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Dear Nick,

I am writing concerning your column in the Sunday Express and the comment you authored in last Sunday's edition, 'Don't be a berk over burka bill' (Sunday Express, July 4, 2010).

It is not often that Muslims, and other Britons, will agree with your views on matters relating to multiculturalism and the cultural and religious pluralism that we enjoy in Britain. But in the defence of our prized liberal traditions and freedom of expression, including a Muslim woman's right to wear the burqa should she so wish, you will find many fellow citizens in agreement with the sentiments you expressed in Sunday's paper.

Your mention of places where Muslim women ought to be obliged to remove the face-veil, such as airport security checks, post offices or court, is consistent with a poll conducted by ComRes in January this year in which just under two thirds of those polled, 64%, agreed that restrictions should apply on the wearing of the burqa in banks and airports.

Compromise is indeed a very British trait and one that has served us well in negotiating our differences with fellow citizens. I am pleased to have read your column and see you extol the virtue of compromise. It has injected a good dose of much needed common sense in the debate on the burqa animated by the far right UK Independence Party and, to my dismay, Conservative MP Philip Hollobone.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif
CEO