**Essential Question: Should Wearing a Burqa Be Banned in Public Places?**

Directions: Craft a five-paragraph essay supporting your views on the topic.

Requirements and Reminders:

* Typed, MLA format
* Title
* Introduction
* Three Body Paragraphs
* Two body paragraphs which support your opinion on the topic
* One body paragraph which refutes the other side of the argument
* You must use two quotes in each of your body paragraphs from the sources provided.
* You must use a MINIMUM of three of the sources provided in your paper. These sources must be listed in MLA format on your Works Cited page, which will be the last page of your essay.
* Topic Sentences should be arguable. They should state what you are proving in your body paragraphs.
* Body paragraphs should not end with a quotation. You must always add your own interpretation.
* Conclusion
* Works Cited page
* Essay is free from first and second person.
* Make sure that you attach the quotes to your words. You should provide context for the reader.
* When introducing a person, you should state his or her credentials.
* Format dialogue according to MLA format.
* Review punctuation rules in MLA format (Purdue Owl).
* In your refutation, you may use quotes that support the other side and refute them in your commentary, or you may use quotes that refute the opponent’s arguments.
	+ Example: Many proponents of wearing burqas claim that a woman has the right to freely express herself through her clothing. However, “Quote” (cite).
	+ Many proponents of wearing burqas claim “Quote” (cite). However, refute.
* Avoid overgeneralizing - Be careful of including words like “All women believe”, etc.

**Works Consulted** (all six sources) PRINTED copy DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

Outline DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

1st PRINTED draft DUE (attach **Works Cited**; only include sources in paper): \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL PRINTED draft DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bring annotated packet.

Source Links:

Source 1: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/first_amendment>

Source 2: <http://islamicpamphlets.com/the-burqa-niqab-uncovering-the-facts>

Source 3: <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=Viewpoints&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=MultiTab&searchType=BasicSearchForm&currentPosition=2&docId=GALE%7CEJ3010363229&docType=Viewpoint+essay&sort=Relevance&contentSegment=&prodId=OVIC&contentSet=GALE%7CEJ3010363229&searchId=R2&userGroupName=shin54938&inPS=true>

Source 4: <https://www.foxnews.com/world/dutch-burqa-niqab-ban-law.print>

Source 5: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/countries-that-ban-burkha-hijab-niqab-1514673-2019-05-02>

Source 6: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/sri-lanka-bans-all-types-of-face-covers-including-burqa-after-easter-sunday-bombings-1512403-2019-04-28>



Source 1:

# First Amendment

The First Amendment guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition.  It forbids Congress from both[promoting one religion over others](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/establishment_clause) and also [restricting an individual’s religious practices](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/free_exercise_clause).  It guarantees [freedom of expression](http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/html/amdt1bfrag1_user.html#amdt1b_hd2) by prohibiting Congress from restricting the press or the rights of individuals to speak freely.  It also guarantees the right of citizens to [assemble peaceably and to petition their government](http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/html/amdt1efrag7_user.html#amdt1e_hd17).

## Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Source 2:

# The Burqa & Niqab — Uncovering the Facts



The **burqa** and **niqab** have become a topic of much controversy and heated debate. A number of countries have banned the wearing of these religious garments, while others have considered banning or limiting their use.

Many arguments have been made against the wearing of the burqa and niqab, claiming they are anti-social, backward, oppressive, and not part of Islam. This pamphlet discusses the burqa and niqab from an Islamic viewpoint and addresses the many concerns and allegations made against the wearing of these garments.

# Types of Islamic Dress

“O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters, as well as all believing women, that they should draw over themselves some of their outer garments [when in public]: this will be more con¬ducive to their being recognised as decent women and not molested.” Quran 33:59

There are three main types of Islamic dress relating to women when in public:

1. **Hijab:** This is the most common type of Islamic dress, which covers the woman’s body, leaving only her face and hands visible.
2. **Niqab:** This type is like the hijab, except it also covers part of the face, leaving only the eyes visible.
3. **Burqa:** This type is the least common, and involves covering the whole body as well as covering the face with mesh, so that the eyes are not visible.

The hijab can generally be found amongst Muslim women all over the world, while the niqab and burqa are more common in specific regions.

It is not obligatory for a Muslim woman to dress in one of the above fashions in front of other women. It is only obligatory in the presence of men who are not closely related to her, as prescribed in Islam.

