Austria bans full-face veils

3rd October, 2017

A new law in Austria means there is now a ban on full-face veils. This means Muslim women will not be allowed to wear a full-face veil in public in the country. The new law says faces must be visible from the hairline to the chin. The government said the law is to protect traditional Austrian values. The law bans Muslim veils such as the burka or niqab. Muslim groups have said the law is very unfair because it goes against human rights and religious freedom. They say that just a tiny minority of Austrian Muslims wears full-face veils. They put the number at around 150. Officials say the law will damage Austria's economy. They say many Muslim tourists will decide not to visit Austria.

Austria is the third European country to ban the wearing of the veil. France and Belgium introduced similar bans in 2011. Other countries in Europe could follow. The Dutch government is currently working on passing a ban and German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that the full-face veil should be banned in Germany "wherever it is legally possible". Carla Amina Bhagajati of the Islamic Religious Community in Austria talked about how unfair the new law is. She said the "handful" of fully veiled women in Austria are now "criminalized" and "restricted to their homes". A supporter of the ban Emma Schwaiger said: "It's not right that those living here don't show their faces."

Sources: *alaraby.co.uk / bbc.com / telegraph.co.uk*

Writing

Muslim veils should never be banned. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

law / ban / full-face veil / in public / government / unfair / human rights / freedom / a third / similar / currently / legally / religious / community / criminalized / right

True / False

a) Muslim women in Austria aren't allowed to wear a full-face veil at home. T / F

b) An Austrian law says Muslim women must show their faces. T / F

c) Muslim groups said very few Austrian women wear a full-face veil. T / F

d) The ban on full-face veils could hurt Austria's tourism industry. T / F

e) There are now four countries in Europe to ban full-face veils. T / F

f) Germany's leader does not want a full-face veil in Germany. T / F

g) A Muslim group said the new law made some women criminals. T / F

h) A supporter of the ban agreed women could wear the full-face veil. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**allowed**	a.	approving
2.	**protect**	b.	unjust
3.	**unfair**	c.	harm
4.	**tiny**	d.	limited
5.	**damage**	e.	permitted
6.	**introduced**	f.	backer
7.	**passing**	g.	started
8.	**a handful of**	h.	keep safe
9.	**restricted**	i.	a few
10.	**supporter**	j.	very small

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) Should countries allow anyone to follow their religion?

c) What advice do you have for Muslim women in Austria?

d) Is the world becoming more intolerant?

e) How can different cultures live together better?

f) How do you think Muslim Austrians feel about the ban?

g) Why do people have to show their faces?

h) What questions would you like to ask Austria's leader?

Phrase Match

1. wear a full-face veil
2. the law is to protect
3. it goes against human rights
4. They put the number
5. They say many Muslim tourists will
6. the third European country to ban
7. The Dutch government is currently working
8. wherever it is legally
9. the "handful"
10. A supporter

a. on passing a ban
b. decide not to visit Austria
c. the wearing of the veil
d. in public
e. of fully veiled women
f. and religious freedom
g. of the ban
h. at around 150
i. possible
j. traditional Austrian values

Discussion – Student B

a) Why are European countries banning the full-face veil?
b) What do you think of the ban?
c) Should people be allowed to wear what they want in public?
d) How might a full-face veil hurt a country's 'traditional values'?
e) Is the ban against human rights?
f) Is the law against the full-face veil unfair?
g) Are countries who ban the veil intolerant?
h) How could the ban hurt Austria's economy?

Spelling

1. faces must be <u>blsivie</u>
2. protect <u>Intdaioaitr</u> Austrian values
3. <u>isrioegul</u> freedom
4. just a tiny <u>nyrmtiio</u>
5. the law will damage Austria's <u>yneoocm</u>.
6. <u>otsursti</u> will decide not to visit
7. Belgium introduced <u>rsalmii</u> bans in 2011
8. <u>crtelnyru</u> working on passing a ban
9. wherever it is <u>gayelll</u> possible
10. how <u>iafurn</u> the new law is
11. <u>rserietcdt</u> to their homes
12. A <u>puorspert</u> of the ban

Role Play

Role A – Drugs
You think drugs are the most important thing to ban. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shouldn't be banned. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that should be banned (and why): coal, guns or English homework.

Role B – Coal
You think coal is the most important thing to ban. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shouldn't be banned. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that should be banned (and why): drugs, guns or English homework.

Role C – Guns
You think guns are the most important thing to ban. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shouldn't be banned. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that should be banned (and why): coal, drugs or English homework.

Role D – English homework
You think English homework is the most important thing to ban. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shouldn't be banned. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that should be banned (and why): coal, guns or drugs.

Speaking – Banned

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that are most important to ban at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.
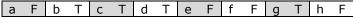
- guns
- alcohol
- nuclear weapons
- English homework
- drugs
- coal
- fast food
- cars

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	e	2.	h	3.	b	4.	j	5.	c
6.	g	7.	a	8.	i	9.	d	10.	f

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.