

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

**Submission No:** 406

**Submission By:** Katherine Kerr

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

**Personal Submission to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee**

Dear Committee,

I write to oppose the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 ('the Bill') in its current form.

I have worked and volunteered in the community sector for over a decade and hold qualifications in social work and law. I condemn all forms of racism, including antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Indigenous, and anti-Palestinian racism. There is no hierarchy in racism.

The Bill, as currently drafted, represents a significant overreach that risks undermining democratic freedoms, suppresses legitimate political dissent, and disproportionately targets communities advocating for Palestinian human rights.

The Bill is incompatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) including the right to freedom of expression (s 21) and the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association (s 22). Under that Act, human rights may be subject only to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality, and freedom. The compatibility statement does not adequately engage with these rights or justify the proposed limitations.

The expedited process for this Bill, with less than one week for public submissions, raises concerns regarding meaningful democratic consultation. Legislation that significantly impacts vulnerable and marginalised communities, as well as the broader public, requires careful scrutiny and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and subject-matter experts. This process has not allowed for that.

The explanatory notes appear to conflate antisemitism with legitimate political expression advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people. While the Bill does not explicitly refer to Palestinians, the drafting and accompanying government commentary raise concerns about disproportionate application and impacts on members of the Palestinian community and their allies.

Further, the Bill risks eroding public trust and deepening social division, rather than strengthening social cohesion. Targeting members of a particular ethnic or political community may undermine, rather than enhance, community safety.

Contrary to its stated objectives, the Bill is unlikely to be effectively safeguard the Jewish community from genuine hate or violence. Queensland has a robust democracy, which empowers us to solve social problems such as racism with evidence-based and meaningful responses rather than broad brush legislative bans.

The Bill risks criminalising legitimate political expression, suppressing advocacy, and undermining civil liberties. The 1970s Queensland bans on public assembly and police overreach serve as a reminder of

the consequences of excessive restrictions on democratic participation, and is not something we should be aspiring to recreate.

For these reasons I strongly oppose this Bill as an attempt to restrict free speech and create extraordinary powers without proper democratic scrutiny. The Bill must be withdrawn to allow for a comprehensive review of its impact on civil liberties, human rights, political participation and the rule of law.

I ask the Committee to uphold and defend our State's democratic foundations by safeguarding the fundamental right to political communication.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Kerr

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