# An Established Practice

There is no doubt that both the burqa and niqab have an Islamic basis, and that both have been commonly practised and recognised by Muslims throughout history. Islamic texts make it very clear that the hijab is compulsory for Muslim women to observe. Consequently, Islamic scholars have agreed that both the burqa and niqab are part of Islam, but have differed as to whether they are also compulsory or optional acts of virtue. This explains why some Muslim women wear the hijab, while others decide to wear the niqab or burqa.

# Common Allegations

Note: This pamphlet will refer to both the niqab and burqa simply as the burqa for the remaining sections.

**‘It is oppressive’**

Muslim women who choose to wear the burqa do so out of their own free will, believing it is an act of worship and a form of liberation from the objectification of women in modern society. In fact, preventing Muslim women from practising their religion is what is truly oppressive.

**"Niqab is a very liberating and empowering experience. It allows me to realise my goals by having a career and going to school without worrying about the prying eyes of men. It forces people not to judge me based on my appearance, but on my thoughts and character."** - Ms. Flavia, 22, USA

**‘It is backwards’**

The burqa is not part of a short-lived fashion trend. It is a religious garment and act of worship which is not subject to time and therefore, does not become outdated. In fact, the burqa is gaining much popularity in modern societies, especially amongst Western convert women.

**“My body is my business, and I shouldn’t have to defend what I wear to anyone. The burqa is part of my religion, and the fact that I choose to wear it does not make me any less human.”** - Ms. Yasmin, 21, Australia

**‘It is intimidating’**

While the burqa may appear intimidating to some people, it is not worn with the intention of being threatening or frightening. People are often intimidated by what they have no knowledge of, and the burqa is a piece of clothing which should not warrant fearful reaction. Underneath the burqa is a person simply trying to practise their religion. It is interesting to note that other forms of dress and appearance are no longer considered intimidating, as they have become accepted by the wider community. Tattoos, extremely short dresses, revealing clothes, body piercing and outlandish hairstyles are all examples of this phenomena.

**‘It is a form of male domination’**

Wearing the burqa does not in any way suggest that women are inferior to men. Claiming that the burqa is a symbol of male domination goes against the fact that many women voluntarily wear the burqa, even though some have no male relatives, or wear it against their male relatives’ wishes.

**‘It is anti-social’**

There is nothing in the burqa that prevents a woman from interacting with other members of society, or from participating in the community. In fact, neither the hijab nor the burqa are required when among women only.

Every woman who wears a burqa is a unique individual, and it is unfair and inaccurate to make a sweeping judgement about all such women based on one item of clothing they have in common.

**‘It stops women from contributing to society’**

Wearing a burqa does not stop a woman from contributing to society or from pursuing higher education. There are many women who wear the burqa and are very highly educated, or lead very successful careers.

From the very advent of Islam, Aisha, the wife of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), was and still is renowned as one of the greatest Islamic scholars to have ever lived. The fact that she wore the burqa did not, in any way, hinder her from becoming such a prominent scholar or from teaching the men and women of her society.

**‘It is a security risk’**

Burqas are no more of a security risk than a motorcycle helmet, big fashion sunglasses, or a big beanie, and can be removed when identification is required for security reasons. Of course, the request for removal should be done by another woman and not in the presence of men (where possible).

**‘It is against community values’**

Wearing the burqa does not go against acceptable community values. Community values necessitate that people should not be judged by what they wear, nor discriminated against or mistreated, based on their choice of clothing or appearance.

# Why people fear the Burqa

No doubt, seeing women wearing the burqa is strange for many people. It is not a common sight, as only a minority of Muslim women wear it, and as such it is new and unfamiliar to many. This fact does not make the burqa something which ought to be feared or hated. The fierce media campaign of fear which has been launched against the burqa has caused many people to pass judgment on this Islamic practice without having any knowledge of its significance. It is important to consider who benefits from such prejudiced propaganda. Some political parties, for example, capitalise on people’s misunderstandings and fears in order to make political gains.

Does it make sense to pass judgement on someone without first verifying the facts?

# The Right to Freedom of Religion and Expression

Modern societies were founded on the basis of freedom and liberty. This entitles their members to freely practise their own religion and dress as they wish. Banning the burqa goes against these very core values, and is a form of hypocrisy and double standards. In fact, there are international laws which explicitly ensure people’s right to expression and to practise their religion:

**International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

**Article 18:1.** Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to… manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

Furthermore, banning a religious item based merely on emotional rhetoric may open the door to further discrimination and human rights abuses. It is worth noting that Nazi Germany first began with minor discrimination against Jews and other minorities, then, when that was accepted, proceeded with more severe repression.

