

Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

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Labor Friends of Palestine Queensland (LFoP) submission to
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee inquiry into Fighting
Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the hands of Terrorists and Criminals
Amendment Bill 2026

16.2.26

Labor Friends of Palestine (LFOP) is an organisation of **rank-and-file** members of the Australian Labor Party who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their pursuit of peace and justice. We undertake a range of activities including internal party activism and participation in broader community events such as rallies and vigils throughout the state.

LFoP **condemns all racism (and any attendant violence)**, including **antisemitism**, islamophobia and especially racism directed at our First Nations people.

LFoP has for years joined other peace, union, faith and advocacy groups in peaceful protest organised by Justice for Palestine Meanjin (JFP) in Brisbane as part of our community advocacy on behalf of the Palestinian people.

Our members have also participated in regional demonstrations across Queensland.

We make this submission as a community organisation that has participated in many rallies and events where slogans/expressions have been used, and which would be directly impacted by any proposal to limit expressions of support for the Palestinian people.

Prohibiting particular expressions

LFoP considers and opposes these divisive laws as a blatant attack on the freedom of speech and civil liberties of Queenslanders.

Other than what has been reported in the media the bill is not explicit as to what 'expressions' are to be banned. However, the words 'globalise **the intifada**' and 'from the 'river to the sea' have been noted in the press. These phrases / expressions are not antisemitic.

The focus on pro-Palestinian expressions is unjustified and potentially dangerous. It appears to be based on suggestions of a link between the terrible tragedy at Bondi and the Palestinian solidarity movement. However, there is no evidence that the two terrorists had any connection **to the Pro-Palestinian** movement. In public statements to date, the AFP has confirmed that the Bondi attack was perpetrated by lone attackers with Islamic State (IS) sympathies. There is no link between IS and the movement for Palestinian liberation.

To continue to suggest such a link only fuels anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian sentiment at a time of increasing levels of hostility, including assaults on Muslim citizens - especially women and girls who wear the hijab. We urge the committee to take particular care not to perpetuate this misinformation and to reject any attempt to link pro-Palestine activism to the horrific antisemitic attacks at Bondi.

Impact on social cohesion

Prohibiting an arbitrary list of words and slogans / expressions will not enhance social cohesion and community safety. In fact, further limiting the ability of some citizens to express their concerns about injustice and **oppression of people** from a particular race, faith or religion (overseas or in Australia) will potentially increase **division and disengagement**.

Rather than focusing on laws to restrict freedom of expression, governments need to be implementing community-based solutions that tackle the underlying causes of hatred and bigotry.

One readily available measure is the Australian Human Rights Commission's National Anti-Racism Framework which provides a whole-of-society 'roadmap' to address all forms of racism. Queensland could look to implementing the framework in partnership with the Commonwealth to ensure a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that will protect all Australians.

In addition, also support a national review of the Racial Discrimination Act with the aim of delivering one legislative instrument covering all aspects of racial discrimination and vilification.

This is the path to protecting all the human rights of Australians equally and building genuine social cohesion in our great multicultural society.

Conclusion

If a government plans to restrict political **speech, then** it needs to provide specific detail about what exactly is proposed and why. If the government is serious about consultation on this point, **then it is essential to** provide a list of **phrases / expressions** that it proposes to ban, with evidence that they have actually led to incitement of hatred and threatened community safety.

To not do so is silencing dissent and an affront to the democratic rights of Australians.

Further this proposed bill will not assist in combatting genuine cases of **antisemitism**.

Instead of rushing through authoritarian laws, Queensland needs to await the outcomes of the Royal Commission into **Antisemitism, and also to** unpause the positive duty reforms introduced to the Anti-Discrimination Act in 2024 which would require duty holders to apply proactive measures to prevent discrimination, harassment and vilification of groups of people on the basis of their race or religious belief or activity.

Yours sincerely

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On behalf of Labor Friends of Palestine - **Queensland**