

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

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On Friday 6/2/26 the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies president Jason Steinberg gave a sit-down interview with the ABC, shown on the 7pm news. It was reported the next day, 7/2/26, on the ABC news website.

In that interview Mr Steinberg made the following statement: "... we've heard on our streets in Brisbane slogans like 'globalise the intifada.' What that means is exactly what happened in Bondi. Intifada is the killing of Jews, the rising up to kill Jews."

This outrageous statement is a wilful and conscious misrepresentation of the meaning of the word 'intifada', which in translation is generally taken to mean 'shaking off' or 'struggle'. A simple Google search reveals a cluster of meanings around 'an uprising, rebellion or resistance movement'.

Therefore, the slogan "globalise the intifada" is properly understood as a call to broaden and deepen the resistance and opposition to the apartheid and "plausibly genocidal" actions and policies of the Israeli Zionist regime.

To say that the slogan means "exactly what happened at Bondi" is preposterous. To say that "Intifada is the killing of Jews" is a straight out lie. Resistance to oppression does not necessarily imply or involve killing. There are many non-lethal forms of resistance, including the public demonstrations of support for the Palestinian right to self-determination seen across the world over the past several years, demonstrations which have been overwhelmingly and conspicuously peaceful.

Attempts by local supporters of the Zionist regime of Israel to whitewash a "plausible genocide" of the Palestinians by outlawing a form of speech emphasise a lack of respect for free speech, a deliberately duplicitous characterisation of the meaning of this phrase, and the undesirable influence of the Zionist lobby over the political process in Queensland, especially as it deploys intentional falsehoods and exaggerations to achieve its aim of defending the clear intention of Israel to commit a genocide and deny self determination to the people of Palestine.

I submit that the criminalisation of this slogan will further inflame antisemitism and fail to advance social cohesion, which is never promoted by privileging one social group over another.

With regard to the expression "from the river to the sea", it is also used by Israeli Zionist extremists as a coded reference to Eretz Israel or Greater Israel, the expanded country which is to be won by military force against Israel's neighboring states. Its use by supporters of Palestinian rights to their historical lands is thus relatively harmless by comparison.