# Should the Burqa be banned?

Banning the burqa not only breaches international law but is highly discriminatory, leading to a number of harmful social impacts. It will only serve to vilify Muslim communities and create distrust between Muslims and the communities in which they live. While claiming to protect Muslim women, a ban would make life intolerable for those who wear the burqa, forcing them to choose between defying their beliefs simply to leave the house, or not leaving the house at all. Additionally, such a ban will also amount to double standards, as other religious symbols and clothing are not only tolerated, but respected, such as the clothing of nuns, Buddhist monks, orthodox priests and rabbis.

# Conclusion

The burqa is clearly not oppressive or anti-social. It does not pose security risks or create barriers between the wearer and society. Rather, it is the personal choice of women wanting to gain closeness to God, and should be respected as such. Having a debate over whether to ban a well established religious practice is in itself discrimination, and goes against the very values which ought to be protected. Being tolerant does not only mean accepting people who look and act exactly like you; but accepting the choices of other people, especially, if you do not understand or agree with them.

In a time where women have more and more freedom to make choices, is it not strange that the most basic freedom, the freedom to choose what to wear, is being taken away from Muslim women in many modern societies? If forcing someone to wear the burqa is oppressive, is not forcing someone to remove it equally oppressive?

Source 3:

# Muslim Women's Religious Dress Should Be Banned in Public

## Citation metadata

*An increasing number of British Muslim women are wearing traditional Muslim dress, including the hijab and burqa. Although such dress is hailed as a basic religious freedom, the veil is a symbol of oppression for Muslim women. The Qur'an does not stipulate that a woman should be fully covered. Wearing the burqa and hijab isolates and limits women. It is difficult to know who among the veiled women has been forced to put it on, and who dons the burqa voluntarily. For these reasons, the dress should be banned in public.*

Shopping in Harrods [an English Department store] last week [June 2009], I came across a group of women wearing black burkhas [long loose garments covering the entire body with veiled holes for eyes worn in public by many Muslim women], browsing the latest designs in the fashion department.

The irony of the situation was almost laughable. Here was a group of affluent women window shopping for designs that they would never once be able to wear in public.

Yet it's a sight that's becoming more and more commonplace. In hardline Muslim communities right across Britain, the burkha and hijab [a head scarf worn by Muslim women, concealing hair and neck; often includes a face veil] are becoming the norm.

In the predominantly Muslim enclaves of Derby near my childhood home, you now see women hidden behind the full-length robe, their faces completely shielded from view. In London, I see an increasing number of young girls, aged four and five, being made to wear the hijab to school.

Shockingly, the Dickensian bone disease rickets has reemerged in the British Muslim community because women are not getting enough vital vitamin D from sunlight because they are being consigned to life under a shroud.

*The veil is simply a tool of oppression which is being used to alienate and control women under the guise of religious freedom.*

Thanks to fundamentalist Muslims and 'hate' preachers working in Britain, the veiling of women is suddenly all-pervasive and promoted as a basic religious right. We are led to believe that we must live with this in the name of 'tolerance'.

## THE BURKHA IS OPPRESSIVE

And yet, as a British Muslim woman, I abhor the practice and am calling on the Government to follow the lead of French president Nicolas Sarkozy and ban the burkha in our country.

The veil is simply a tool of oppression which is being used to alienate and control women under the guise of religious freedom.

My parents moved here from Kashmir [a disputed region between India and Pakistan] in the 1960s. They brought with them their faith and their traditions—but they also understood that they were starting a new life in a country where Islam was not the main religion.

My mother has always worn traditional Kashmiri clothes—the *salwar kameez*, a long tunic worn over trousers, and the *chador* [A full-length semi-circle of fabric, open in the front, thrown over the head, and held closed; it does not necessarily include a veil. Most common in Iran.], which is like a pashmina worn around the neck or over the hair.

When she found work in England, she adapted her dress without making a fuss. She is still very much a traditional Muslim woman, but she swims in a normal swimming costume and jogs in a tracksuit.

They wanted me to make friends at school and be able to take part in PE [physical education] lessons—not feel alienated and cut off from my peers. So at home, I wore the *salwar kameez*, while at school I wore a typical English school uniform.

