

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

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Peace is Union Business wishes to state that we strongly oppose the current form of the recently tabled *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026*.

As peace activists, we unreservedly condemn all racism that damages individuals and groups and which includes antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Indigenous and anti-Palestinian racism.

However, this Bill seems to ignore Islamophobia, anti-Indigenous and anti-Palestinian racism.

Concerns about antisemitism already have resulted in rushed and contested policies and laws impacting workers across many sectors, from academics, teachers and students, to reporters and media people and more.

In many respects, moreover, the Bill threatens democratic processes by punishing political dissent which should be the right of all citizens and residents. We read the Bill as having very negative outcomes for communities that support human rights for Palestinian people.

Peace is Union Business believes that the curtailment of civil liberties and democratic rights encapsulated in the Bill sets a dangerous precedent that could also be used against trade unions and their members.

While we have a number of concerns, our most pressing fear is that the Bill – in our reading – labels as antisemitism what is in fact legitimate political protest and education concerning the unbelievably inhumane situation in Palestine.

Furthermore, the Bill seems to be an attempt to silence the growing public movement in Queensland in support of Palestinian rights.

Much has been said about “social cohesion” since the truly shocking events at Bondi in December 2015. But social cohesion means all groups must have the right to voice concerns. This includes those who support Palestine.

Finally, we note that the passage of this Bill was rushed and lacked public consultation. Social cohesion requires lengthy consultation and dialogue. It cannot be achieved by imposing rules and regulations. Such imposition is an affront to the democratic rights of the people who live in this state.

Given the above, Peace is Union Business calls on the government of Queensland to reconsider and the modify the Bill to ensure that it reflects truly democratic principles that allow all Queenslanders from all backgrounds, which includes people from a Palestinian background, to exercise their right to voice whatever concerns they may have publicly and openly in a range of forums without incurring penalty.