

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

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Submission By:



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Regarding the: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

To the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Until 2024 I was an active member of the Queensland Greens for 20 years, holding various positions in my local branch, and others for some years. I supported the party because it was, at the time, the only political voice advocating for climate change action. I campaigned for them at every election, and was proud to be part of a growing environmental movement in Queensland and Australia. The Queensland Greens was my political home for many years, that gave me many friendships.

That is, until October 2023, when everything changed dramatically in Australia following the October 7 vicious, unprovoked and heartrending slaughter of 1200 Israelis and visitors to Israel, by Hamas and other extremist groups from Gaza, and the kidnapping of 250 hostages.

The first sign of trouble for me personally as a member of the Qld Greens, was when a friend sent me a screen shot on 5 December 2023 from Queensland Greens ex Brisbane City Councillor and then Lord Mayoral Greens candidate, Jonathan Sriranganathan's official Greens Facebook page. The post was promoting a rally against the redevelopment of the Gabba, and read: **"All welcome (except TERFs, Nazis and Zionists)"**

I am a Jewish, Israeli Australian. I grew up in Israel and migrated to Australia in the 90's with my husband. While I have called Australia home since then, Israel will always be my second home, my cultural home, and also where many of my family and friends still live. I, like most Jewish Australians (80% according to a Monash University survey) identify as a Zionist – who is simply a person who believes in the right for Jewish self-determination in the ancient Jewish homeland, the Land of Israel. When Mr Sriranganathan banned Zionists from attending his rally, he was effectively banning me, and most other Jewish people I know. I knew Mr Sriranganathan personally through my activities in the Queensland Greens, and had often supported his campaigns and attended various rallies he'd organised. Yet here he was now, banning me from attending his protest. This was a big shock, and a slap in the face.

Mr Sriranganathan didn't stop there. To add insult to injury, he equated me with the Nazis who murdered many of my father's family and their friends and neighbours in Europe. And all while promoting a protest that had absolutely nothing to do with the ongoing terrible conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza!

From that point on, I watched with disbelief and horror, as all Queensland Greens representatives turned on Israel, branding it a "coloniser" and "an apartheid state", calling for "an immediate end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine", without ever balancing that view with an acknowledgment of Israel's right to exist peacefully in the ancient Jewish homeland. When the elected representatives like Max Chandler Mather or Trina Massey, or Amy MacMahon called Israel a 'coloniser' they denied the thousands of years of history of the Jewish people and various kingdoms of Israel in the region before the modern State of Israel, that historians and archaeologists agree go back at least to around 900 BCE. They essentially denied me my heritage.

But they didn't stop there. They attended pro-Palestinian protests alongside thousands angrily chanting "Globalise the Intifada" and "from the river to the sea", apparently happily buying in to the extremist Islamist aim of destroying the only (tiny) Jewish State on earth and all the Jews who live there, and further aiming to kill Jews everywhere else in the world. Being a political

party, they had a very damaging influence, especially on young impressionable Australians, yet they continued promoting their hate speech against Israel, and against Zionists – in other words, against the majority of Jewish Australians.

I emailed the Queensland Greens Convenor, raising my concerns at the hateful and ignorant rhetoric being so carelessly flung around by elected Queensland Greens representatives, pointing out how hurtful it was to me and other Jewish Queenslanders, not to mention that much of it could be unlawful under the Queensland *Anti-Discrimination Act*. I cc'd in all the elected representatives, and the leader of the Australian Greens at the time, Adam Bandt. I asked if, as a Jewish member of the Queensland Greens, I was still welcome, and whether the party still supported a two-state solution in Israel and the West bank. I asked for an apology from Mr Sriranganathan.

Apart from one standard 'thank you for your email, we'll get back to you' email, I got no response at all. Nothing! When I emailed the Convenor again a month later to push for one, she emailed back that it was an Australian Greens matter – nothing to do with the Qld Greens.

At the time I was quite shocked and very hurt. I could not believe they did not even feel the need to respond, never mind apologise. But as I watched it get worse and worse, all over Australia in 2024, I came to terms with it and resigned my membership.

It got so bad that Councillor Trina Massey sent out a full newsletter spewing hate against Israel and Zionists, and on 1 June 2024, an angry mob protested against the celebration of the Jewish religious holiday of Shavuot at The Wickham in Fortitude Valley. Despite this being a religious celebration, and having nothing at all to do with events in Gaza or the Israeli government's policies, protesters hurled abuse such as '██████████' at Jewish people as they entered the venue, with reports that plastic bottles were thrown at some. And former Queensland Greens Brisbane City Councillor Mr Sriranganathan gleefully applauded this public abuse of Jewish people by posting a video of this so-called protest, describing it as 'cool'.

So now, Jewish people in Brisbane cannot even celebrate their religious holidays without fear of being publicly abused and attacked. If this attack, and all the other antisemitic attacks in Australia since 7 October weren't a red, flashing light with loud sirens, warning us of Bondi, I don't what they were. When thousands of people are allowed to scream antisemitic hate speech (thinly disguised as anti-Zionist/anti-Israel) week, after week, after week, for two years, Bondi was just waiting to happen. Hate speech against Jews has become the norm in Australia.

As a Jewish Queenslander, who no longer feels safe in my home of Brisbane, I strongly urge the Committee to recommend to Parliament the sections of this Bill that increase protections against, and the penalties for antisemitic hate speech, attacks and symbols, and the prescribing of organisations that incite terror. This is in the hope that Queensland, and hopefully Australia, can finally begin to curb this descent into what is beginning to resemble Nazi Germany for many Jewish Australians and Queenslanders.

In appreciation of your consideration of this submission.

16 February 2026