




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2025

MOTION

Multicultural Communities

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise in support of the amendment to the motion moved by the opposition. This is the height of hypocrisy. Never have I seen a government come in here and refuse to condemn the racism we saw outside at the rallies on 31 August. For them to come into this chamber and pretend to be appalled at something is just horrific. I stood in this chamber alongside my Labor team calling out those racist rallies. No-one from the government came out to call those out—not one. When the Premier and the deputy leader were asked about those, what did they say? They said that people had the right to protest, that these were peaceful protests. I say that Neo-Nazis do not peacefully protest; they look to instil hatred and division in our communities. What they do is look to divide. To every single person from our diverse communities I say: the Labor opposition stands with you. We will always call out racism and we will always call out those who look to divide. We know that you come to Australia and call Australia home. The contributions that you make to our communities are large and they do not go unnoticed.

For the government to come in here and pretend that they suddenly care about multicultural communities is honestly appalling. To use this as an example—where is the government now calling out the rallies? If they care about multiculturalism, if they care about protecting those from multicultural backgrounds in our communities they should call out the rally that occurred, and there is another one happening on 19 October. I urge the government to call it out. I urge the Premier to call it out. They will not, because they did not call out the last one.

I have people knocking on my door saying they are scared to go outside. They did not open their business on the days these rallies occurred. They lost income. That is unacceptable for people who contribute to our society, who contribute to our economy and who send their kids to our schools. They say they kept their kids home from school on the Monday after these rallies because they were scared of what their kids might go through, and that is appalling. For the leaders opposite to not call it out is even more appalling.

The minister goes to events but has not once said to the communities, 'I stand with you. I do not accept these rallies that are happening. We are here to protect you because we are for all Queenslanders.' What did we see this government do? We saw them water down laws that protect our communities from racial vilification. They have paused those laws that protect our communities from racial vilification. If they care about them I urge the Attorney-General to come into this chamber and to put those laws into action because that is what the community is calling for. That is what our multicultural communities want. They want real leaders who care about them and real leaders who will govern for all Queenslanders, not just some, and who will do what is right. I urge the Premier to call it out and also put One Nation last, because that is what Labor will do.