

**Submission
No 12**

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT SLOGANS THAT INCITE HATRED

Organisation: Australian Multicultural Action Network Inc

Date Received: 6 January 2026



Australian Multicultural Acton Network Inc

ABN: 40 172 914 431

Assn No: A06217

Mr Ravi Krishnamurthy JP

PRESIDENT

President.AMANACT@gmail.com

Mobile: 0404629700

Submission to the NSW Committee on Law and Safety

Inquiry into Measures to Prohibit Slogans that Incite Hatred

Submitted by:

Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN)

Submitted by: Ravi Krishnamurthy, President

Date: 06-Jan-2025

1. Introduction

The Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the NSW Committee on Law and Safety Inquiry into measures to prohibit slogans that incite hatred, intimidate communities, and instil fear of violence.

AMAN is a national, community-led organisation committed to advancing social cohesion, community safety, and inclusive public discourse across Australia. Our work spans policy advocacy, community education, trauma-informed engagement, and leadership within culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

This submission is informed by Ravi Krishnamurthy's decades of frontline community leadership, including sustained engagement with multicultural, faith-based, youth, senior, and disability communities. It reflects a deep understanding of how language operates not only as speech, but as power — shaping fear, belonging, and safety in real and tangible ways.

We support the intent of the Inquiry and believe that well-designed, proportionate measures can protect communities from harm while strengthening democratic values and social cohesion.

2. Core Position of AMAN

AMAN submits that:

- Slogans that explicitly or implicitly call for violence, intimidation, or dehumanisation pose a genuine risk to community safety
- Such slogans often have transnational meanings that cannot be understood solely through literal translation
- The impact of these slogans must be assessed from the perspective of targeted communities, not only speakers' intent
- Legislative responses must be carefully balanced with constitutional protections, supported by education, prevention, and community engagement



Australian Multicultural Acton Network Inc

ABN: 40 172 914 431

Assn No: A06217

Mr Ravi Krishnamurthy JP

PRESIDENT

President.AMANACT@gmail.com

Mobile: 0404629700

Effective responses must move beyond reactive enforcement and towards a coherent framework of prevention, clarity, and accountability.

3. Community Impact: Why This Matters in Practice

From AMAN's community-based work, several consistent realities emerge:

- Slogans that invoke violence or historical trauma are experienced as threats, even when framed as political expression
- These phrases are often used in public demonstrations, online spaces, and near community institutions, creating fear well beyond the immediate context
- Targeted communities — particularly Jewish, Muslim, Middle Eastern, and other visible minorities — report increased anxiety, withdrawal from public life, and fear for children and elders
- Silence or ambiguity from authorities can unintentionally signal tolerance of intimidation

As Ravi Krishnamurthy has consistently observed through community dialogues, the harm is cumulative. A single slogan may appear abstract, but repeated exposure normalises hostility and erodes trust in public institutions.

4. Addressing the Terms of Reference

a) Threats to Community Cohesion and Safety

Slogans such as those referenced in the Terms of Reference are not value-neutral. Many carry:

- Historical associations with violence
- Implicit calls to action
- Symbolic endorsement of harm

When these slogans are publicly amplified, they can fracture social cohesion, embolden extremist behaviour, and undermine the sense of shared civic space essential to a multicultural society.

AMAN emphasises that community safety is not only physical safety, but also psychological safety and freedom from intimidation.

b) Preventing the Use of Inherently Hateful Slogans

AMAN supports a principles-based approach, rather than an ad hoc list, grounded in:



Australian Multicultural Acton Network Inc

ABN: 40 172 914 431

Assn No: A06217

Mr Ravi Krishnamurthy JP

PRESIDENT

President.AMANACT@gmail.com

Mobile: 0404629700

- Whether a slogan invokes or glorifies violence
- Whether it targets or intimidates identifiable communities
- Whether its commonly understood meaning reasonably creates fear of harm

Clear guidance — developed in consultation with affected communities — is critical to avoid inconsistency and politicisation.

