

**Submission
No 48**

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT SLOGANS THAT INCITE HATRED

Organisation: Jewish Action Zionist Brisbane

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About Jewish Zionist Action Brisbane

Jewish Zionist Action Brisbane is a grassroots organization of Jewish activists in Brisbane advocating against antizionism and championing cultural safety for Jewish people.

We represent everyday community members who are deeply concerned about the rising tide of hate speech and the failure of current laws to protect our community.

1. Introduction: Words Have Consequences

We are writing to urge the Committee to take action against hate speech that is endangering the Jewish community. The horrific terrorist attack at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025, where 15 lives were lost during a Hanukkah celebration, proved that violent words lead to violent actions.

Current laws are failing us. We are seeing a direct link between slogans like "Globalise the Intifada" and physical violence. We need the government to close the loopholes that allow extremists to incite hatred under the guise of political protest.

2. The Reality: A Community Under Siege

The data is clear: the Jewish community is facing an emergency. Since October 7, 2023, anti-Jewish incidents have skyrocketed.

- Exponential Rise: There were 1,654 incidents logged in the last year alone—five times higher than the average before 2023.
- Escalating Violence: This isn't just name-calling. We are seeing a marked increase in arson and vandalism.
- Business Closures: The forced closure of Avner's Bakery in Surry Hills due to safety fears shows that Jewish businesses are being pushed out of the public square.

When Jewish families cannot celebrate holidays without armed guards, and businesses close due to threats, the social contract is broken.



3. The "Zionist" Loophole

Opponents of a ban claim they are only criticizing a political ideology ("Zionism") and not a people ("Jews"). This is a dangerous trick used to bypass hate speech laws.

Zionism is Identity, Not Just Politics For the vast majority of Jews, Zionism is the movement for cultural and spiritual renewal in our indigenous homeland. Asking a Jew to "leave their Zionism at the door" to enter a university or a shop is like asking a woman to renounce her rights to enter a public space.

The "Suffragette" Test Banning "Zionists" is effectively banning Jews. A sign saying "Zionists Not Welcome" functions exactly like a sign from the early 20th century saying "Suffragettes Not Welcome". It is a loyalty test designed to exclude a specific group of people from society. Court rulings, like the recent *Wertheim v Haddad* (2025), have recognized that "Zionist" is often just a code word used to attack Jewish people while claiming legal immunity.

4. Pushing Jews Out of Public Life

Slogans like "Globalise the Intifada" are not peaceful protests. They create a hostile environment that forces Jewish people to hide or stay home.

- Constructive Eviction: When these slogans are chanted in our city centers, Jews effectively "self-exclude" to stay safe. This denies us equal access to public spaces, which is a right supposed to be protected by the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW).
- A History of Hate: These slogans have dark roots. The phrase "Zionists Not Welcome" echoes Soviet propaganda used to expel approximately 13,000 Jews from Poland in 1968. We cannot allow this history to repeat itself here.

The Bondi Connection We know where this rhetoric ends. Court documents regarding the Bondi Beach attackers reveal they were motivated by "antizionist" ideology. The Police Statement of Facts confirms they condemned "Zionists" in their manifesto. They didn't attack an embassy; they attacked families on a beach. The slogan "Globalise the Intifada" gave them the moral permission to target civilians.



5. Recommendations

We ask the Committee to implement practical changes to keep our community safe:

1. Ban Specific Hate Slogans: Explicitly list "Globalise the Intifada," "All Zionists are Terrorists," and "Zionists Not Welcome" as prohibited hate speech under the *Crimes Amendment (Inciting Racial Hatred) Act 2025*.
2. Close the Definition Loophole: Amend Section 93Z of the *Crimes Act* so that when "Zionist" is used in a threatening or abusive context, it is presumed to refer to Jewish people unless proven otherwise. This stops racists from hiding behind wordplay.
3. Create Safe Access Zones: If a total ban isn't possible, we need "Safe Access Zones" (100m buffers) around Jewish schools, synagogues, and community centres, similar to the protections for reproductive health clinics. Harassing children on their way to school is not free speech.
4. Lower the Standard for Incitement: Change the law to prosecute "reckless" incitement. We shouldn't have to prove what was in an extremist's head; we should judge them by the danger they create.

Conclusion

The Jewish community is small and currently unprotected. The rise in hate speech has real-world consequences, from business closures to the tragedy at Bondi Beach. We are asking you to restore our basic right to exist safely in public spaces.

Sincerely,

Jewish Zionist Action Brisbane

הפעולה היהודית-ציונית בריסבן