

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

Submission No: 281
Submission By: Submission - Form A (or variation of from A)
Publication:

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Opposition to the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026*

Statement of Opposition:

I oppose the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* in its current form.

Our community consists of a wide range of cultures, religions, lived experiences and beliefs. I unequivocally condemn all forms of racism and discrimination, including antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Indigenous, anti-Palestinian racism, transphobia and homophobia. To isolate one form of discrimination from others is a dangerous and divisive decision.

This Bill threatens democratic freedoms, suppresses legitimate political dissent, and by pairing communication with the possession of weapons, suggests that those expressing themselves through peaceful protest are somehow linked to violent terrorism. This is untrue and unjust. I have been involved in peaceful protests for years and have never inflicted violence or encountered violence from fellow peaceful protestors.

By introducing this rushed Bill while many people are opposing the atrocities committed by the Israeli government, it suggests that the peaceful protestors are antisemitic. We are not – there is a difference between being critical of a political ideology and being antisemitic.

Essentially, the Bill in its current form disproportionately targets communities who are advocating for Palestinian human rights.

Key concerns:

- The Bill severely restricts freedom of political communication, which is an implied right in the Australian Constitution.
- The Bill would open up opportunities to weaponise and use the courts for political agendas.
- The Bill's scope is broad and creates extraordinary power to prescribe political speech without appropriate democratic scrutiny or oversight. If this isn't rectified future Queensland Governments may have the ability to abuse this power.
- The explanatory notes seem to conflate antisemitism and legitimate and nuanced political expression that seeks to advocate for the Palestinian people.
- While the Bill itself does not specify Palestinians, the drafting of the bill and the accompanied media releases expose the disproportionate targeting of members of the Palestinian community and those standing against atrocities committed by the Israeli government. Palestinians are also part of a protected group under international law. The explanatory notes ignore Palestinian Human Rights and the right to self-determination.
- The Bill fails to acknowledge the growing public movement in Queensland in support of Palestinian rights. Addressing this legitimate sentiment with dialogue, rather than measures that seek to silence and erase Palestinian history, is essential for social cohesion.

- The Bill risks the erosion of public trust, therefore deepening division, by disproportionately targeting members of a particular ethnicity.
- The rushed nature of the Bill, with less than a week for public submissions, is an affront to the democratic process. Legislation that so significantly impacts minority groups requires deep consultation, not a rushed Bill that undermines the democratic principles of Australian society.

Conclusion:

I have stood with minorities in the face of genuine hate and violence. Contrary to the claims of the Bill, it is not likely to be a successful mechanism that will safeguard the Jewish community but is likely to create further division and erosion of public trust.

The Bill is an overreach of political power and structurally biased. It risks criminalising legitimate political expression, suppressing advocacy for Palestinian rights and undermining civil liberties.

I strongly oppose this Bill as an attempt to restrict free speech and create extraordinary powers without proper democratic scrutiny. The Bill must be withdrawn to allow for a comprehensive review of its impact on civil liberties, political participation and the rule of law.

We call on the Committee to uphold and defend Australia's democratic foundations by safeguarding the fundamental right to political communication.