



Speech By  
**Bisma Asif**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### March for Australia Rally

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.18 pm): Right now Queenslanders from multicultural backgrounds are living in fear. These are the people who have chosen to make our beautiful state their home, drawn by its promise of opportunity and a better future. This fear stems from a far-right extremist group's anti-immigration rally where they seek to 'take Australia back'. I cannot express how deeply concerned I am about this rally and the harm it threatens to inflict on our communities.

Every single Queenslander deserves to feel safe and has the right to feel safe, regardless of the colour of their skin or which country they have come from to call Australia home. I understand how distressing this rally is for members of our community. I have had countless constituents contact me to express their fears about what is going to happen on Sunday. Someone—and I will not name them—shared this with me—

I came to this beautiful country 18 years ago and, like many others, I worked tirelessly to build a life here. I rarely had the chance to see a sunrise or sunset, but with grit and determination—a journey familiar to most migrants—I was able to establish myself and contribute meaningfully to society.

Another said—

I am the father of a four-year-old. She is too young to even understand what immigration means yet, I fear one day such hostility could extend towards children like her simply because of her background.

Someone else said—

The level of negativity and hostility I have received is deeply concerning. A small but harmful section of the community feels entitled to direct their frustrations at immigrants, blaming us for problems far beyond our control.

The Premier has called this a peaceful protest. Premier, I will read you something directly from the offensive flyer being distributed by the organisers of this march. It says—

More Indians in five years, than Greeks and Italians in 100. And that's just from one country.

Can you be the leader of this state and not call out this blatantly racist behaviour?

**Mr SPEAKER:** You can read from that but you cannot use it as a prop.

**Ms ASIF:** I table this document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Nationwide Marches Against Mass Migration' [1167](#).

Last week the Labor opposition wrote to the Premier and Minister for Multiculturalism, asking what the Queensland government was going to do to address the concerns of our multicultural communities. We never heard back.

Their refusal to address this issue sends the message that this behaviour is acceptable. It is not. To every single Queenslander, regardless of where you come from, I say this: I thought the days of blatant racism were behind us. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I see you, I hear your concerns and I will call out racist behaviour each and every day I have the privilege of standing in this chamber.

*The honourable member for Sandgate then spoke in a language other than English.*