

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

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Right to Protest

I am concerned that this legislation will impact on people's right to protest, especially as the protests are against a regime which has many of its leaders accused of war crimes and genocide. This legislation will start to chip away at the right to political expression and could be construed as draconian. I am not sure that many of your government understand what the phrase "from the river to the sea" means. It means that the borders of Palestine are from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. It is not like some say, a call for the destruction of Israel. It is in fact a phrase that has been used since the 1960's by the Palestinians to describe their lands.

The problem I see with designating phrases to be illegal is that it is a moveable feast, everytime you ban one thing, the chants change and then you continue banning them. Suppose the Palestinian demonstrators chant "Lest we forget" does that get banned (I think not).

Police Action

In the latest demonstrations in Qld the police interaction has been exemplary. I have not been aware of any trouble from either side, which is good. My concern is that you new laws could result in 2 or 3 police rushing into a crowd to arrest someone allegedly shouting the banned phrase. This will dramatically increase tension between the 2 groups, as the police start dragging someone out of the crowd and some of the crowd trying to intervene. There will be chaos. If there mass arrests then the courts will be overwhelmed with the cases and probably these laws will be challenged in the courts on the basis of constitution etc.

I have observed the marches and to date I have not seen anyone who was watching the marches be offended by the chanting. So if no-one in earshot is offended why is there a need to ban the phrases? It seems to me that this is supposedly antisemitic phrase, but banning could be deemed Islamophobic. By banning these phases you are effectively taking sides and it would appear you are standing on the side of the genocide if you ban this phrase. You are bowing to a disputed definition of antisemitism.

Social Cohesion

This legislation will be no help for social cohesion. I think that in the present atmosphere everything appears to be antisemitic. But there is a case for the criticism of Israel and its killing of at least 70,000 Palestinians since Oct 2023. As I mentioned above your banning of these phrases means you are taking sides and that will isolate many of the Moslem faith. (Maybe they don't vote for you so that is not an issue.) However, it is important that Palestinian Australians with family in Palestine (some of whom have been killed by the IDF) might feel aggrieved that the Israeli side are given a free run and their cries for their own state are trampled on by your government.

Gun Control

I am concerned that a recent report has suggested that there are over 500 Australians who have been fighting with the IDF in Palestine. These men and women could have been engaged in war crimes and they will be walking freely in our streets. (This could also apply to any Australian who have been involved with foreign armies). They will also be able to get guns more easily in Qld as your government is not going to introduce all the recommended gun controls.

These soldiers could also have PTSD from the scenes they have seen and their mental state might not be stable. I would like the proposed legislation to

1. Have a register of all ex-foreign fighters in Qld
2. All foreign fighters are to make Statutory Declaration that they did not participate in any war crimes.
3. All foreign fighters should have mandatory psychological assessment.
4. They should not be allowed to have guns for at least 1 year after their last deployment.

I also think that no matter what people do for a job, I cannot see any reason why most need more than 1 gun. Maybe 4 should be the absolute maximum guns held by people who have a genuine reason.