Now, to some fundamentalists, that made us not proper Muslims. Really?

## THE BURKHA IS NOT REQUIRED BY THE KORAN

I have read the Koran. Nowhere in the Koran does it state that a woman's face and body must be covered in a layer of heavy black cloth. Instead, Muslim women should dress modestly, covering their arms and legs.

Many of my adult British Muslim friends cover their heads with a headscarf—and I have no problem with that.

The burkha is an entirely different matter. It is an imported Saudi Arabian tradition, and the growing number of women veiling their faces in Britain is a sign of creeping radicalisation, which is not just regressive, it is oppressive and downright dangerous.

The burkha is an extreme practice. It is never right for a woman to hide behind a veil and shut herself off from people in the community. But it is particularly wrong in Britain, where it is alien to the mainstream culture for someone to walk around wearing a mask.

The veil restricts women. It stops them achieving their full potential in all areas of their life, and it stops them communicating. It sends out a clear message: 'I do not want to be part of your society'.

Every time the burkha is debated, Muslim fundamentalists bring out all these women who say: 'It's my choice to wear this.'

Perhaps so—but what pressures have been brought to bear on them? The reality, surely, is that a lot of women are not free to choose.

*[The burkha] is the weapon of radical Muslim men who want to see Sharia law on Britain's streets and would love women to be hidden, unseen and unheard.*

Girls as young as four are wearing the hijab to school: that is not a freely made choice. It stops them taking part in education and reaching their potential, and the idea that tiny children need to protect their modesty is abhorrent.

And behind the closed doors of some Muslim houses, countless young women are told to wear the hijab and the veil. These are the girls who are hidden away, they are not allowed to go to university or choose who they marry. In many cases, they are kept down by the threat of violence.

The burkha is the ultimate visual symbol of female oppression. It is the weapon of radical Muslim men who want to see Sharia law on Britain's streets and would love women to be hidden, unseen and unheard. It is totally out of place in a civilised country.

Precisely because it is impossible to distinguish between the woman who is choosing to wear a burkha and the girl who has been forced to cover herself and live behind a veil, I believe it should be banned.

President [Nicolas] Sarkozy is absolutely right to say: 'If you want to live here, live like us.'

He went on to say that the burkha is not a religious sign, 'it's a sign of subservience, a sign of debasement. ... In our country, we cannot accept that women be prisoners behind a screen, cut off from all social life, deprived of all identity.'

So what should we do in Britain? For decades, Muslim fundamentalists, using the human rights laws, have been allowed to get their own way.

It is time for ministers and ordinary British Muslims to say, 'Enough is enough'. For the sake of women and children, the Government must ban the wearing of the hijab in school and the burkha in public places.

To do so is not racist, as extremists would have us believe. After all, when I go to Pakistan or Middle Eastern countries, I respect the way they live.

## WOMEN MUST UNITE

Two years ago, I wore a burkha for the first time for a television programme. It was the most horrid experience. It restricted the way I walked, what I saw, and how I interacted with the world.

It took away my personality. I felt alienated and like a freak. It was hot and uncomfortable, and I was unable to see behind me, exchange a smile with people, or shake hands.

If I had been forced to wear a veil, I would certainly not be free to write this article. Nor would I have run a marathon, become an aerobics teacher or set up a business.

We must unite against the radical Muslim men who love to control women.

My message to those Muslims who want to live in a Talibanised society and turn their face against Britain is this: 'If you don't like living here and don't want to integrate, then what the hell are you doing here? Why don't you just go and live in an Islamic country?'

Source 4:

# Dutch burqa ban becomes law, but rendered ineffective because authorities won't enforce it

By Lukas Mikelionis

Published August 01, 2019

[Fox News](http://www.foxnews.com/)

The [Netherlands](https://www.foxnews.com/category/world/world-regions/europe)’ ban on face-covering clothing, including the Islamic burqa and niqab, took effect on Thursday, but authorities say they are unwilling to enforce the controversial law.

The new Dutch law, dubbed the “burqa ban,” bans the face-covering clothing on public transportation, in government buildings and at health and education institutions. The law also applies to ski masks, full-face helmets, balaclavas, and other similar face-covering items.

Those caught breaking the law are given the option of either removing the item or get a fine up to $500. People are still allowed to wear the items in the streets.

The Netherlands is the latest country to enact such a law, following in the footsteps of several European countries including France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Denmark.

