

One Law for All
by
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Anne Marie Waters represents the 'One Law for All' campaign and will be with us in February to tell us about Sharia Law in the UK and why it should be a matter of concern to all of us.

One Law for All is an organisation which opposes the introduction of Sharia law into the UK. Their position is that there should be just one legal system which applies to everyone in the country. Their objections are specifically based on Human Rights grounds. They do not campaign against religion as such, but against religion in the law, and have worked with and have followers and supporters who consider themselves Muslims.

Sharia is the legal system based on the Koran and the Hadith (sayings and actions of the Prophet Mohammed). Sharia criminal and family law involves many things which the 'One Law for All' campaign suggests we should oppose because they go against the basic human rights of women. In the UK many Muslim women are persuaded that they do not have access to UK law and must go through the Sharia courts/tribunals. There are good reasons to believe that the overall aim of the Sharia Tribunals is to remove all domestic disputes involving Muslims from the jurisdiction of UK civil and criminal courts. Successive UK governments have been acquiescent in this, perhaps in the name of tolerance toward other cultural practices, however this could also be seen as a dangerous example of 'cultural relativism' which undermines the rule of law.

