

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

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I lost my political career because I would not stand up and say I was pro-Palestine. I lost my political career due to antisemitism. These laws are needed to protect my community.

Oct 7th happened and I instantly saw in my community of West End antisemitism rise to the surface. Not just in public but within my political party and local branch. Before questions were asked there were motions being voted on that never mentioned Oct 7th but criticised Israel for protecting itself and trying to rescue its people. A one sided narrative became the norm.

At this time I was in the running to be pre-selected for the State election. I was seen as the winner before even getting to preselection based on my union backing, political mentor, support team and the work I had done for years leading to this in my community.

One day I was notified that along with the Aboriginal flag that's painted on Boundary St was a Palestinian flag. I immediately questioned this publicly - on my social media accounts. I asked a simple question: where are the flags for Israel and the victims of Oct 7th? Ukraine? Women of Afghanistan? etc I made the statement that it was hard to ignore that this isn't becoming antisemitic and purely aimed at Jews. This was along with antisemitic stickers being put up and marches starting every Sunday calling for an end to Jews and Israel with the phrase From the River to the Sea being used.

It was clear that we were witnessing the start of open and accepted Jew hatred. Within our community we recognised similarities between now and the 1930s. It escalated onto campuses, business refusing Jewish artists, book shops taking Jewish authors out and the list goes on.

Due to my post my political mentor told me either you are pro-palestine or I am ending my support of you and taking the Unions with me. My Jewish husband was sitting next to me and I calmly replied "I am not pro-palestine and I am absolutely not pro-war but there is no way I could sleep at night knowing I had compromised on my values to win an election". She pulled all support that same day (we were already in pre-selection) and the runner up to me won and went on to win the state election.

I have witnessed and been subjected to antisemitism. I am a convert to Judaism and my community in Brisbane has put up with too much under the guise of antizionism.

These laws are needed - clearly. When the general public, politicians, universities, workplaces and community organisations think it's ok to be proudly anti-Jewish our social cohesion is on the brink of full destruction. Jews are just the canary in the coal mine. It does not end with us but it always starts with us. I am proof that antisemitism and Jew hatred seep into places that proudly carry social justice as a core value. This should be frightening to us all.

I commend the Government on their stance and reiterate the message that the Jewish community saw Bondi coming. We warned everyone and have been living in fear since Oct 7th. That feeling does not belong in Australia.

We need these laws. Its unfortunate but true. Radical hate for Jews and Israel will continue in violence and we must have stronger gun laws to combat this and criminalise speech that calls for the death and destruction of a people.