Despite the law being in full effect, authorities have signaled they aren’t treating the crime as a priority and warned that it could also have unintended consequences such as deterring veiled Muslim women from entering police stations to file complaints as they would have to remove their veils, the [Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/01/dutch-police-signal-unwillingness-enforce-new-burqa-ban)reported.

Transport companies also said they won’t be ordering their personnel on public transport to enforce the ban.

“The police have told us the ban is not a priority and that therefore they will not be able to respond inside the usual 30 minutes, if at all,” said Pedro Peters, a spokesman for the RET transport network, according to the newspaper.

“This means that if a person wearing a burqa or a niqab is challenged trying to use a service, our staff will have no police backup to adjudicate on what they should do. It is not up to transport workers to impose the law and hand out fines.”

Muslim and rights group have opposed the new law, with an Islamic political party in Rotterdam saying they will cover the fines for anybody caught breaking the law.

Anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders has been calling for a total burqa ban for over a decade and celebrated after the parliament approved a partial ban on such veils, calling it “a historic day.”

“I believe we should now try to take it to the next step,” Wilders told The Associated Press. “The next step to make it sure that the headscarf could be banned in the Netherlands as well.”

The Dutch government was careful of the law’s rollout, insisting that the law isn’t designed to target any particular religion and stressed that people are still allowed to dress how they want, though adding that “this freedom is limited at locations where communication is vital for good quality service or for security in society.”

France became the first European country eight years ago to introduce the ban on public use of veils, both face-covering niqabs and full-body burqas. A 2004 law also bans Muslim hijab headscarves and other religious symbols from being worn in state schools, but the law applies only to state schools.

The law prompted an uproar on the international stage, with the U.N. Human Rights Committee last year ruling that France violated the human rights of two women by fining them for wearing the niqab.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Source 5:

# Burqa ban debate: Countries that proscribe veils, and those who make it compulsory

## *World over, people have been divided over the ban on burqa (also spelt as burkha/burka) and other face-covering veils. While opponents of the ban call it an attack on the freedom of an individual to wear a dress of her choice, its proponents cite examples of cases where women are forced to wear the dress against their choice.*

Days after [**Sri Lanka decided to ban burqa**](https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/sri-lanka-bans-all-types-of-face-covers-including-burqa-after-easter-sunday-bombings-1512403-2019-04-28) (also spelt burkha and burka) following the deadly serial blasts that killed more than 250 people on April 21, a debate for a similar ban is gaining traction in India. The Shiv Sena, which is an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), [**has demanded**](https://www.indiatoday.in/elections/lok-sabha-2019/story/shiv-sena-asks-pm-modi-to-ban-burqa-in-india-1514166-2019-05-01) a ban on burqa, a dress worn by Muslim women. "People wearing face masks or burqa could pose a threat to national security," the Shiv Sena said in Saamna, its mouthpiece.

Though Shiv Sena's demand[**hasn't found resonance with the BJP**](https://www.indiatoday.in/elections/lok-sabha-2019/story/nda-ally-muslim-board-chairman-oppose-burqa-ban-demand-by-shiv-sena-1514242-2019-05-01)which has said that the demand for ban is uncalled for, the issue has made headlines. But this is not the first time that the demand for a ban on burqa (or burkha) has been made in India. [**Two BJP candidates**](https://www.indiatoday.in/elections/lok-sabha-2019/story/western-up-elections-polling-booth-burqa-voting-bjp-1505080-2019-04-18) in Uttar Pradesh recently alleged that the opposition parties were using burqas and asking people (including men) to cast fake votes against the BJP.

In 2010, France barred Muslim women from wearing any form of dress that covers their faces and heads. In October 2018, the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) said that the ban imposed by France on burqa and other full face-covering veils is a violation of human rights.

However, a similar demand is routinely raised in countries like the United Kingdom and Australia among others. Routine reports of Muslim women being harassed for their dress have also been reported in many countries, especially in the West.

World over, people have been divided over the ban on burqa (alternatively spelt as burka and burkha) and other face-covering veils. While opponents of the ban call it an attack on the freedom of an individual to wear a dress of her choice, its proponents cite examples of cases where women are forced to wear the dress against their choice.

Besides this, proponents of the ban also argue that terrorists use the burqa (and other veils) to carry out suicide attacks, among others. The burqa ban debate has also been used by political pressure groups to further their vested interests by propagating Islamophobia on one side and raise the 'Islam-is-in-danger' card on the other.

