

Ms. Rania El-Alloul Statement

Friday, March 27, 2015

I would like to start by thanking fellow Quebecers, and fellow Canadians, for supporting me from the beginning.

I did not ever expect that I would be going through this experience. It has been difficult, and challenging, because it has raised a lot of questions about whether or not a woman practicing her faith can equally access justice just like anybody else.

It has been hopeful because what I have heard, and read, and seen, is a lot of words of support for me and for my right to practice my faith as a proud Quebecer and as a proud Canadian.

And that I have every right to be appear before any judge, in any courtroom with my headscarf, just as someone wearing a turban, or kippa, has.

Many Canadians of all faiths wear their religious clothing comfortably while participating in all parts of society. I am just one of many.

Today, I am also very proud of my sons for giving me strength to pursue this course of action. I want them to see their mother as being a strong Canadian Muslim woman, who is proud of this country and proud of her faith. And I want them to know we do not have to choose between the two. Our laws protect our rights and freedoms every day. They protect our right to be who we are.

I am grateful to Mr. Julius Grey and Mr. Mathieu Bouchard for taking this case because it is the right thing to do for all of society; the legal actions they are taking are meant to help protect all of our rights and freedoms, not just my own.

Thank you.