



From the [National Post](#) : *The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal has dismissed a complaint against a women's studies professor who fought a Catholic volunteerism program at Brock University, saying [the professor's] anti-Catholic comments were offensive, but not akin to discrimination.*

*Although the complainant was treated differently due to his religious beliefs, the tribunal wrote: "I cannot see how the respondent's comments about him were vexatious, or known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome, no matter how personally offensive and hurtful he found them to be. Accordingly, the respondent's comments did not amount to substantive discrimination."*

In an interesting and yet predictable twist, we see that some complainants are less protected by the human rights codes than others. George Orwell predicted this type of behaviour already back in 1945.

In his famous critique *Animal Farm*, he tells a story where farm animals overthrow the humans who oppress them and create their own government. The pigs lead the charge, instituting Seven Commandments, which were supposed to keep order within Animal Farm by uniting the animals and prevent animals from following "evil habits". However in an ironic twist, the pigs begin to break the commandments, and so revise them to suit themselves. The most famous example is the final revision: All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. Through the revision of the commandments, Orwell demonstrates how simply political dogma can be turned into malleable propaganda.

It's a sad reality that human rights commissions, though instituted with good intentions (presumably) become tools in the hands of activists to silence those opinions they find distasteful, to marginalize those religions they find unpleasant and to promote and even enforce a worldview that many others might not want to subscribe to.

The decision to dismiss this complaint is fine - but let's see some consistency! It's time to remove this relic from the 70's. Use our real courts for real human rights abuses and civil suits and leave the rest of offense in society to thicker skin.