

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

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Socialist Alliance is resolutely opposed to the proposed *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026*.

1. The slogans it proposes to ban are not offensive and should not be banned

Media reports indicate that Queensland government ministers intend to ban the slogans “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free” and “Globalise the intifada”.

Attorney General Deb Frecklington is reported to have said that “these sayings ... are used to incite hatred, offence and menace”.¹

Reported comments from Premier David Crisafulli indicate he is claiming these slogans are about “hatred” from which Queenslanders need to be “protect[ed]”.²

These claims are utterly false! They are either the product of profound ignorance or a deliberate intention to deceive.

We who chant these slogans know their meaning and know what it is we are saying when we project them.

Both slogans are about freedom, justice and equal rights.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has made a finding that Israel is guilty of the crime of apartheid.³ In other words, it is a fact, not a contention, that Palestinians are subjected to an occupation regime that denies them basic rights.

Hence the key word in the slogan “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free” is “free”. It is a slogan about freedom and about equal rights in the context of actually existing apartheid, as found by the ICJ.

“Intifada” is an Arabic word meaning “uprising” or “shaking off”. The word “Intifada” is also a reference/appeal to justice, liberation and freedom.

Anti-Zionist Jews have repeatedly confirmed that these slogans are not antisemitic. Leading Palestinian academics and movement spokespeople have repeatedly articulated that these slogans are used to promote a message of liberation for all people living in the area of historic Palestine.⁴

That some Zionists make (arguably bad faith) arguments opposing these slogans proves at best that these slogans have disputed meanings. It is not in any way a justification to ban them.

The very goal of this proposed legislation cannot be supported. It should be rejected outright, not amended.

2. Support free speech by rejecting this bill

¹

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2026/feb/08/queensland-pro-palestine-slogan-ban-proposed-hate-speech-laws-ntwnfb>

² <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-02-08/government-announces-hate-speech-reforms-antisemitism/106318730>

³ <https://www.greenleft.org.au/2024/1411/analysis/conventional-wisdom-icj-ruling-israeli-settlements>

⁴ See for reference: <https://www.greenleft.org.au/2025/1440/analysis/river-sea-palestine-will-be-free>

While government ministers claim that only the two slogans referenced above will be banned by this government, this legislation sets up an architecture that can be used by this government or future governments to ban other slogans or phrases.

This runs completely counter to the principle of free speech.

Every person who wants to make any intervention into any political debate should reject this bill as an affront to democratic rights for all people.

3. This bill supports genocide while the slogans it attempts to ban are used to oppose genocide

Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

This is confirmed by a finding of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry.⁵ It is also the consensus position of genocide scholars, including Israeli genocide scholars, as reflected in the resolution of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.⁶ It is also the finding of numerous human rights organisations such as Amnesty International⁷ and the Israeli organisation B'Tselem.⁸ Further, while the ICJ has not concluded its deliberations, it has made a positive finding that Israel is committing a plausible genocide and has ordered provisional measures to ensure that genocide is not committed and has made more than one *finding* that those provisional measures have not been complied with.

Therefore, the claim that Israel is committing genocide is not a marginal or far fetched claim.

These slogans that the bill is intended to ban are slogans used by the anti-genocide movement to oppose genocide.

Any attempt to ban or suppress or intimidate people into not using these slogans (which this bill attempts) is a material intervention in support of genocide.

The Queensland Government should take a position against genocide and therefore should reject this bill in its entirety.

⁵ <https://www.greenleft.org.au/2025/1439/analysis/chris-sidoti-australia-must-act-now-gaza>

⁶ <https://genocidescholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/IAGS-Resolution-on-Gaza-FINAL.pdf>

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<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/12/amnesty-international-concludes-israel-is-committing-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/>

⁸ https://www.btselem.org/publications/202507_our_genocide