



## 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. Every 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? While MPs who back M-103 may be well-intentioned, they seem to be unaware of an organized movement throughout all western countries, in which the nebulous concept of Islamophobia is used to silence all criticism of Islam by equating such criticism with hatred against Muslims. Motion M-103 and Petition e-411 on which it is based present a useful vehicle to bring about the normalization of sharia law as a respectable form of multicultural expression.

**Motion M-103 should be rescinded! It must never be the basis for a bill! Let your MP know that you oppose Motion M-103.**



## What is Canadian Citizens for Charter Rights and Freedoms?

Canadian Citizens for Charter Rights and Freedoms (C3RF) is a group of Canadians who have come together to address Member of Parliament Iqra Khalid's private member's motion, Motion M-103, a motion that stands to **adversely impact the ability of Canadians to express themselves freely**.

Please visit our website and Facebook page for more information.

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**CANADIAN CITIZENS FOR CHARTER RIGHTS & FREEDOMS**



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





## What is the anti-Islamophobia motion (M-103) 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 (with only 79 MPs present for the vote). Adopting the motion simply meant that the House agreed with the petition but it 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 urged the government to “recognize the need to quell the increasing public climate of hate and fear,” and “condemn Islamophobia and all forms of systemic racism and religious discrimination and take note of petition e-411.” It also asked 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. Motion M-103 was adopted by a vote of 201 to 91 on March 23, 2017. A motion passed in Parliament has no legal effect. **But many fear that the government will use the Heritage Committee’s findings to draft an “anti-Islamophobia” bill derived from Motion M-103. Such a bill could eventually become law.**

*But is there a problem with a law 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 (the basis of Motion M-103) 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 tenets of 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.**