

**Submission
No 59**

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT SLOGANS THAT INCITE HATRED

Organisation: Arabic Friends of Labor

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Arabic Friends of Labor

Submission to Inquiry into Measures to Prohibit Slogans that Incite Hatred.

Inquiry Into Measures to Prohibit Slogans that Incite Hatred.

Following the Bondi massacre, the Government has referred to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety, an inquiry to consider the following:

- 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;
- 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;
- c) The need to protect communities from hatred, intimidation and violence;
- d) Australian and international examples of best practice to combat the use of such slogans, including measures and approaches taken in the United Kingdom;
- e) The Australian Constitution and the implied freedom of political communication;
- 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 matters.

Introductory Comment.

We in the Arabic Friends of Labor and as members of the Australian Labor Party, reject any attempt by the state government to limit our implied right to free and lawful political communication. We oppose any attempt to prohibit or ban pro Palestine slogans, phrases, symbols, flags or anything that may infringe on our rights as Australian citizens and on our ability to expose Israeli war crimes perpetrated against indigenous Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank as well as in Lebanon and in Syria and in any other land Israel plans to occupy, subjugate and oppress. Having said that, our submission does not defend threats, intimidation, or incitement to violence. On the contrary, we reject, condemn and abhor and oppose any behaviour that would incite hatred or violence against any Australian or against any Australian community.

Our submission proceeds on the basis that hatred must be addressed, but political expressions, slogans, phrases that are just and lawful and do not incite hatred to violence must be protected, even when controversial or confronting. Despite the Bondi tragedy and

what it represents, we must safeguard our civil liberties and our democratic rights that extremists seek to undermine.

From our perspective, as members of the Australian Labor Party and members affiliated to trade and industrial unions, we see the parliamentary committee's task is to identify lawful, proportionate, and effective measures to prevent incitement to hate and violence but consistent with our constitutional and human rights obligations to our Australian citizens. Any laws introduced must be consistent, applied to all Australians in NSW and must be evidence based. The committee must, in adopting any recommendation, clearly and unambiguously articulate a case for change, if any, and show clear and unmistakable links between speech, slogan, phrase and alleged incitement to violence.

The committee or parliament in adopting any changes or amendments or interpretations to existing laws must establish causal links between a phrase or a slogan, in this case "globalised intifada" and incitement to hatred. It must not be based on mere hearsay, assertions or political belief. It must be fact based, objective in analysis and in conclusions.

The committee and parliament must ensure that vague or tenuous connections between slogans or symbols and incitement to hate must not be used to ban lawful political expression. Not only will this stunt political participation, but it will also be in breach of our democratic rights, our constitutional rights, our civil liberties and our rights under our constitution and rights protected under International Human rights and under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Such rights require that restrictions on political expression and assembly be necessary and proportionate, not merely politically expedient or agenda driven as is clearly the case in this inquiry.

Executive Summary

1. The Arabic Friends of Labor believe that this committee inquiry into slogans that allegedly incite hatred, intimidate, and instill fear and violence in communities, appear to be politically motivated, designed and driven by the pro-Israel Zionist lobby and their cronies in parliament, with the intention to gag dissent, to silence opposition to Israeli genocide and to block the pro Palestine justice movement from exposing Israel's war crimes and the ongoing slaughter of Palestinians in the West Bank, the genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza, the daily killing of Lebanese in South Lebanon and the occupation of territories in Palestine, Lebanon and now in Syria.

