion, that is a right. That is a freedom. The freedom to criticise ideas, any ideas – even if they are sincerely held beliefs – is one of the fundamental freedoms of society. A law which attempts to say you can criticise and ridicule ideas as long as they are not religious ideas is a very peculiar law indeed. It promotes the idea that there should be a right not to be offended, when I think that the right to offend is far more important than a right not to be offended.” *Rowan Atkinson*

The role of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation in “Islamophobia”.

Yet truth may not be a defence. People who speak out with amazing accuracy and the finest motives are often misunderstood and punished – Stephen Coughlin.

*See YouTube “Stephen Coughlin Red Pill”*

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