Before we move on to discuss countries that ban burqa and other face-covering veils, here is a brief explainer on the types of veils that Muslim women wear and how they are different from each other.

**Burqa (also spelt as burkha and burka)**

The burqa is a garment worn by Muslim women that covers the entire body, including the face and head. The burqa generally has net that allows the person to see through. It is a loose-fitting dress that is designed in a manner which makes it difficult to recognise the shape of a woman's body.



**Niqab**

Niqab is often confused with the burqa. However, the difference between the two is that a niqab is a veil that covers the face but leaves the eyes uncovered, while the burqa covers the full face.

**Hijab**

Hijab is a scarf worn by Muslim women. Unlike the burqa and niqab, the hijab dos not cover the face. It rather covers the person's head and neck.

**Countries that ban face-covering veils:**

(IndiaToday.in does not claim that these are the only countries where full-face-covering veils are banned. This is snapshot of the status on burqa and face-veils in some countries.)

While these countries have banned burqa, niqab and other full-face-covering veils worn by Muslim women, there are countries that have a diametrically opposite policy for these dresses i.e. they have made it compulsory for Muslim women to wear them, citing socio-religious grounds.

**Some Muslim majority countries and rules for wearing veils:**

**Saudi Arabia:** In Saudi Arabia, women are supposed to wear abayas (a loose-fitting dress worn with a hijab, niqab or burkha (burqa/burka) that covers a woman's body from head to toe. Women have to wear abayas at all places where they can be seen by men who are not related to them.

In 2018, many Muslim women in Saudi Arabia started a campaign by wearing abayas inside out to protest against the practice.

**Afghanistan:**Under the Taliban rule in Afghanistan that ended in 2001 the country imposed a strict law where women were made to wear burqa and remain under veil in public.

**Iran:**Wearing hijab is compulsory in Iran since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Women are expected to wear loose-fitting clothing and headgear that covers the head and neck in public.

**Pakistan:**Pakistan does not have any law that advocates for compulsory wearing of burqa and other face-covering veils. However, the dress is quite common among Muslim women in the country.

**Indonesia:** Indonesia is a Muslim majority country where women are allowed to decide whether they want wear hijab and other form of veils or not wear them.

Source 6:

# Sri Lanka bans all types of face covers including burqa after Easter Sunday bombings

## *The decision to ban all types of burqas and face covers was approved by Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena after several bombs ripped through the island nation on April 21.*

* Sri Lankan authorities have banned all types of face covers including burqas in the wake of the recent serial blasts
* The move has been approved as part of the emergency declared in the island nation
* Over 250 people were killed after serial blasts in Sri Lanka on April 21

Almost a week after a series of bomb blasts ripped through three Sri Lankan cities, government authorities on Sunday ordered a complete prohibition on all types of face covers including burqas.

The decision to ban all types of burqas and face covers was approved by Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena after several bombs ripped through the island nation on April 21.

The information was conveyed late on Sunday via an official press release. The release said: "Any form of face covering that will hinder the identification of a person is banned under emergency regulations."

"A decision has been taken by the president to ban all forms of face covering that will hinder easy identification under emergency regulations," it added.

The move to ban face covers, burqas and masks comes after a Sri Lankan parliamentarian submitted a private members' motion for the same.

In fact, an organisation of Muslim clerics named All Cetlon Jamiyyathul Ulama also asked women to avoid wearing a burqa/niqab in order to help security forces.

Earlier in the day, PM Ranil Wickremesinghe also said that he was not against the ban on burqa. A situation of emergency has been declared in the island nation since the bombings that claimed over 250 lives, including some Indians.

At least 500 people were injured in the serial bombings as well. While the move is expected to make lives easier for the security personnel, not all from the Muslim community in the island nation may be happy with the fresh decision.

Earlier in the day, India Today TV reported that many Muslims across Sri Lanka are already concerned about their safety as they are being targeted by mobs.

While many Muslim women in the country have stopped wearing the bura, some have stopped sending out their children to play.

The bombings on April 21 came as a shock to the island nation, especially becuase the attack occured on Easter.

Sri Lanka has blamed local terror outfit National Thowheed Jamaat (NTJ) for the attack, adding that the organisation was backed by the Islamic State.

At least 9 suicide bombers were responsible for the deadliest attack in Sri Lanka in a decade. Three churches and three five-star hotels were primarily targeted in the attacks.