

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

Submission No: 283

Submission By: Trans Justice Meanjin

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Submission to the Queensland
Parliamentary Justice, Integrity and
Community Safety Committee regarding the
*Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out
of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals*
Amendment Bill 2026 (Qld)

About Trans Justice Meanjin

Trans Justice Meanjin is a local group of Trans Justice Project, a nationwide organisation fighting for freedom, justice and equality for all trans and gender diverse people.

We are a trans-led, ally supported group of volunteers taking action to uplift trans people and oppose attacks on trans rights, lives and healthcare.

We take action in accordance with our movement principles, which include non-violence, meeting hate with joy, being diverse, accessible and inclusive, and acting in solidarity with other movements fighting for social justice.

Recommendations

Trans Justice Meanjin opposes the Bill in its current form and recommends it not be passed.

In particular, we strongly oppose giving the Attorney-General the power to prescribe prohibited expressions.

The sections of the Bill dealing with firearms should be separated and reintroduced as a new bill.

The sections of the Bill dealing with interfering with religious services should be separated and exposed to greater consultation, including with people of a variety of faiths.

Concerns with the Bill

1. Repression of Palestinians

The obvious purpose of the Bill is repression of the Australian Palestinian community and advocates for Palestinian human rights, rather than fighting antisemitism or racism.

The State government's media releases about the Bill have already specified they intend to criminalise the phrases 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada'. These expressions are calls for freedom from oppression. They do not

“incite hostility, discrimination or violence”. Moreover, the State government has made no indication they intend to criminalise legitimately hateful expressions, for example [REDACTED] or any nazi slogans. This discrepancy betrays the true intent of the Bill.

2. Criminalisation of political communication

The Bill represents an unacceptable restriction on freedom of political communication, and creates opportunities for abuse of powers.

The power granted to the Attorney-General to prescribe prohibited phrases is essentially unchecked, with only the requirement to ‘consult’ the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Human Rights Commissioner and the commissioner of the police service. The Attorney-General is under no obligation to follow any advice they receive during consultation.

Freedom of political communication is essential for sustaining our democracy. The Bill represents an assault on this basic principle by granting the government of the day the unchecked power to prescribe prohibited expressions. The current government intends to criminalise the phrases ‘globalise the intifada’ and ‘from the river to the sea’. Future governments could misuse this power even more egregiously by outlawing any expression of political dissent.

3. Targeting of minority groups

The Bill can be weaponised against marginalised people calling for justice.

The Bill specifies the Attorney-General can prescribe a prohibited expression in relation to its impacts on a ‘relevant group’, defined as ‘a group of persons who identify with each other on the basis of an attribute or characteristic that is, or is based on, the race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity of the persons.’ As the government has already made clear, this power can be perversely weaponised against people marginalised on the basis of these characteristics.

The current government’s purpose is to target the Palestinian community and advocates for Palestinian human rights. Future governments could target other minority groups. For example, it could be weaponised against First Nations people

by criminalising phrases like 'always was, always will be' under the pretext that it 'incites hostility' towards white Australians.

Given the phrases the government has said they will criminalise – and which they have not – it appears the primary and ongoing purpose of the Bill is to criminalise phrases used to advocate for justice for people marginalised on the basis of 'race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity'.

Conclusion

Trans Justice Meanjin is dedicated to freedom, justice and equality, and we take seriously our commitment to solidarity with other groups fighting for social justice. We are gravely concerned by the Bill's impact on repression of Palestinians, criminalisation of political communication, and targeting of minority groups. We oppose the Bill and recommend it not be passed in its current form.

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