

**Submission  
No 14**

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND  
EQUALITY) BILL 2020**

**Name:** Ms Bethany McAlpine

**Date Received:** 10 August 2020

Dear Joint Select Committee,

Please accept my submission in support of Mark Latham's Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020.

It is important that this bill should be passed by the parliament because the rights of Christians, in particular, to express, practise and share their faith have been infringed to an ever greater degree over recent years.

This is partly a result of the increasing secularization of our society and the normalisation of homosexual practices and transgender theories which are completely incompatible with Biblical teachings. This means that the expression of previously innocuous Christian doctrines are now increasingly seen as inflammatory, which has resulted in far greater amounts of discrimination against and vilification of Christians.

The level of discrimination against Christians is also exacerbated by the plethora of anti-discrimination legislation passed over recent decades which protects those with beliefs antithetical to Christianity, whilst leaving Christians without any legal protection and giving the impression to wider society that their views must be unworthy and that Christians are effectively 'second class citizens' and legitimate targets for hate and derision.

This bill seeks to redress this balance, and I commend Mark Latham, who even though he isn't a Christian himself, and identifies as no religion, for seeking to protect the religious freedom of those who are.

It is notable and important that this bill seeks to protect both the rights of Christian individuals to express, practise and share their faith and also the rights of Christian organisations to protect their ethos. Both these protections are a long time overdue and so I urge you to recommend in your report to parliament that this bill be enacted.

Yours sincerely,

Bethany McAlpine

