

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

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This rushed bill, with limited public scrutiny, is a violation of the right to free speech. I am appalled that living in a democracy, we are to be introducing laws that would give a minister discretion to outlaw phrases or speech, punishable by up to two years in prison - while at the same time passing other laws to deny voting rights to someone incarcerated two years or more. It is abundantly clear how this law can be abused to silence critics of a government of the day and ensure they cannot vote out the very government that has silenced them, exactly the powers and behaviours of a totalitarian state. Similarly, the phrases selected by the government as its first priorities "globalise the intifada" and "from the river to the sea" are expressions of hope for liberation by the Palestinian people who are subject to a genocide, dispossession of their land and homes, and deep oppression at the hands of the Israeli government, and to silence these calls is complicity in that genocide and oppression.

Secondly, the area of these laws that could deliver actual benefit for the safety of Queenslanders is surprisingly weak. It does nothing to meaningfully reduce access to guns in Queensland, which has been increasing rapidly. It is absurd to assume that the only people capable of terrorist activity are non-Citizens. There have been many people who have committed grave acts of murder and violence that are Australian citizens, many who have become indoctrinated into extremist ideologies, and they can still access guns under these arrangements.

Therefore I strongly oppose these laws in their current form, and all attempts by this government to silence opposition and weaken our democracy.