

DISCRIMINATION

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INT. HEAD OFFICE OF A RETAIL STORE

An open plan office in full flight. GARY, the boss, is on the phone.

GARY

Well I don't care what you think...
No, no, no. It's simple; if he
wants a cheaper phone, he can go
somewhere else!

As GARY hangs up, IDA, a female employee approaches him nervously. She is dressed in a hijab.

GARY (CONT'D)

Ibis!

IDA

It's Ida.

GARY

What do you want?

IDA

(respectfully)
I was wondering whether you've
approved my customer training.

GARY

Look, um...

IDA

(nervously)
Everyone else in the team has done
the training and I've applied three
times.

GARY

Yeah, ah... Customer relations is
about how you... present yourself.
Do you understand?

IDA

(nodding)
I am courteous and polite to
customers.

GARY

Customers have to *trust* you.

IDA

I am a very honest person.

GARY

No, no, no. It's... It's your...
scarf thing.

IDA

My hijab?

GARY

Look, I'm not racist, but some customers don't like them. So we're going to put you in accounts, away from the customers. We've got all sorts back there.

As GARY laughs, SARAH, another employee, enters GARY's office to drop off some paperwork.

GARY (CONT'D)

(noticing Sarah)

Sarah can you show Ibis to accounts?

SARAH

Sure thing.

(Then, to IDA...)

Migrating again hey, Ida? I guess you boat people are used to it.

GARY and some other co-workers laugh.

FADE TO:

INT. HEAD OFFICE OF A RETAIL STORE - THE NEXT DAY

GARY is in his office, busy looking at some files. IDA walks into GARY's office with purpose.

GARY

(seeing Ida)

Ibis! How are you settling into accounts?

IDA

I'm not going to accounts.

(taking a nervous deep breath)

I've called the Equal Opportunity Commission.

GARY

You what?!

IDA

They told me that you can't move me, or refuse to train me, because of my religion. It's discrimination.

GARY

It's for your own good! I'm protecting you!

IDA
The names you call me and the way
you make me feel is also
discrimination.

GARY
I can't believe this!

IDA
(bravely)
So, will I be receiving the
training?

GARY
(exploding)
NO! And If you don't accept the
transfer, you're fired!

As GARY storms off...

GARY (CONT'D)
(to the other workers)
I try and help these boat people,
but they're never satisfied!

IDA wipes back tears and looks to her phone. On it, the
Victorian Legal Aid website is displayed.

FADE OUT.