

MyGlasshouse

With Editor Kelly Daniels – ‘Don’t Throw Stones’

Brighten up the burqa

WELL the anti-burqa movement has reared its ugly head again.

On Monday more than 13,000 people were set to attend a Ban the Burqa day in Melbourne, where attendees were called on to wear anything that covered their face.

While the group claimed they were trying to make the point that allowing anyone to keep their identity hidden posed a serious threat to the country, the rally was clearly aimed at women who wear the burqa.

I'm the first to say I'm not racist, but I do feel uneasy with the issue of the burqa.

Not because a woman's identity is hidden and that poses a threat to Australia, but because I feel it infringes on a woman's rights.

I know Muslim women claim otherwise, saying it is their right and choice to wear the burqa, but as a

western woman I just have a hard time with this.

My biggest problem with it is the fact women who wear it don't seem to express any of their personality – most of the burqa's I have seen are the standard black. Maybe if there were colours and patterns I'd have an easier time accepting this – at least there would be a bit of that person expressed through their dress.

In fact the closest I came to seeing a Muslim woman expressing a little bit of herself while wearing a burqa was in Morocco, when I came across a woman wearing a Coco Chanel burqa.

I'd love to hear from some local Muslim women who want to share their experiences and reasons for wearing the burqa.

What do you think? Email me at kelly.daniels@qten.com.au