

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

Submission No: 172

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Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Submission to the Parliamentary Committee on the
Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

General Position

I oppose the bill in its current form.

Combining antisemitism measures with gun law changes is illogical and counterproductive.

The bill creates unequal protection under the law by prioritising one group over others.

Key Concerns

Conflation of issues:

- Antisemitism and firearm regulation are unrelated. Bundling them risks confusing enforcement priorities.

• Unequal protection:

Only antisemitism is addressed; other racial or vulnerable minority groups are not afforded the same legal safeguards.

Laws should protect all vulnerable groups equally.

• Proportionality and evidence:

There is no evidence that antisemitism requires special legal treatment above other forms of hate speech.

Enforcement should focus on harm and intent, not identity alone.

• Unintended consequences:

The bill could fuel perceptions of bias and reduce trust or cooperation from communities.

It may dilute the effectiveness of both hate speech and firearm laws.

Recommendations

- Separate firearm law reforms from hate speech measures.

- Strengthen general hate speech protections for all groups.

- Ensure penalties are proportionate to risk and harm.

- Use evidence-based approaches to determine priorities.

Conclusion

The bill attempts to address two distinct policy areas in one amendment while privileging a single community.

I urge the committee to reject the bill in its current form and consider equitable, evidence-driven reforms for hate speech and firearm regulation.

Thank you for your time.