

What Galschiot thinks of Burkas

Are you a Supporter of the burka?

No. I do not like the burka nor do I like the niqab. I consider them as extremely female oppressing. But I do not believe that we in Denmark should legislate in regards of what people are allowed to wear. Wearing a burka, santas beard, wigs with big sunglasses, experimenting with their gender identity or wear a Donald duck mask, should be under peoples own personal freedom.

Should one have access to social support when wearing a burka

No. All services that demand you to be available for the society you can of cause not receive. It is very unlikely that a person you can't see would be employed. The other services should of cause be received on same terms as all other Danes.

Should one be allowed to participate in educational courses when wearing burka?

I am not completely sure about that. The problem is that if you prevent the burka/niqab-wearing women from participating you cut them off from becoming educated.

Should it be allowed to work in burka?

That is up to the employer to decide.

What is your opinion on the freedom of speech?

I support the freedom of speech we have in Denmark. In my opinion the right to dress in the way you want and express what you think is the most important right in a democracy. I think the limitations regarding hatred and racism are reasonable.

One of my guidelines is a quote from the book 'Friends of Voltaire' (1906)

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it

Problems with masks and legitimation

It is okay that you have to legitimize yourself using facial recognition when facing the police and say your name and address if requested in accordance with the law. It is ok that you cannot use a bus card when wearing burka or a mask because you need to know if the card belongs to the person using it.

Is your art happening just fun and games?

No and yes. It is a fun and cheerful art performance, a piece of absurd theatre, meant as an artistic commentary on the absurd debate on prohibitions.

Are you supporting islamists by making a happening regarding the ban on burkas?

No, I am quite sure that the islamists are dissatisfied with the fact that naked men and women are running around in their dress making fun of them on a political meeting.

Are you preventing the police from doing their job

No all of the burka runners have approved of being peaceful and handing in their names and addresses to the police along with showing the police their faces if requested. All of our dresses are similar and you it will be clear that they are a part of the art happening.

If anyone wants to harm somebody they would not be dressed in attention-drawing burkas, but in their own clothes like everyone else. Anything else would be ridiculous.

Are you expecting any trouble?

No. Our happening is a part of the official program of the meeting and part of the activities. I hope that both the police and the attendants of the mass meeting will take it for what it is: a peaceful and silly way of debating about freedom and what limitations our society should or should not impose against the right to dress in a peculiar way.