c) Protecting Communities from Hatred, Intimidation and Violence

Protection must include:

- Clear legal thresholds
- Predictable enforcement
- Early intervention mechanisms
- Public education on lawful protest boundaries

From AMAN's experience, communities feel safest when rules are clear, consistently applied, and visibly enforced — not when left to interpret ambiguity.

d) Best Practice – Australian and International Experience

International approaches, including those in the UK, demonstrate the value of:

- Context-based assessment of slogans
- Recognition that some expressions function as coded incitement
- Complementary investment in education and community resilience

AMAN cautions against importing models wholesale, but supports adapting best practice through an Australian multicultural and constitutional lens.

e) Constitutional Considerations

AMAN strongly affirms the importance of the implied freedom of political communication.

However, freedom of expression has never been absolute, particularly where speech crosses into:

- Incitement
- Intimidation



Australian Multicultural Acton Network Inc

ABN: 40 172 914 431

Assn No: A06217

Mr Ravi Krishnamurthy JP

PRESIDENT

President.AMANACT@gmail.com

Mobile: 0404629700

- Harassment
- Threats of violence

Protecting democratic freedoms requires drawing principled lines, not avoiding them.

f) Existing Legislative Frameworks

Existing offences provide a foundation, but community feedback suggests gaps in:

- Clarity
- Timeliness
- Public understanding
- Enforcement confidence

Legislation must be accompanied by operational clarity so police, communities, and organisers understand their rights and responsibilities.

5. Forward-Thinking Strategies and Innovative Ideas

AMAN proposes the following future-focused measures:

5.1 A Community Harm Test

Introduce a structured test that considers:

- Likely impact on targeted communities
- Historical and cultural meaning
- Context of use (location, timing, audience)

This ensures decisions are evidence-based, not arbitrary.

5.2 Independent Multicultural Advisory Panel

Establish a standing panel to:

- Advise on emerging slogans and symbols
- Provide cultural and contextual insight
- Support consistent application of the law



Australian Multicultural Acton Network Inc

ABN: 40 172 914 431

Assn No: A06217

Mr Ravi Krishnamurthy JP

PRESIDENT

President.AMANACT@gmail.com

Mobile: 0404629700

Such a panel would enhance legitimacy and trust.

5.3 Prevention Through Education

Invest in:

- Plain-language guidance for protest organisers
- Public education campaigns on lawful expression
- Youth-focused programs on responsible civic engagement

Prevention is more effective — and less divisive — than enforcement alone.

5.4 Trauma-Informed Policing and Responses

Ensure frontline responders are trained to:

- Recognise community trauma
- De-escalate situations
- Engage respectfully with affected communities

This aligns safety with dignity.

6. The Leadership Imperative

This Inquiry presents an opportunity not only to address harmful slogans, but to model how a mature, multicultural democracy navigates complexity.

Ravi Krishnamurthy's leadership, shaped by decades of community trust-building, demonstrates that strength lies in clarity, empathy, and courage — not silence or over-reach.

AMAN stands ready to partner with government, law enforcement, and civil society to ensure that Australia remains a place where robust debate is possible, but intimidation is not tolerated.

7. Conclusion

AMAN supports thoughtful, proportionate measures to prohibit slogans that incite hatred and threaten community safety. We urge the Committee to adopt an approach that:

- Centres affected communities



Australian Multicultural Acton Network Inc

ABN: 40 172 914 431

Assn No: A06217

Mr Ravi Krishnamurthy JP

PRESIDENT

President.AMANACT@gmail.com

Mobile: 0404629700

- Respects constitutional freedoms
- Prioritises prevention and clarity
- Strengthens social cohesion

With principled leadership and inclusive design, NSW can set a national benchmark for protecting both freedom and safety in a diverse society.

AMAN and Ravi Krishnamurthy remain committed to advancing this work in partnership with the Committee.

Submitted respectfully,
Ravi Krishnamurthy
President
Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN)