

Baroness Warsi is Right About Aggressive Secularism

Submitted by: Faith Matters

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AGGRESSIVE MILITANT SECULARISM A THREAT TO STABILITY AND HARMONY IN COMMUNITIES

Faith Matters (<http://www.faith-matters.org>) welcomes the speech to be made by Baroness Warsi at the Holy See where she will state that there is a rising militant secularism that is threatening faith identity and where faith should have a 'seat at the table in public life.' She will also talk about the attacks made against faith identity in the public sphere in the UK by such groups.

Commenting on the speech, the Director of Faith Matters, Fiyaz Mughal OBE, said:

"Our work is coming across an aggressive, well focussed and organised campaign by militant secularists who think that people of faith are somehow irrational or mal-adjusted and this is deeply problematic. The actions of such groups are increasingly pervasive and even militant given that they are not willing to listen or engage in debate on occasions where faith is discussed. They simply dismiss counter-views supporting faith in the public sphere by disengagement or worse still obfuscation."

"Faith Matters continues to counter extremism in communities and this includes militant secularism which can be and is taken to extremes. All communities in the UK have a social responsibility to listen to the views of others, even though they may be diametrically opposed to them and this does not mean that we cannot have a rational debate on issues of faith. Secular militancy is as much a threat to our communities as is ignorance and fear since it causes division. That cannot be accepted."

ENDS