2. The Arabic Friends of Labor believe that the outcome of this inquiry to ban slogans and other political expressions appears to be largely predetermined and that the inquiry is merely a front, a facade for public consumption. Premier Minns has already decided that slogans such as “globalised intifada” is unacceptable. Unacceptable to whom and why? So Premier Minns, it appears, will push to ban this slogan and other phrases unacceptable to the Israel lobby. Will the committee then include and recommend banning “from the river to the sea let Palestine be free” or “Israel, you can’t hide you are committing genocide” etc. and so forth. We do not foresee that a committee of a majority Labor members, we say this with total respect to the committee and its members, whom we know and acknowledge, are respected members but would not be in a position to resolve against the Premier’s wishes. This inquiry is at the end of the day another attempt to shut down protests and silence the voices of an increasing number of Australians and of overwhelming rank and file Labor Party members and party units who support the Palestinian cause. Labor in NSW will forever be cursed (by the people of NSW, our union movement and Labor’s rank and file) for any precedent that this inquiry will set for political censorship. We hope that we are proved wrong.
3. This submission will argue and show that the Premier’s one-sided pro Zionist position reinforces our belief that the inquiry is merely a charade with predetermined outcomes intended to silence critics of the genocidal, racist and apartheid regime in Israel.
4. Arabic Friends of Labor reject the implied allegation that the pro Palestine movement and by extension the Arabic and Islamic communities and others are hateful and are inciting violence against the Australian Jewish community. This implied allegation will be repudiated by recalling the many statements of condemnation and sympathies expressed by the Australian Arab and Islamic communities with the victims of the Bondi massacre.
5. The Arabic Friends of Labor believe that existing NSW and Commonwealth laws already provide adequate mechanisms to address intimidation, threats, incitement to violence, and serious religious and racial vilification. If existing laws and mechanisms are properly enforced, then we should have sufficient means to prevent any form of incitement to violence. If it is to recommended introductions of new laws, the committee must show how existing laws and regulations fall short of protection against incitement to hate. Arabic Friends of Labor believe that

community safety and social cohesion are best protected through conduct-based enforcement, not content-based prohibitions on slogans and political expression.

6. Finally, we in the Arabic friends of Labor, and as members of the Australian Labor party and the NSW union movement, reject any intrusion into our civil and political rights, our right to assembly, our right to protest and our right to speak against oppression, occupation, war crimes and genocide. We reject any non-evidence based, unjustified proposals to ban slogans, flags, phrases, symbols etc. or prohibit speech. Or to seek to prohibit slogans based on their political meaning, historical interpretation, or perceived offence to the Israel lobby. Bans risk burdening our implied freedom of political communication, creating vague restrictions inconsistent with our democratic norms.

Conclusion

We urge the Committee to reaffirm the sufficiency of existing NSW and Commonwealth laws; Reject slogan-specific prohibitions; Emphasise enforcement against actual threats, intimidation, and violence and protect both community safety and implied freedoms of political communication.

A Zionist Lobby driven inquiry:

The Australian Zionist lobby do not shy away from actively lobbying the Premier Chris Minns to ban any criticism of Israeli slaughter of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in Gaza. The occupation of the West bank and the occupation and the daily Israeli killing of Lebanese people in South Lebanon. To achieve this, the lobby needs Premier Minns to curb dissent and gag free speech and ban anti-Israeli slogans under the guise of the need to provide laws to protect against incitement to hate. Sadly, Premier Minns has since his Israeli paid trip to Israel in 2003 as a political staffer, taken the Israeli side of the Palestine debate and today stands unambiguously alongside the Israel Lobby that seeks to silence criticism of Israeli genocide in Gaza and Israel's ongoing killing and destruction in Southern Lebanon. Premier Minns has now undeniably aligned himself with the Israel lobby and dug himself, neck deep, in the pro-Zionist trenches.

In seeking to ban certain slogans, Premier Minns has alleged or implied that the pro Palestine side is using slogans, chants and symbols to intimidate, instill fear and incite

violence against our Australian Jewish community. This is factually incorrect, misleading, deceptive and simply wrong.

Slogans, like “global intifada” allegedly inciting violence against our Jewish Australian communities have never been said at the many anti genocide Hyde Park rallies that I, as convenor of the Arabic Friends of Labor, have attended. The fact is I have never heard it.

Furthermore, at almost every rally there was an Australian of Jewish faith, amongst the speakers, condemning the war and demanding that it be “Not in our name”. So, we reject outright the claim that antiwar or anti occupation slogans are a “threat” to the Australian Jewish community. Not one hate inciting violence words were said against the NSW Jewish community at the rallies I attended that I could recall.

The Premier or the committee need to explain to the people of NSW, how, a phrase like "globalise the intifada," poses a threat to community cohesion in Australia? Does the Premier believe that there will be an uprising in Australia if the word ‘intifada’ is globalised? If so, the Premier must explain what exactly the intifada in Sydney will be against? Would it be against housing shortage, rental prices, unemployment, high gas prices, fishing license?

The reason the Lobby or the Premier want to ban the word ‘intifada’, which translates to uprising or “shaking off” , we believe, have nothing to do with whether or not there will be an intifada or an uprising in Sydney, but because the word Intifada has become a household word understood by people across the globe to mean an uprising against Israeli oppression, occupation and apartheid. The Israel lobby want to erase any reference to the word intifada and by extension to any reference to Israel as a settler colonial state occupying Palestine, the land of indigenous Palestinians.

