

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

Submission No: 372

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to provide my submission regarding the "Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Bill Amendment 2026". I am a resident of Queensland and wish to express my views as a member of the public who is directly affected by the issues addressed in this legislation.

Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all religious hatred and threats against faith communities are deeply concerning and have no place in a democratic and pluralistic society. It is appropriate that legislation seeks to protect individuals from intimidation, harassment, and violence based on their identity, religion, or beliefs.

Measures that aim to prevent intimidation at places of worship and strengthen protections against violence and threats towards religious communities are important. Places of worship should be safe spaces where individuals can freely exercise their beliefs without fear.

I respectfully request that the Committee reconsider the inclusion of specific prescribed phrases, such as "from the river to the sea," and "globalise the Intifada", within the scope of the proposed prohibition. While legislation must address genuine threats, intimidation, and incitement to violence, prohibiting specific phrases may create uncertainty and place significant discretion on law enforcement to interpret intent and meaning in individual circumstances.

The meaning and interpretation of political phrases can vary depending on context, intent, and individual understanding. Existing laws that prohibit conduct intended to incite violence, menace, or harassment already provide mechanisms to address harmful behaviour. Introducing a specific prohibition on certain phrases may risk unintended consequences, including inconsistent application and uncertainty among members of the public regarding lawful expression.

I am concerned that prescribing specific phrases may create ambiguity and place undue reliance on subjective interpretation. I respectfully encourage the Committee to consider whether existing laws addressing incitement to violence, harassment, and intimidation may already provide sufficient protection, without the need to prohibit specific phrases.

The proposal to prescribe additional offences under the Youth Justice Act 1992 as "Adult Crime, Adult Time" represents a significant shift in how young offenders may be treated within the justice system.

I recognise that offences involving serious violence, firearms, or acts that threaten life and community safety are grave matters that require an appropriate legal response. Ensuring accountability for serious criminal conduct is essential to maintaining public safety and public confidence in the justice system.

However, it is also important to recognise that young people differ from adults in their level of psychological, neurological, and emotional development. The youth justice system has

traditionally recognised this distinction by incorporating principles focused not only on accountability, but also on rehabilitation and the prevention of reoffending.

Research and experience in many jurisdictions indicate that young people who are exposed to adult sentencing and adult correctional environments may face an increased risk of long-term criminal involvement, rather than rehabilitation. Youth detention and rehabilitation programs, when appropriately designed and resourced, can be more effective in reducing reoffending and supporting long-term community safety.

While accountability for serious offences is essential, automatically subjecting young people to adult sentencing risks undermining the rehabilitative purpose of the youth justice system. Young people have a greater capacity for change, and legislation should preserve opportunities for rehabilitation while still ensuring appropriate consequences for serious wrongdoing.

In conclusion, I recognise and support the importance of protecting the community from violence, intimidation, hatred, and the misuse of firearms, and acknowledge the Government's responsibility to ensure public safety and social cohesion.

At the same time, it is essential that legislative reforms are clearly defined, proportionate, and carefully implemented to ensure they effectively target genuine threats while preserving lawful political expression and democratic freedoms. Clear definitions, safeguards, and guidance will help ensure the legislation is applied fairly, consistently, and in a manner that maintains public confidence in the justice system.

I also respectfully encourage careful consideration of the provisions prescribing additional offences under the Youth Justice Act 1992 as "Adult Crime, Adult Time." While accountability for serious offences is important, it is equally important that the justice system recognises the distinct status of young people and preserves opportunities for rehabilitation where appropriate to support long-term community safety and positive outcomes.

Striking an appropriate balance between community safety, fundamental rights, and the principles of youth justice is critical to maintaining both security and the democratic values that underpin Australian society.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission and for your consideration of these important matters.

Iliada Chronopoulos

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