


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

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Submission to the Queensland Parliament

Committee: [Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee]

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

Bill 2025

Submission by: [Confidential Advocate For All Human Rights]

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1. Introduction

Daniel's Law risks becoming a weapon of vigilante violence—not a tool for justice. While we share the goal of protecting children, this bill endangers rehabilitated offenders and their families while failing to stop real threats.

This submission asks:

Restrictions limited to DPSOs and repeat offenders—not all offenders.

Explicit safeguards against vigilantism—because history proves public registries incite violence.

Evidence-based alternatives that actually work.

I also want you all to recognise that you won't be able to stop these images being shared around and I believe that is actually part of Mr. Chisafulli's plan to actually sneakily support vigilante action

2. The Bill's Flaws: A Recipe for Vigilante Violence

A. Public Registries = Open Season on Offenders

Fact: Megan's Law (USA) led to 100+ attacks on offenders (APA, 2015).

Queensland Reality:

Private databases (e.g., Brett's List) have already fueled arson, assaults, and death threats.

Case Study (2023): A Queensland man was doxxed after a leaked police database—his family fled their home.

B. Social Media = Fuel for the Fire

Vigilante groups (e.g., Facebook "hunt" pages) share registry data to organize harassment.

Result: Offenders and their families face bullying, eviction, and violence—not rehabilitation.

3. Human Rights Violations: This Bill Breaks the Law

A. Privacy? Gone. (ICCPR Article 17, Queensland Law)

Public exposure violates international and state law.

Queensland Human Rights Act 2019 (if applicable) requires proportionality—this bill fails.

B. Dignity? Destroyed. (Corrections Act 2000 Qld)

The Corrections Act prioritizes rehabilitation—yet this bill ensures lifelong punishment.

Studies show: Public shaming increases recidivism (Colorado Registry Review, 2018).

C. Families? Collateral Damage. (Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 Qld)

Children of offenders face bullying, exclusion, and violence—protected under Queensland law.

4. The Truth: Public Registries Don't Work

No evidence they reduce recidivism (US DOJ, 2017).

Better models exist:

NSW's Child Protection Register (private alerts only) stops vigilantism.

5. Fix This Bill or Scrap It

Limit the registry to DPSOs and repeat offenders—not all offenders.

Replace public exposure with private police alerts (e.g., NSW model).

Add safeguards:

Criminal penalties for doxxing or vigilante harassment (because the threat of jail will do nothing).

6. The Vigilante Violence Crisis: Global Evidence

A. Australia: A History of Vigilantism

Queensland (2023): A man was doxxed after a leaked police database, forcing his family into hiding.

NSW (2021): A registered offender's home was burned down after his name appeared in a private database.

Victoria (2019): A vigilante group published a "hit list" of offenders, leading to multiple assaults.

B. UK: "Sarah's Law" Backfired

2010-2020: Over 50 attacks on offenders after their details were shared under Sarah's Law.

2018: A father of three was beaten unconscious after his name appeared in a local newspaper.

C. Canada: "The National Sex Offender Registry" Failures

2015-2023: At least 30 cases of vigilante violence, including:

A man was stabbed after his name was posted online.

A woman's home was firebombed after her ex-partner (a registered offender) moved in.

D. Europe: Public Shaming Leads to Chaos

Germany (2022): A vigilante group published a map of offenders' homes, leading to arson attacks.

Netherlands (2021): A registered offender was shot dead after his details were leaked online.

E. USA: The Worst of the Worst

Megan's Law (1996-present): 100+ attacks on offenders (APA, 2015).

2020: A man was beaten to death after his name appeared in a local newspaper.

7. More human rights trampled on:

****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****

****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 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.

****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 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****

****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

****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

****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.

****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

****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.

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

8. Conclusion

This bill is a ticking time bomb—it will endanger lives while failing to protect children. We demand amendments now to:

Stop vigilante violence.

Uphold human rights.

Adopt policies that actually work.

Act before it's too late.

Supporting Evidence (Attachments)

ICCPR Article 17 (Privacy Rights)

Queensland Human Rights Act 2019 (if applicable)

Corrections Act 2000 (Qld) (Rehabilitation Principles)

Colorado Registry Review (2018) (Vigilante Risks)

APA Study (2015) (Megan's Law Violence)

NSW Child Protection Register Report (2022) (Effective Alternatives)