

## **"Instilling Pride to be an Australian"**

Discussion Paper for Mannkal Seminar 30 October 2014  
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Why is it that so few American-Muslims as a proportion of the population have gone to fight with ISIS in comparison with the thousands from Europe? The numbers of young Muslims that have gone to fight from Australia as a percentage of our population are many times greater than America.

The most obvious explanation seems to lie in the strong patriotism and pride in being American that successfully integrates its extremely diverse population. I feel that another unifying strength of America is the nation's strong religious faith.

I saw this strong pride in country and faith first hand when my family went to live in America in the late 90's. My eldest daughter who was 15 came home after a couple of days at school and said, 'Can I go with some friends to Bible Classes? Its cool to be Christian here.' My three eldest children used to recite the Oath of Allegiance and sing the national anthem with hand over heart with no embarrassment.

This display of pride in country and this sense of 'belonging' are not evident in any way with my five children back in Australia. I despair that my youngest child at 18 is if anything embarrassed by any display of national pride and his politically correct education has succeeded in imbuing him with a sense of shame in his country's history.

Patriotism, in the main, is a dirty word in Australia (as in the UK and Europe). Nationalism, the belief that one's country is superior to others, should not be confused with patriotism which is an attachment to and an admiration of a country's way of life and to quote Orwell 'of its nature defensive, both militarily and culturally.'

While Islamic terrorism only appeals to a minority it highlights a weakness in liberal democracies in our reluctance to promote a collective identity and a sense of patriotism. This hole, this lack of identity, of patriotic pride, of gratitude for our culture, this lack of any sense of 'belonging' is filled by young Islamists with the fierce transnational identity that the Islamic notion of a world caliphate can build. This is so strong they are prepared to die in its grotesque and evil cause.

The intensity of belief of these young Islamists stands out starkly to the relative apathy of secular young Australians.

The French philosopher Michel Onfray said in a discussion on the decline of the West "Who is ready to die for the values of the West or the values of the Enlightenment?" Young Australians are growing up in a culture of consumerism in a secular environment that encourages no attachment to God and country.

The bonds that hold together Australia's social fabric are under threat and there is a growing sense of urgency that something must be done in a national effort to reinforce our inherent values and sense of citizenship. The rise in home-grown terrorism can be blamed partly on the notion of multiculturalism, which hints at moral relativism where all cultures are equal. Multiculturalism has failed everywhere by implying that people can have parallel identities and parallel loyalties and by implying that people don't necessarily need to be citizens and that they can be more loyal to Islam or their country of origin than to Australia. This is counterproductive and Australia must tackle this through encouraging a sense of citizenship. As a liberal society we have multiple identities and we have free choice to do as much as we like but ultimately we are loyal to Australia as citizens. We obey the law, we pay our taxes and if called upon, we fight for our fellow countrymen. This can only be instilled into children through the media, through books, through culture and most importantly through education...not through legislation.

In 2010 Mannkal held "The Sun Rises in the West" Conference with a range of international speakers and proceeded to introduce and support the IPA Western Civilisation programme. This is the type of programme that we urgently need to emulate in our schools to instil pride in our children in Australia's Judea Christian heritage and to help them appreciate the hard fought values inherent in our society. A society based on respect, dignity, equality, the rule of law, freedom of association and free speech.

With this knowledge will come a pride in being Australian and an understanding that we need to defend these values with vigilance. I want all Australian children to have a sense of 'belonging', which comes, as witnessed in America, by a proud sense of patriotism in country.

I believe such a programme needs to be taught to Australian school children before high school age. Ideally this should be done via the school curriculum however this cannot be relied upon and I propose a programme established through IPA/Mannkal and other interested organisations and individuals .

This would incorporate a history of Western Civilisation and instruction on Western values and culture. Most importantly it would attempt to imbue Australian students with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the values of our culture and society.

At this stage I am proposing educating articulate young university students who will visit Year 7 classes and hold a series of talks on the history and values of Australia. An Australian citizenship course.

## AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

1. Create a Western Civilisation programme aimed at Year 7 students to teach:-
  1. Judea Christian history-the long hard struggle for the society we live in today;
  2. Pertinent events with emphasis on the origins of our democratic values;
  3. The unique position of our Australian democracy-ahead of UK and US in many areas;
  4. Values, freedoms, opportunities-we have a future;
  5. Political and legal strength;
  6. Australia vs. the world-key statistics to emphasise we have choices in this country;
  7. The need for vigilance-the fragility of democracy-the need to protect our way of life not by force but by reason and by an understanding that what we have is the best;
  8. Gratitude and pride in being an Australian;
2. Select youth diplomats who are educated in a Western Civilisation programme.
3. Start the programme in public and private schools with an emphasis initially on suburbs with a high immigrant population.
4. I envisage an instruction programme for 1.5 hours per week over two school terms.

There is an urgency to help reinforce the social seams that bind our country and the best place to start is by re educating our children. Throw away the black armband approach to our history and start instilling our children with a sense of pride and appreciation in our culture. Hopefully a good programme will help give Australian children that vital sense of 'belonging' and go a little way in diminishing the apathy and lack of gratitude that often distinguishes our young. This is essential if we are to safeguard our democracy and the inherent virtues of our society.

Further discussion points:-

1. Refer to syllabus course "Teaching the Truth About Communism"  
<http://www.newsweekly.com.au/article.php?id=56755> (access using password – Manners)
2. Avoid triumphalism when promoting Western Civilisation
3. RBM's unpublished book from late 1970's "The Alienated Australians."