

**Submission  
No 129**

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

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Since the dawn of time, and throughout the ages men and women have been endowed with free will, and a conscience to choose right from wrong. These were not always honoured as evidenced throughout history yet the prevailing force was that of spiritual and religious nature. From the Judea-Christian worldview, the freedom that was bestowed upon mankind constituted the turning point in history, how we lived, embracing a freedom that was borne in the spirit that differentiated the Old and New Testaments.

Throughout history people have stood up to fight for freedoms e.g. freedom from slavery, freedom from oppression to honour our God's gift of free will, to be given a choice. Some have represented the way of Our Lord, to live according to the virtues and disengage from hurling destructive forces against humanity. We are still learning but in this pursuit as a collective, we can see how this has had a positive impact on society. Most missionary work of the last 100 years has stemmed from this Judeo-Christian worldview to bring hope and freedom to those in need and to help improve quality of life after natural disasters. Civilisations, cultures, communities, families have all had one thread in common, that is, to practice and maintain a spiritual belief that has shaped their identity and traditional values. To eradicate or discriminate against traditional customs and practices, to remove the individual right to freedom of choice and how we wish to live together will turn society into a modern version of slavery. Trying to make everyone else think in the same way, do the same things is the antithesis of religious freedom and expression.

NSW has a diverse culture and consists of multi-level religious and spiritual practices all of which to date have not harmed anyone (notwithstanding man's depravity against the other nor the abuse cases as per Royal Commission enquiry, for these are mere reflections of deranged human psychological conditions)

The right to practice your faith, days and times, places of worship are all part of personal choice and this must not be compromised as it violates our God given free will. In other matters of social interaction and employment, one's personal religious practice must not interfere with their employment pursuits and their ability to fulfill tasks and duties at work. These two must have clear boundaries. It is important not to discriminate against religion, colour and creed and ensure we uphold the freedoms that our forefathers have worked hard to maintain. Denise Barsoum