

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

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My name is Dr Saul Geffen. I'm a Jewish medical specialist and have lived in Australia for 58 of my 59 years. I am a proud Australian citizen. Both my parents are AO recipients (Professor Laurie and Professor Glna Geffen) and I speak on behalf of them and our entire extended family.

I run a specialist medical practice in suburban Brisbane with outreach clinics to Toowoomba, Airlie Beach, Mackay and multiple Indigenous health centers (Inala, Ipswich, Woolloongabba).

I and my community have been subjected to hate speech, arson, vile personal attacks online and in person and ultimately murdered because of our faith. It is true that most of us support at some level Israel and identify as Zionists. None of this justifies the hideous way we have been targeted vilified and intimidated. Our schools need armed guards. I had to employ security to guard my friends and family for the occasion of my sons bar mitzvahs, here in Brisbane. Vile racist tropes populate my facebook and target me because I dare to question Green politicians on their political views.

When the Queensland Teachers Union (formally affiliated with the ALP) organises rallies singing "From the River to Sea all of Palestine will be free" They are calling for the destruction of the state of Israel and the death and ethnic cleansing of Jews from our ancestral homeland. When the Green and the PAC and Labour friends of Palestine organise rallies and wave Hezbollah and Hamas flags they are directly supporting proscribed terrorist organisations dedicated to killing Jews. When they chant [REDACTED] they incite violence against every Israeli citizen because the IDF service is compulsory for all Israeli citizens.

I contrast this behaviour with that of my community. We quietly and respectfully hold candlelight vigils and pray for hostage release. We write and contact our elected members. We do not, despite our treatment, target mosques or Arabic restaurants and in fact condemn those that do.

Right wing neo nazis are present in tiny numbers and are cosplay fools. They do not make me frightened or fear for my children's safety. Left wing radicals, biased journalists, teacher activists, Islamic hate preachers, and the Palestinian Action Groups do. I implore the committee to take our concerns seriously, protect us from hate both in speech and action. How many more Jews need to be killed here in Australia for our concerns to be taken seriously?