

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

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I'm writing this submission to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 to voice my concern and opposition to the banning of phrases which the government claim to be hate speech.

The banning of the phrase pertaining to the river and sea ignores the context for which it is used. The context is that the current state of the Palestinian Territories - the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem - have been under occupation by the State of Israel since 1967. Since this occupation, Palestinians within the Territories have been subjected to blockade, mass surveillance, apartheid, and within the last two years, genocide. This is not an opinion - this is based on the findings of the UN and numerous human rights and genocide scholar organisations (including B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation).

This phrase, when used by pro-Palestinian activist groups and individuals, is a call for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territories from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. David Crisafulli and other members of the LNP government have justified the banning of this phrase by claiming it is used as a call for the eradication and ethnic cleansing of Jewish people from the Levant. This is categorically untrue and outright slander, and equates everyone at pro-Palestinian protests as inciters of genocide. It is essentially saying that if one believes that an ethnic group of people should be able to live in a state without unfair persecution then they are a racist.

I find it downright ludicrous that of all the phrases that one could utter, these particular phrases are given the highest priority over virtually any Neo-Nazi or racist slogan. To me, this reads as not stopping antisemitism and outright racism which is rampant throughout this country - Queensland especially - but as suppressing pro-Palestinian support through the banning of activists slogans.

This express emphasis of prescribing these slogans as hate speech highlights that the government has prioritised Zionist groups over anti-Zionist groups such as the Jewish Council of Australia. Assuming that all Jewish people are Zionists is an antisemitic generalisation.

Thank you for reading this submission