

Honourable Minister Dr P.A. Motsolaedi  
Department of Health

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Dear Minister

## **POLICY ON PROHIBITION OF HEADSCARVES**

The Islamic Medical Association of South Africa (IMASA) has been in communication with your department for almost one year regarding the proposed policy of banning headscarves for nurses working for the state. We have expressed our view that the policy should be scrapped. The reasons having been furnished in our previous correspondence.

We were told that this policy was proposed by the nursing bargaining council and that it would be referred back to them for revision.

We have received complaints from nurses in the public sector who have been asked to remove their headscarves and that they are being harassed, singled out and threatened with dismissal. This is unconstitutional and untenable. We urgently need clarification and a statement from the Department of Health confirming that this policy is being reviewed. There is no medical nor hygienic basis for nurses wearing a headscarf to remove it, nor to face discrimination.

This policy was ill conceived from the outset. It is contrary to the Bill of Rights in our constitution. Can you please put an end to this discrimination against nurses?

We await your urgent response.

Kind Regards

*F Suliman*

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**PRESIDENT – ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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