


Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025

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****SUBMISSION TO THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT****

****Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025****

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

****Submitted by: [Redacted (I am an advocate for everyone)]****

****Date: [01/09/2025]****

****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****

This submission strongly opposes the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 as it creates a dangerous precedent that will expose law-abiding former offenders and their innocent families to serious vigilante violence. We submit that any public registry provisions should be strictly limited to individuals subject to Dangerous Prisoner (Sexual Offender) Act orders, offenders who are unlawfully at large, or those actively breaching their legal obligations. The current broad application violates fundamental human rights and will create a public safety crisis.

****THE VIGILANTE VIOLENCE CRISIS****

Public sex offender registries have consistently triggered waves of vigilante violence across multiple jurisdictions:

****Physical Violence and Murder****

- In the United States, multiple registrants have been murdered by vigilantes using registry information
- Families have been subjected to drive-by shootings, firebombings, and physical assaults
- Children of registrants have been beaten and threatened at schools

****Mass Harassment Campaigns****

- Social media amplifies registry information, creating viral harassment campaigns
- Entire families are forced to relocate repeatedly as their addresses are shared online
- Employers receive coordinated pressure to terminate registrants
- Landlords face community pressure to evict families

****Innocent Victims****

- Wrong addresses lead to attacks on completely innocent families
- Similar names result in misidentification and harassment of uninvolved individuals
- Children and spouses become targets despite having committed no offense

****THE VIGILANTE VIOLENCE CRISIS CONTINUED****

Public sex offender registries have consistently triggered waves of vigilante

violence across multiple jurisdictions worldwide:

****Physical Violence and Murder****

- In the United States, multiple registrants have been murdered by vigilantes using registry information, including the 2006 killing of two registrants in Maine by a man who obtained their addresses from the public registry
- In the United Kingdom, the 2000 "name and shame" campaign by News of the World led to violent attacks, including the assault of a pediatrician mistaken for a pedophile
- Canadian provinces with public notification have experienced arson attacks on registrants' homes and physical assaults on family members
- In Australia, vigilante attacks have occurred following media naming of offenders, including property damage and threats requiring police protection

****Mass Harassment Campaigns****

- Social media amplifies registry information globally, creating viral harassment campaigns that cross international borders
- In New Zealand, community Facebook groups have organized coordinated harassment of former offenders and their families
- European countries have seen online doxxing campaigns that expose not just offenders but their children's schools and workplaces
- Entire families are forced to relocate repeatedly as their addresses are shared across multiple platforms and countries

****Mistaken Identity Violence****

- In Portsmouth, UK, protesters attacked the home of a hospital pediatrician, confusing "pediatrician" with "pedophile"
- Wrong addresses in US registries have led to attacks on completely innocent families, including elderly residents and families with young children
- Similar names result in misidentification and harassment of uninvolved individuals across multiple countries
- In Germany, vigilante groups have targeted individuals based on incomplete or outdated information

****International Pattern of Escalation****

- Research from the UK, Canada, Australia, and the US shows consistent patterns of community vigilantism following public identification
- Children of registrants face bullying and social exclusion in schools across all jurisdictions with public registries
- Employment discrimination and housing evictions occur systematically wherever public registries operate
- Mental health crises and suicide rates increase among registrants and family members in all studied jurisdictions

****Cross-Border Digital Harassment****

- Online vigilante groups now operate internationally, sharing registry information across borders
- Social media campaigns can expose Queensland registrants to harassment from anywhere in the world
- Digital permanence means that registry information spreads far beyond its

intended geographic scope

- International research shows that online harassment often escalates to real-world violence

****DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON COMPLIANT INDIVIDUALS****

The legislation fails to distinguish between high-risk offenders and those successfully reintegrating into the community. Compliant former offenders who pose minimal risk will face the same public exposure as dangerous offenders, creating:

****Barriers to Rehabilitation****

- Employment discrimination that forces individuals into poverty and desperation
- Housing instability that prevents stable community integration
- Social isolation that research shows increases recidivism risk

****Family Destruction****

- Children of registrants face bullying, social exclusion, and psychological trauma
- Spouses and partners lose employment and social connections
- Extended families are subjected to guilt by association

****HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS****

Under the Queensland Human Rights Act 2019, this legislation constitutes:

****Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (Section 17)****

Subjecting compliant individuals to permanent public shaming and the inevitable vigilante harassment constitutes ongoing punishment beyond their court-imposed sentence.

****Right to Life and Security (Section 16 & 29)****

The legislation knowingly exposes registrants and their families to serious risk of violence and death through vigilante action.

****Protection of Families and Children (Section 26)****

The state has an obligation to protect children - including the children of former offenders - from harm. This legislation actively endangers innocent children.

****HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUED****

****HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS****

The proposed legislation constitutes severe violations of fundamental human rights protections under both Queensland and international law:

****Queensland Human Rights Act 2019 Violations****

****Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (Section 17)****

Subjecting compliant individuals to permanent public shaming and the inevitable vigilante harassment constitutes ongoing punishment beyond their court-imposed

sentence. The European Court of Human Rights has consistently ruled that measures causing social ostracism and permanent stigmatization violate Article 3 prohibitions against degrading treatment.

****Right to Life and Security (Section 16 & 29)****

The legislation knowingly exposes registrants and their families to serious risk of violence and death through vigilante action. The UN Human Rights Committee has found that states violate the right to life when they create foreseeable risks of violence against individuals.

****Right to Privacy and Reputation (Section 25)****

Public registries create permanent digital records that follow individuals indefinitely, regardless of rehabilitation or compliance. The UN Special Rapporteur on Privacy has condemned public sex offender registries as disproportionate interferences with privacy rights.

****Protection of Families and Children (Section 26)****

The state has an obligation to protect children - including the children of former offenders - from harm. This legislation actively endangers innocent children, violating their rights under both Queensland law and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

****Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination (Section 15)****

The registry creates a permanent underclass of citizens subject to ongoing surveillance and discrimination, preventing equal participation in society. This violates fundamental equality principles recognized in international human rights law.

****International Human Rights Law Violations****

****International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)****

- Article 7: Prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- Article 9: Right to liberty and security of person
- Article 17: Right to privacy and protection from arbitrary interference
- Article 26: Right to equality before the law and non-discrimination

****UN Convention on the Rights of the Child****

- Article 3: Best interests of the child (violated for children of registrants)
- Article 16: Protection from arbitrary interference with privacy
- Article 19: Protection from violence and abuse

****European Convention on Human Rights Precedents****

The European Court of Human Rights has found similar registry schemes violate:

- Article 3: Prohibition of degrading treatment
- Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life
- Article 14: Prohibition of discrimination

****UN Expert Opinions****

- The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has criticized public registries as creating "civil death"

- The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has condemned indefinite public shaming as degrading treatment
- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed concern about registries affecting children of offenders

****Disproportionality Under Human Rights Law****

International human rights law requires that any limitation on rights be:

1. ****Prescribed by law**** - while the legislation meets this test
2. ****Pursuing a legitimate aim**** - child protection is legitimate
3. ****Necessary and proportionate**** - the legislation fails this critical test

The broad application to all former offenders, regardless of risk level or compliance status, renders the measure disproportionate under international human rights standards.

****Violation of Rehabilitation Principles****

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) emphasize that the purpose of imprisonment includes preparing offenders for reintegration. Public registries directly undermine this internationally recognized principle by creating permanent barriers to reintegration.

****State Obligations Under Human Rights Law****

Queensland has positive obligations to:

- Protect individuals from foreseeable violence (including vigilante attacks)
- Ensure measures are proportionate to their aims
- Protect the rights of children and families
- Prevent discrimination and social exclusion

The proposed legislation violates all of these fundamental state obligations under both domestic and international human rights law.

****PROPOSED SOLUTION: TARGETED APPLICATION****

We submit that any registry provisions should be strictly limited to:

1. ****Individuals subject to DPSOA orders**** - who have been judicially determined to pose an unacceptable risk to community safety
2. ****Offenders unlawfully at large**** - individuals who have absconded or are evading supervision
3. ****Active non-compliance cases**** - individuals currently breaching their legal obligations, supervision requirements, or court orders
4. Understand you will never stop these images getting shared & I believe that is the plan

This targeted approach would:

- Focus resources on genuine high-risk individuals and those actively evading accountability
- Protect compliant former offenders who pose minimal risk and are following all legal requirements
- Reduce vigilante violence by limiting the scope of public exposure to those who

warrant it

- Maintain community safety while respecting human rights

****THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY OF CARE****

By creating a public registry, the Queensland Government assumes responsibility for the foreseeable consequences. When vigilante violence occurs - and research shows it will - the state bears moral and potentially legal responsibility for harm to registrants and their families.

****RECOMMENDATIONS****

We urgently recommend that Parliament:

1. ****Reject broad public registry provisions**** that expose all former offenders regardless of risk level or compliance status
2. ****Limit any registry to DPSOA subjects, offenders unlawfully at large, and active non-compliance cases only****
3. ****Implement robust safeguards**** against misuse of any registry information
4. ****Establish clear removal pathways**** for individuals demonstrating long-term compliance
5. ****Invest in evidence-based supervision**** rather than public shaming mechanisms

****CONCLUSION****

Daniel's Law in its current form will create a human rights catastrophe and public safety crisis. Vigilante violence is not a theoretical risk - it is an inevitable consequence of public registries. Queensland has the opportunity to learn from other jurisdictions' mistakes and implement targeted, evidence-based protections that genuinely enhance community safety without destroying the lives of compliant individuals and their innocent families.

We implore Parliament to reject this dangerous legislation and pursue alternatives that protect both children and human rights while focusing accountability measures on those who truly warrant public attention.