

# Parliamentary Committee inquiry into serious vilification and hate crime: Have your say

(Submissions in writing or by audio or video due **by 12 noon, Monday 12 July 2021**)

## Serious vilification and hate crimes

Submission to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee,  
Queensland Parliament

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## My personal experience of vilification and hate crime

**If you have had a personal experience of hate crime or vilification, describe what happened to you here. Include when it happened, who did it, how it made you feel at the time, and how you felt afterwards.**

Over the last few years, I have encountered vilification and hate crime but will mention few. In 2010 while having a coffee at one of the Café in South Brisbane, I was called a “black dog”. I accepted the fact that I am black but not a dog. This was a customer, and the café owner came to me and apologised on his behalf while the customer refuse to acknowledge that I am not a dog. It made me feel that people with racial colour are very vulnerable and has not strong law to protect such incident against them. In relation to this case, I felt that there was no reason to report as there was no strong law against such incidents.

In 2012, an egg was through at me at a walk and bicycle way in Annerley and when I tried to stop these guys who were on the bicycles, they told me, “you deserved it African ██████████. You are lucky, we did not cut off your ██████████ useless black head”.

In 2019-2020, I run a Candidate for the Local Government election and during my campaign, I have experience vilification and hate crime both on the social media and face to face. For example, I was yelled at while campaigning on the roadside, that “never vote for an African Gang with a low IQ”. Also, while doorknocking in the areas by the voter that “I like your ideas and policies, but I will never vote for a black person”. I thanked him for his frank honesty but the question reminds, how do we change the mindset of such people. Also, another voted at Logan Reserve told me at the door in January 2020, that “I do not

like [REDACTED] criminal African at my door and released the dog to me and encourage the dog go T—and show the black Sudanese idiot what he deserved”. Sad, afternoon but I remained calm and left.

Online and social media, one wrote, “all I see is a Candidate who will turn this area into Sudanese Slum”. Another person wrote to me, “Mr Buol, when will the African gang arrive in Logan”. At the Early voting polling booth at Browns Plains, in front of other Candidates, one guy told me, I am not going to vote for the “ [REDACTED] black [REDACTED] because the colour of his skin does not take it for my vote”, While being confronted by other people, he when to his car and waited. While I was going to my car to pick up the campaign materials, he drove toward me trying to run me over. Thank to the quick thinking from another Candidate who yell, Elijah, Elijah that guy is driving toward you. I quickly step back and nearly missed me. One of the candidates called the police but they did not turn up saying that they cannot do anything if has already left and I am not harm.

Other person commented on the community page that “the [REDACTED] Buol is a problem and has blood on his hand as he is a member of Sudanese gangs, and I will send the [REDACTED] back to Sudan”. One mentioned, “why the hell would you voted for another piece of [REDACTED] foreign [REDACTED]. We have too many of the oxygen thieving criminal [REDACTED] our country already”.

My children were called with names and told at the school playground by other students who said to my two boys that, “our parents are not going to vote for your black father who has a low IQ [REDACTED]”. I followed up with the school and the issue was reported to the parents of those young people, but parents denied that they never said such thing and blame their child for the behaviours.

These are few of the many incidents that occurred to me personally. This was not only racially motivated hate crime but portray me and my community as criminal. I felt helpless of the time because there was no strong law to protect me. It damages my dignity and sense of worthiness in the society that I should feel belong and be part of!

**Did you report it? If you did, explain here who you reported it to (e.g. the police) and whether you were satisfied with the result. If you didn't report it, explain why not.**

I reported some incidents to the police because there is no strong law and therefore, a waste of time.

# My opinion on vilification and hate crime laws

## Do you think there should be stronger criminal laws about vilification and hate crime? If so, what?

I believe, there is need to have stronger criminal laws about vilification and hate crime. It affects the social cohesion of the society and create hatred within the society. A person should be protected from being abused and racially vilified. There is a need to insert a clause in the ***Criminal Code Act 1899 (under Chapter 9- Breach of Peace) and Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000***. Making a stronger criminal law will protect people from vilification and give them courage to report to the police or relevant authorities. The changes should aim at creating an opportunity for behaviour changes as vilification and hate crime can affect generations beyond our lifetime and something need to be done now than too late!

**I would be honoured to be given opportunity to provide more in person at a hearing.**

## How do you think laws should deal with online vilification and hate crimes?

There is a need for mechanism to deal with online vilification and hate crime online. For example, there is a need for an online company such as Facebook, and Twitter, google to report vilification and hate crime to the police and authorities. The law should be made criminal not civil. Civil are becoming “tokenistic laws” and does not effects change of behaviours on serious hate crimes. Police should be able to give warning and fine straight away to the people as soon as they are reported.

## What do you think would help combat vilification and hate crimes?

Government needs to strengthen the Human Right and Discrimination law and making some of them criminal. Also, there is a need to form a hater and crime Taskforce that can implement and develop a community campaign strategy on vilification and hate crimes.

There is not enough community education now and more resources should be allocated to the campaign as it affects many people and hindered social cohesion.

## Do you think other people should be protected from vilification and hate crimes under the law? If so, on what grounds (e.g. because of disability, sex, age, etc)?

Vilification and hate crimes go beyond the realm of racism. It also affected people with disability, sex, and age. It is my view that it should be criminal if they are denied access to services or being discriminated because of their disability or sex.