



Speech By  
**Bisma Asif**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill**

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.00 pm): Today the member for Coomera chose to attack me in this chamber for not speaking during the debate on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. With that, he questioned my commitment. He questioned my values. He suggested that my silence represented indifference to the safety of children. What he did not bother to consider before making me the subject of a political attack is why I remained silent. Debates on bills like this, as crucially important as they are, may often require one to relive trauma—trauma that I work every day to heal from. I made the difficult decision, a personal one, not to speak on this bill and to vote in support of the bill, as is my right as a member of this place.

It is unfortunate and deeply painful that the member for Coomera, a colleague I work with on committee business, and members of this government have used this bill for political attacks. The bill is about protecting our children. It is about protecting the most vulnerable in our state, but they saw this as an opportunity to score political points by attacking someone in the opposition. This attack was disgusting. It is disgusting that such a serious issue like child safety—an issue that affects real people and real families and has real trauma survivors—would be weaponised for partisan gain. It is disappointing that members of the government chose division and personal attacks instead of unity. It is deeply disappointing that the member for Coomera violated human decency for a momentary political advantage.

I want to be absolutely clear: I supported the bill. I voted for the bill. I want strong protections for children in our community and across the nation. My commitment to child safety is unwavering, and it is personal in ways members opposite clearly cannot fathom. The member's attack reveals something troubling about how someone in this place views serious policy issues. Protecting children against abuse is not a political football. It is not a weapon to be wielded against your opponents.

To any survivors watching today: your boundaries matter. You do not owe anyone your trauma as proof of your commitment to justice. You can care deeply about an issue and still prioritise your own wellbeing. I will never understand what goes through the mind of a monster who chooses to commit horrendous acts against innocent children, but I will say this: I am wholeheartedly committed to protecting every child in my community and in Queensland against abuse. I promise to always put people first. I promise to put people over petty politics.