By banning the slogan or the words, they want to erase a part of Palestinian history in their struggle against occupation and subjugation by a settler colonialist occupation force. So, they want to deny any reference to Palestinian Intifada so that mainstream and multicultural Australians do not know, have no knowledge of Palestinian history within the context of the rightful resistance to illegal occupation. The Intifada or the uprising occurred between 1987 and 1993 after an Israeli truck plowed into two vehicles in Gaza killing four Palestinians. The second intifada took place 2000-2005.

If the committee ban the word ‘intifada’ today, what next? Will you ban the word ‘Nakba’ and then delete Arabic names of Palestinian cities and villages till the Zionists erase all traces of Indigenous Palestinians and their ties to land.

How would a phrase for instance that says “Netanyahu is a war criminal” impact on Sydney’s Jewish community and their safety? It doesn’t. How would the phrase “from the river to the sea” compromise community harmony in Australia? It doesn’t. To claim that

there are a cause and effect, then there must be a connection and that connection must be shown and proven.

What's the connection in being critical of Israeli war crimes with the local Jewish community? How do slogans that are critical of or express an opposition to occupation, oppression and slaughter in Gaza, that's roughly 14,200km away from Sydney, adversely impact on social harmony and cohesion in NSW? It doesn't. But for the Zionist lobby and their political bots, this is how you manufacture and dish blame onto your opposition? In reality, this is no more than a shameful act of scapegoating and an attempt to distract from what Netanyahu's Israel continues to do in Gaza and in South Lebanon but also to silence criticism of Israel's genocide in NSW and in Australia.

How can a phrase be 'inherently' hateful? The committee will have to explain how a phrase is 'inherently' hateful? The Committee will need to show how any word or slogan can incite hate? How a word like "Intifada" be the trigger for hate in Australia? We know we have laws to protect against hate. We have laws against racial and religious vilification, we have laws that protect us against express acts of racism, sexism, and other forms of anti-discrimination laws that would if properly applied protect all Australian communities.

This political push to ban words, phrases, etc. and introduce new laws, is clearly a desperate attempt to find ways to gag Australians from being critical of Israel and those who are committing violent crimes and slaughter of innocent women and children and unarmed civilians in ways humanity has never witnessed before.

If we start banning pro Palestine slogans will that mean the state government will also ban anti-Zionist Jewish community slogans like "Not in our name." or "Jews reject genocide," or "Never again means never again for anyone" because certain section like the pro Zionists within the Australian Jewish community may find them offensive to their Zionist cause?

Will the state government consider banning for instance "Australia Day" because it is seen by indigenous Australians as celebrating invasion and because it offends Aboriginal Australians? Will we ban the words "invasion day" because it offends certain sections within our Australian community?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities use a range of slogans and phrases, often tied to protest, survival, sovereignty, and justice. Are we going to ban, for instance, acknowledgement to country? Are we going to ban the phrase "always was, always will be Aboriginal land"? Are we then going to ban Palestinian slogans "Palestine was and will always be Palestinian land"? what about the phrase: "Sovereignty Was Never Ceded." Or "Change the Date". What about "No Pride in Genocide"?

Will our state government ban slogans “Black Lives Matter,” or “Stop Black Deaths in Custody”? The fact is these and other slogans do not incite hatred; they never intend to other than to convey the truth of what had happened to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They speak of the pain and the suffering, the brutality, the death, the incarceration and the near annihilation of a people- not too dissimilar to what is happening to the Palestinian people today but perhaps with greater brutality.

Just as indigenous Australians have such rights so do indigenous Palestinians of all faiths Muslim, Christian and Jewish and all sects within those faiths have a right to respect and to live in dignity, safety, peace and harmony.

Many Arab Australians for instance take offence to the Israeli flag in the same manner people of the Jewish faith take offence to the Nazi flag. Many Lebanese Australians who suffered under Israeli occupation take offence to the Israeli flag. To them the Israeli flag represents occupation, oppression, apartheid, slaughter and genocide. To the Palestinians it is a symbol of a killing machine. It represents brutality. It represents 77 years of occupation, dehumanisation and deligitimisation of an entire people.

For the Lebanese people, the Israeli flag represents intimidation, oppression and occupation and annexation of Lebanese villages including Shiba Farms and the seven other Lebanese villages occupied by Israel post 1948. Lebanese Australians have every right to take offence against the Israeli flag, but they don't ask for it to be banned. Unless of course, the Minns Government sets a precedent.

