

**Submission
No 21**

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT SLOGANS THAT INCITE HATRED

Organisation: Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN)

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Measures to prohibit slogans that incite hatred NSW Government Inquiry

Submission from Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) 9 January 2026

Terms of reference That the Committee on Law and Safety inquire into and report on the use of slogans that are directed at certain communities to intimidate those communities and instil fear of violence. The Committee should consider:

a) The threat that the use of phrases like "globalise the intifada" poses to community cohesion and safety and the importance of maintaining social harmony and cohesion;

I had not heard this phrase used at any rally that I have been too. Now that the phrase is out there in the public space, albeit as a new entry, I see that this may be an inflammatory phrase. Intifada technically and linguistically is more associated with non-violent action but it has now become associated in the public mind with violence so I can see that it may not be a good phrase to use.

In contrast, I and the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) stand fully behind the use of the phrase "from the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free." This should not be banned. Do not the Palestinian people deserve to live in freedom, under whatever political structure emerges? To ban this phrase would be saying that the people do not deserve to live in freedom. Living in freedom means living without the threat of what the Israeli Govt currently promulgates and allows, from arch-violence in Gaza to apartheid laws in Israel and Government and settler violence in the West Bank: home and village demolitions associated with Israeli settlement expansion, murder, land confiscation and so on.

b) How best to prevent the use of phrases that are so inherently hateful by their nature that they lead to incitement of hatred and threaten community safety;

Which phrases currently being used in Australia are "inherently hateful"? In Israel, it is apparently common to hear (I have heard recordings), "Kill the Arabs". This does not happen here.

c) The need to protect communities from hatred, intimidation and violence;

To ban peaceful protests with wording that names the situation as it is would not work to protect communities. There will always be 'lone wolf' operators, fuelled by hateful ideologies such as that possessed by IS. This scenario is currently being discredited so that those who work for justice will be labelled as fuelling hatred. For instance, some do not accept that a genocide has been occurring in Gaza. The United Nations and other entities have given evidence that what has been occurring for the last two years in Gaza constitutes genocide, according to certain accepted definitions. Do we ban the use of the word genocide in our protests? I think not.

d) Australian and international examples of best practice to combat the use of such slogans, including measures and approaches taken in the United Kingdom;

I would not take the UK as a best practice model. Many have been imprisoned who have called for justice.

e) The Australian Constitution and the implied freedom of political communication;

The right to peaceful protest is a precious feature of Australia and its constitution. Yes, work to mitigate the use of words which are truly hateful. For someone to be "offended" by certain words does not mean that those words cannot be used and are not valid. The NSW

Government, in this case, must act with integrity and wisdom and not listen to one stream of voices only. For example, within the Jewish community there are different views. Listen to the Jewish Council of Australia for instance and not just the Zionist Federation.

f) Existing offences and other measures in New South Wales and Commonwealth legislation, including offences and measures that have been announced; and

g) Any other related matter