




Speech By
Bisma Asif

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Anti-Immigration Rallies

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.06 pm): ‘My children ask me why people are so mean to us because of how we look.’ ‘I think I’m going to keep my kids home from school on Monday.’ ‘I have been living in Australia for seven years. We are planning on celebrating my little one’s birthday. Would it be safe to proceed given these rallies, or are we better off cancelling?’ These are just some of the concerns parents in my community have raised with me in light of the anti-immigration rallies. These anti-immigration marches are causing real harm to people in our communities and when people who hold power stay silent, there is always a price to pay. That price is being paid by people in our communities. ‘Shoot her where she stands’; ‘deport this B’; ‘You should fear the worst’; ‘She should be flogged like she would back home’; ‘Go back to India or Pakistan and take the rest of the Pakis and the Jeets with you’. These are not just comments that are directed at me. Every day, people in our communities—people who made an active decision to make Australia their home because it represents a beacon of hope that they will be able to build a brighter future for their kids—also face this.

The LNP has made a choice not to call out these hateful rallies. Instead, they choose to stay silent but their silence speaks volumes. Here are the facts: seven days before the last anti-immigration rally the LNP passed a motion to ‘overhaul hate-speech provisions and to enact a clear statutory right to freedom of speech, giving Australians an explicit right to shield for robust debate on culture, religious and national issues.’ I table that motion.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, regarding motions moved at LNP Convention [1584](#).

Here is the truth: they do not care to protect people from hate speech—not until it suits them—because if they did the LNP would have chosen to not pause those important racial vilification laws indefinitely—those laws which would give stronger protections against vilification based on race, religion and skin colour, laws with real consequences for those who incite hatred and deny protections against vilifications for Queenslanders.

People feel emboldened to make bomb threats against our children, against people in their places of worship. Just last week my office was defaced with words like ‘black B’ and ‘eff off back to Pakistan’. The message the government is sending through their silence is that this sort of behaviour is acceptable, that some Queenslanders are less deserving of protection, that racist abuse is somehow less urgent to address, that people from diverse backgrounds should simply accept being targets—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, I do not think even quoting unparliamentary language gives you the right to do it. There have been several instances. I would ask you to just take some care from here on, please. You should withdraw those comments at the beginning of your speech and in the last few sentences.

Ms ASIF: I withdraw. Enough is enough. They are not asking for special treatment, Premier; they are asking for equal protections under the law which has been indefinitely blocked by you. Every day these laws remain paused is another day the message is clear. Those in the government may try to silence me, but they are not going to stop me from calling out racism every day.