

**Submission
No 58**

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT SLOGANS THAT INCITE HATRED

Organisation: Jews for a Free Palestine

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We are writing as a group of Jewish Australians concerned about the implications that this inquiry has for democratic rights, community safety and social cohesion – for the Jewish community, Muslim and Palestinian communities, and more broadly.

NSW already has strong laws that protect against speech that incites violence or hatred. That is not what these proposed measures will do. Instead, by criminalising political language or protest, the measures will have a chilling effect on cultural expression, academia and community organising, and will increase public fear and mistrust based on criminalising words or slogans without adequate context. This is dangerous and ineffective.

We encourage you not to rush into new laws or public narratives in the aftermath of the horrifying killings at Bondi. We must not make the mistake of collective punishment, which does nothing to prevent violence and often escalates harm. As Jewish Australians, we strongly feel that our own safety is tied to that of other racialised groups.

Arab, Palestinian, Muslim, and migrant communities are already disproportionately policed and surveilled. These measures will exacerbate both state and public discrimination.

Conflating political speech with hatred ultimately undermines democracy. As a group, we are committed to protecting community safety, cohesion and dignity. These are best protected through rights, not repression.

Our recommendations are:

- Don't introduce any new speech or protest laws that target specific communities or political movements.
- Invest in anti-racism and community-led education initiatives, not punitive measures or expansion of police powers.
- Ensure that any response protects democratic rights, cultural freedom, and equal treatment under the law.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Jews for a Free Palestine