

**Submission
No 91**

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

Name: Aranza Munoz

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Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020

Parliament House

Sydney NSW 2000

By email: ReligiousFreedomsBill@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Committee

Please support the *Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020*.

History has demonstrated that the denial of religious freedoms is a breakdown of democracy! In Australia, since legalising and debating Same Sex Marriage there has not been a peaceful political evolution. A hostile secularist approach has been positioned against religion particularly Christianity causing a transition away from our peaceful democracy. Secularists are consistently placing restrictions on ordinary religious people from engaging in our society in education, employment, business, politics and parenting. At the last 2019 Federal Election, the majority of Australians voted the coalition to restore natural Australian religious liberties to transition back into a peaceful democracy.

Secularist Corporate Australia arrogantly believe they can offend Christians at liberty and at the same time dictate Christians liberties outside of working hours such as Ozsale advertising the sale of a dancing Jesus toy and on the other hand force employees to sign work agreements which prohibit Christian employees from publicly quoting bible verses outside of working hours such as in the case of Israel Folau and the AFL.

The current Anticlerical political culture is dividing the nation. My personal experience of being treated as a third class citizen for my roman catholic faith has been two of my local churches vandalised and the state governments fallacious policy to close churches before brothels to stop the spread of Coronavirus during the March 2020 Shutdown. I have also witnessed the removal of parental rights and prohibiting medical professionals to examine genderless sex programs forced onto children who do not have the capacity to assess if the material is appropriate or harmful. In addition to this list, a Royal Commission only specifically targeting the Catholic Church for child abuse. No other institution including political parties has had a Royal Commission for Child abuse despite numerous public horrific scandals. Child abuse is still rife in Australia. Tony Abbott, Israel Folau and Margaret Court; three distinguished Australians without trial and merely identified as Christians have been treated like third class citizens.

Australia is a young secular society and the vast majority of Australians are Christians. France and Spain are nations which have experience and insight to achieving a peaceful secular democracy. It is not a long bow to draw comparison between all three nations as they all have a majority Christian base and secular society.

The key successful factor which has transitioned both Spain and France to have a peaceful evolving secular democracy has been the inclusions of religious freedoms in their constitutions. France is a republic and Spain is a constitutional monarchy like Australia.

In 1789, France guaranteed freedom of religion by its constitution which saw a peaceful transition from a monarchy to a republic. Spain was not so fortunate in its twice failed transition

into a republic. Over a century, Spain attempted to become a republic twice however failed because it became a war on religion. The Spanish republic was doomed from the outset because of its hostile approach to the issues of church and state was a substantial cause of the breakdown of democracy and the onset of war. After Spain became a republic for the second time; the left formed military coups murdering up to an estimate 70 000 Christian civilians. Leading up to the Civil War, the state of the political establishment had been brutal and violent for some time. On 11 May 1934, the left military coups decided to burn all the churches in Madrid. In July 1936, over two nights, churches and cathedrals were burn all over Spain. **In 1936 for several months afterwards merely to be identified as a priest, a Christian or member of some religious organisation was enough for a person to be executed without trial.** The gravest mistake of the Spanish Republic made was its hostility towards the Catholic Church and making laws that affected the devotional lives of ordinary Catholics which greatly eased the task of its opponents. Franco was a legionnaire in Morocco who was called to join the Spanish Civil War because of the red left terror all over Spain and the thread of communism. During the Franco dictatorship, 200,000 political civilians were tortured, killed and many had to move aboard into exile. This is referred to the Spanish Holocaust.

In 6 December 1978; the majority of Spaniards voted a new constitution which incorporated religious freedoms. Spain today has achieved a peaceful transition into democracy because the nation at large from all political parties have learnt from their history the importance of religious freedoms and protections to achieve a peaceful secular democracy. Spain's history has demonstrated for a secular society to function; a nation needs religious freedoms.

Today both Spain and France have economically prospered by having a constitution with religious freedoms. France is the number one tourist destination in the world with 90 million visitors each year. Spain is the number two tourist destination in the world with 84 million visitors each year. How can Australia prosper and compete against both France and Spain in the tourism sector if it doesn't establish a comparative legal religious freedom bench marks?

A secular society cannot function and provide a successful prosperous tourism industry without religious freedoms. If we don't legislate religious freedoms, we are directing Australia into breakdown in democracy and our tourism industry to fail to globally compete. A breakdown in democracy is dangerous, to say the least, but it is a superable problem which will lead to violence just like Spain's failure to transition into a republic twice for failing to protect religious freedoms. The government must correct its hostile attitude towards the catholic church and investigate other institutions for child abuse. A peaceful democracy requires an elected government to make laws and not secular corporate Australia to control ordinary Australians outside their working hours and offend them at liberty like Ozsale's dancing Jesus toy. If we don't restore our peaceful democracy with religion freedoms and protections this will only lead to an accelerated opposition and resentment towards corporate Australia and the government which we cannot afford during COVID19 and post recovery period.

Regards

Aranza Munoz

