

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

Submission No: 337

Submission By: Berenice Shelley

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

I oppose the newly introduced 'Fighting Antisemitism and keeping guns out of the hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment 2026.

The Bill is a direct attack on all Australians' right to Freedom of Speech.

The Bill is too broad and creates extraordinary power to forbid political speech and citizens speaking out without appropriate democratic scrutiny.

The Bill is disproportionately targetting a certain group of Australian citizens who are advocating for peace and justice.

The Bill will serve to narrow our Australians Democratic rights. Freedom of speech is a fundamental cornerstone of democratic societies and a crucial component of individual liberty. Freedom of speech and expression, especially about political and other issues, is the lifeblood of any democracy.

The Bill risks criminalizing legitimate political expression suppressing advocacy for rights and undermining civil liberties. Social Cohesion is worthless if the price is silence. The Bill is likely to create further division and the erosion of public trust.

The Australian High Court has held that an implied freedom of communication exists as an indispensable part of a democratic system.

The Bill should be withdrawn so that a review of the impact of civil liberties and the rule of law can be thoroughly assessed.

I ask the Committee to defend our fundamental right to freedom of speech and assembly.

Thanking you

'Freedom of assembly (and speech) is not a gift Governments grant to citizens; it is a right that protects citizens from their Governments' (not sure who I am quoting)