

## **Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) Amendment Bill 2023**

**Submission No:** 1  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**See attached:**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 May 2023 9:05 PM  
**To:** Legal Affairs and Safety Committee  
**Subject:** Submission to the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Dear Committee,

It is widely accepted that serious vilification and hate crimes should be reported to police.

Sadly, many victims do not do this due to various factors such as culture and religion, race and cultural background, sex and gender, and other embedded views into their personhood.

For the victim, the effort involved in reporting an incident is an impediment. This includes the time, stress, shame, fears for safety, and feelings of not wanting to bother the authorities. Meanwhile, the authorities may come across as apathetic, ambivalent, dismissive, and disinterested which further increases the feelings of futility for pursuing a serious vilification or hate crime.

There is currently a campaign related to domestic and family violence that I would like to reiterate here: *“Seeking justice should not add to trauma”*.

I would like to see this also applied to serious vilification and hate crimes.

That witnesses to such incidents should be able to report it to the authorities with the victim’s consent, or on their behalf, should be permitted.

A victim is often not in a psychological or physical condition to undergo the processes of reporting to authorities and subsequent legal processes.

But a witness to the incident, a third-party, might.

Witnesses to incidents of serious vilification and hate crimes are also affected by these events that may cause them distress and vicarious trauma. However, they may be in a better position to also report as an independent observer and pursue the case rather than the victim.

I would like to see the reporting of serious vilification and hate crimes extended to witnesses to these incidents.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]