

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

**Submission No:** 352

**Submission By:** Tasneem Winkler

**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public

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Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this submission regarding the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026.

I am a resident of the Pumicestone electorate and am writing to provide my views on the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code and related legislation.

## 1. Support for Protections for Places of Worship

I strongly support the Bill's objective to enhance the safety of faith communities. Specifically, I endorse the proposed amendments to ensure that people are not intimidated while accessing places of worship and the modernisation of criminal offenses related to religious worship. The increased maximum penalties for the desecration of sacred sites are a necessary deterrent against hate-motivated property damage.

## 2. Concerns Regarding the Criminalisation of Political Phrases

While I support the protection of physical sites, I am deeply concerned by the move to "proscribe" specific political phrases within the legislation.

**Ambiguity and Overreach:** Unlike static symbols of hate (such as the Nazi swastika), political slogans are "multi-vocal" and their meaning depends heavily on the speaker's intent. Criminalising language based on "offense" or "menace" rather than direct incitement to violence creates an unacceptable level of legal ambiguity and risks "thought policing."

**Democratic Precedent:** Jailing individuals for two years for the use of a political slogan sets a dangerous precedent for the restriction of free speech in Queensland. It risks chilling legitimate political discourse and protest.

### Specific Objection to the Proscription of Phrases (Section 52CA/DA):

I formally object to the inclusion of the phrase "from the river to the sea" as a proscribed expression. While I recognize the phrase is controversial, it is fundamentally a piece of political speech with multiple, contested meanings. By criminalizing its recitation or display under the vague threshold of "causing offense," this Bill moves the Queensland Criminal Code into the territory of policing political thought rather than preventing physical harm.

Banning specific slogans rather than the conduct of inciting imminent violence sets a precedent where any future government can outlaw phrases they find politically inconvenient. I urge the Committee to remove the proscription of specific phrases from the Bill and instead rely on existing laws that govern direct threats and incitement to violence.

## 3. Inconsistency in Protections (The "Hierarchy of Racism")

The urgency with which this Bill has been introduced to protect specific groups stands in stark contrast to the lack of equivalent, specific criminal protections for First Nations people. Indigenous Queenslanders face systemic, public vilification and hate speech on a daily basis. By creating specific criminal categories for some slogans while leaving others unaddressed, the Bill risks creating a "hierarchy of justice" where some marginalised groups are more protected by the law than others.

### Recommendation:

I recommend that the Committee seeks to decouple the vital protections for physical places of worship from the controversial provisions regarding the proscription of political phrases. Furthermore, I urge the Committee to consider how anti-vilification laws can be made universal so that all groups—particularly First Nations people—receive the same level of specific legislative protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Sincerely,

Tasneem Winkler