

Media Release

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Victorian Equal Opportunity Commission fails to make decision on Islamic vilification complaint

In a letter received today by Catch the Fire Ministries, the Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) stated they have not found that the complaints of religious vilification against Catch the Fire Ministries have been proven.

The EOC wrote, “in referring the complaints for conciliation, the Commission has not made a decision that the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) has proven the complaints of religious vilification.”

The EOC has offered to organise conciliation between the two parties. They said that if the Islamic Council of Victoria wishes to prove that they have been vilified they would have to take the matter to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Pastor Danny Nalliah, President of Catch the Fire Ministries, said, “We continue to maintain that we have not vilified the complainants. The “Insight into Islam” seminar was held for a genuine religious purpose. Since religions make claims about truth and morality in the public domain, they should be subject to scrutiny and challenge. People must be free to choose their own religious beliefs.”

Pastor Nalliah said, “The EOC’s decision shows that the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act is poorly worded and the terms are not properly defined. This Act produces disharmony in the community instead of encouraging all groups to live together in a neighbourly manner. Religious freedom is an essential component of our democracy.”

The complaints were made against Pastor Danny Nalliah, Pastor Daniel Scot and Catch the Fire Ministries under the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act by the Islamic Council of Victoria, Yusuf Eades, Jan Jackson and Malcolm Thomas following an “Insight into Islam” seminar held by Catch the Fire Ministries in March.

Catch the Fire Ministries has now released the submission they made to the EOC in response to the complaints. It is available at www.catchthefire.com.au

For further information, contact Pastor Danny Nalliah on (03) 9799 9630 or 0416 196 542