




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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**CRIMINAL CODE (SERIOUS VILIFICATION AND HATE CRIMES) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.06 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 which is currently before the House. I make comment particularly about the insertion of the recommended new section 52D into the Criminal Code, which will aim to deter the display, distribution or publication of prohibited symbols where a prohibited symbol is a symbol or image widely known by the public or by members of a relevant group as being solely or substantially representative of an ideology of extreme prejudice against a relevant group in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended unless that person has a reasonable excuse.

My electorate of Mansfield has become a strong multicultural community, made up of around 30 per cent of constituents with an Asian background, 30 per cent Indian and 30 per cent Caucasian with the remaining cultures of New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and Europe represented. Within this, the suburb of Burbank in the Mansfield electorate is home to Queensland's only Jewish day school, Sinai College, and Jewish retirement village. As the parliament would be aware, our Jewish community were victim to one of the most atrocious genocides the world has ever seen. Symbols of the Nazi hooked cross, unfortunately, continue to be used against the Jewish community and the Jewish living in my community. It constantly reminds them of the oppression, death and destruction that these families have experienced over many years. It is a symbol of hatred, a symbol of xenophobia and a symbol of racist hate crimes. Our multicultural communities deserve to live free of this.

I am sure the parliament will recall in 2021 when police seized a Nazi flag flown near a Brisbane synagogue, and just a few months earlier a train carriage in the suburbs was graffitied with Nazi hooked crosses and Nazi slogans. These events hurt many living in my community significantly as this was no practical joke—nor were the displayed ideologies. My electorate of Mansfield made their position very clear: hate and vilification of groups within our community will not be tolerated.

This was demonstrated more recently when Citipointe Christian College came out with prejudice towards a group of young LGBTIQ students whose families as Christian families chose to send their children to that school. My community spoke very clearly about what would and would not be accepted by the extreme right. They know the bill will stop this from happening. Further, my community is home to one of the largest mosques in the Southern Hemisphere. Many Muslim families also call my community home. This culture has also been victim to heinous vilification and hate crimes. We were all heartbroken by the occurrences in Christchurch in March 2019.

I know that my local Muslim community continue to be fearful after that event. I know that Friday prayers are a significant time when our Muslim community—and the Muslim community of my good friend the member for Greenslopes—come together and are afraid of their vulnerability. Events such as this amplify the importance of the committee's recommendations.

Hate crimes have no place in the Mansfield electorate and no place in Queensland. Again, my community have made this very clear. Whether they are based on sexual preference, on the colour of one's skin or on faith, hate crimes have no place in the community that I lead. My community and I would like to thank the Attorney-General; the member for Toohey; and the member for Waterford, the current health minister, for their work and for being at the forefront of this very important legislation.

The Palaszczuk government continues to work to address equity, acceptance of diversity and safety. I know that only a Labor government understands the policy settings needed for a multicultural, diverse but progressive Queensland. Recently I attended Mansfield State High School and discussed human rights with year 12 legal studies students as they prepare for their external exams. In particular we spoke about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, wherein article 3 states, 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.' This is exactly what the bill works to do and it is exactly what the Palaszczuk government will continue to uphold for all Queenslanders, regardless of the colour of their skin, where they were born or what faith they practise. Acts of serious vilification and hate crimes must be called out. As a government, we will continue to do this. We will confront hate crimes and we will condemn them in every possible scenario. I commend this bill to the House.