

Bishop John's Letter of Commendation *ISLAM: Human Rights and Public Policy*,
David Claydon (Editor), Acorn Press, Melbourne, 2009 –2 March 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Letter of Commendation

Whether Samuel Huntington was right or not in his theory of the 'Clash of Civilizations', there is no doubt that Australians, whether Christian or not, need to understand the Islamic world a lot better, and *vice versa*. This book will help you do it, in a calm and reflective way.

Moreover, for those charged with the responsibility of forming public policy the issue of human rights is substantive. The well-being and nurture of Australia's social capital will be strengthened when the similarities and differences between religious communities of our nation are recognized. Only then can policy makers respectfully engage with the deep religious currents that give meaning and identity to adherents.

In this engagement divergent truth claims are a reality in Australian life. Denial of difference leads to the frustration and a sense of marginalization of adherents from public life. On the other hand, the exaggeration of difference leads to excessive fear, impoverished and manipulative public discourse and damaging public policy.

What are Australian-shaped shared values? Gracious and open dialogue over shared values will facilitate healthy national life.

These readings are gracious and honest. Their intent is to grow mutual understanding and to nurture human rights in public policy.

I commend the readings.

Shalom,

The Right Reverend John Harrower OAM
Bishop of Tasmania

[Book included with letter. [See publisher's promo](#)]

