



NEWS REPORT

Date: 29 December, 2009
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Title: Legislative debate on the wearing of the burqa in the public sphere
Country: France
Context
Issue at stake: Parliament consultation to define a legislative stand on the status of the integral veil (or burqa) in public places
Ground of discrimination: Religion/belief, origin
Source: Political development
Field: all fields

Content

Political development: In the context of the controversy resulting from the observation of an increasing presence of women wearing the integral veil in public places, the National Assembly has put in place on June 23, 2009 a mission of information on the practice of the integral veil on the national territory at the request of the President of the National Assembly, presided by André Guérin, Communist member of the National Assembly.

The number of women wearing the integral veil at the present time is estimated by the surveys of the Ministry of Interior at about 2000 women.

The mission statement of this committee states that it must evaluate the extent of this practice, its origins and evolution in order to evaluate its impact on the freedom and dignity of women and its compatibility with the principles of the Republic.

This mission of information has held 18 hearing sessions in 2009 during which members of cabinet, representatives of the Cour de Cassation, international and national experts on Islam, representative of the Islamic faith, public and constitutional law scholars, representatives of various Masonic obediences, women and anti-racist NGOs were heard.

In the meantime the Senate has issued a comparative study on the present state of legislation forbidding the Islamic veil in European countries.

Internet link source and additional information: National Assembly Mission of information on the wearing of the integral veil on the National territory:
http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/13/dossiers/voile_integral.asp



Senate comparative law report on the wearing of the burqa in public places:
http://www.senat.fr/lc/lc201/lc201_mono.html