

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

Submission No: 394
Submission By: Rebecca Smith
Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Dear Committee,

I am a lawyer and wrote a masters research thesis on International law. Time constraints mean I cannot provide a thorough response as I would like to give. I have lived in North Queensland for 40 years and in that time I have witnessed substantial hate speech against Aboriginal people by media editors, politicians and the public, yet I do not see sweeping powers to protect these often vulnerable people from hate and derision. I have also had knowledge of Israel's ongoing brutal occupation of Palestinian people in that time, long before October 7 2023. The World Jewish Congress says Queensland has fewer than 5000 people of identifying as members of the Jewish faith, comprising 0.09% of the Queensland, compared with 4.81% of people identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Why does one group stand out as exceptional to all others. There are 10 times more people of Muslim faith in Queensland, and they endure regular hate speech from non-Muslim Queenslanders including prominent politicians.

I was born in the shadow of World War II and spent my childhood reading books about the Holocaust and European pogroms against Jewish people. I still read about Nazi atrocities for the sole purpose of never forgetting. I studied a short course on the Holocaust from Hebrew University. I have removed swastika graffiti from public land as the symbol disgusts and offends me. The other symbol that disgusts and offends me, and thousands of other Queenslanders, is the Star of David. This symbol is a symbol of genocide, of hatred towards another peoples, a symbol of Jewish supremacism. Jewish supremacists have conflated their genocidal, apartheid, ideology with all Jewish people. I, and many thousands of Queenslanders, would like to this this hateful symbol banned too.

The "Jewish lobby", the same lobby that the Epstein files has revealed is worse than any of us could have ever imagined, has complained that "anti-semitism" has sky-rocketed since October 7 2023. This is false, as incidents reported by lobby include everyone opposed to Israel's genocide in Gaza and its pogroms against Palestinians in the West Bank. Genuine incidents of hatred towards Jews are still reported to be very rare.

Videos show Israeli fanatics yelling "from the river to the sea". One of these fanatics is shown on Israeli television with a map showing Israel expansion 'from the river to the sea', and is effecting this program as I type. This man is the Prime Minister of Israel. The Palestinian people have lived between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea since Bible times. These people are Semitic, as are those from current day Syria, Lebanon and other countries in the Levant. Jesus was a Palestinian Jew (Palestinian being an ethnic group, Jew being choice of religious belief). Over time, Palestinian people converted to Christianity and then later to Islam. Crusaders kicked the Jewish Palestinians out of the Holy Land, and Muslim leaders let them back in. Almost no Jewish people are semitic, almost all are eastern European from conversions in the 900s. "From the river to the sea" is a chant of hope - of hope for Palestinians to be free from the brutal 75 year occupation and to regain their literal stolen homes back. There is no threat, unlike the very real threat when said by Jewish people, whose Jewish state leaders have enacted a genocide to effect their land theft. Why criminalise hope of the modern-day holocaust victims? "Globalise the infitada" simply means "Globalise the struggle", and we see the struggle that Gazans experience daily, with close to 1000 Gaza's, including many children, murdered by Israel since their bogus ceasefire.

The Bill is an affront to free speech and political communication. This Bill panders to genocidaires and supremacists, while ignoring genuine hate speech and actions against the real victims of public hate and derision in Queensland, our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, and the muslim community., Who is left out of this bill is telling. The fact that this Bill is made to protect the 0.09% of the population from hearing about the genocide most of them tacitly support, tells volumes about the power of the Israel lobby., From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free.