Arab Australians do take offence against many slogans or phrases Israeli Zionists use such as “Greater Israel”, “from the river Euphrates to the river Nile.” Or that Jewish people are the ‘chosen people’ amongst others. These phrases are seen by many people as racist, settler colonialist and in nature offensive to the sensibilities of many Australians. Will we now expect Parliament to create a list of words, slogans, phrases, symbols and flags and photos and images to ban?

If slogans can be banned because they are seen as threatening, then it would open the flood gates for future bans on the rights of any other community to speak out against their suffering, the Russians and the Ukrainians for example. We could see for instance certain lobby groups target Indigenous justice protests, Anti-war protests, Anti-government chants, climate activism slogans and chants or slogans by trade unions or student movements. Is this what we want to see happen in NSW?

Chants are political symbols; they are not criminal acts. Why are we being asked to criminalise slogans or chants that express solidarity with the victims of genocide anywhere? We must remember that slogans are a collective expression of moral outrage

and social change as in anti-apartheid protests, Vietnam War protests, Aboriginal land rights and Anti-Iraq War demonstrations, Kashmiri rights etc. and so forth.

Sadly, the Israel lobby has seen an opportunity to exploit the Bondi massacre and so has called on Premier Minns to curtail our right to speak against genocide. It represented yet another chance to silence Australians from exposing the murderous, genocidal crimes the Israeli government has perpetrated against innocent Palestinian civilians – all with the aim of ethnically cleansing and ultimately taking over what's left of Palestine.

You don't need to believe us in the Arabic Friends of Labor and the many members of the Labor party who support justice for Palestine. You don't need to take our words for it. We have had relatives slaughtered and villages in Gaza and in South Lebanon methodically flattened, trees uprooted, soil poisoned with banned phosphorus chemical weapons, and the millions of cluster bombs Israel has dropped over the years has rendered much fertile land useless. The evils of Zionism did not stop there, even the dead in their cemeteries in South Lebanon as it was in Gaza were bulldozed by the most immoral army in the world.

You don't need to listen to us in the Australian Labor Party - the Party of Gough Whitlam, Paul Keating, Kevi Rudd, Anthony Albanese, Bob Carr, Gareth Evans, Wayne Swan and the many others who stood with and continue to stand with Justice for Palestine. If you don't believe our Labor leadership, then take it from the many Labor branches, the rank and file who have condemned Israeli killing of 20,000 plus children in Gaza.

If you are unconvinced by our claim, then take it from the independent UN Special Rapporteurs such as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 – Francisca Albanese, or our very own Australian Commissioner of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel Mr. Chris Sidoti and Ben Saul UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and a leading international law expert. They will tell you of the level of brutality and cruelty the settler colonial state of Israel has meted on the Palestinian people for the past 77 years.

If still unconvinced, then take it from likeminded European and other Western human rights and Legal institutions who have painstakingly painted a clear and unambiguous picture of Israel's calculated cold-blooded genocide in Gaza.

If as a committee or as parliament you are still unconvinced, then listen to former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, or Moshe Yaalon, former Israeli defence minister accusing Netanyahu's Israel of committing war crimes in Gaza or hear out the ex IDF chief Herzi Halevi confirming Gaza casualties over 200,000. Or just listen to Jewish writers and

academics like our own Australians Anthony Lowenstein, Peter Slezak and others and the many internationally renowned Jewish academics including Norman Finkelstein, Noam Chomsky, Richard Falk, Gabor Mate, Avi Shlaim, Miko Peled, Bernie Sanders, Max Blumental, Jeffrey Sachs, Shlomo Sand and others who are vocal and are unequivocal in their presentation of the brutality of Israeli occupation of Palestine.

No matter how many slogans and chants Premier Minns and the Lobby seek to ban, the facts and the truth of the genocide speak louder than words. The images of shredded bodies of tiny children are there for all to see.

Australians are certainly not hateful of the Australian Jewish community - why would they be? The Australian Jewish community has not committed or supported atrocities against Palestinians or contributed to the genocide in Gaza or the West Bank or against the Lebanese in Southern Lebanon. The state of Israel and its Zionist ideologues have. They have supported the genocide as has its President Isaac Herzog, whose invitation to Australia should be revoked, its Prime Minister, its ministers and the Israeli government have, and they should be trialed for war crimes. They are to blame for the genocide, and this is why they are wanted by the ICC and the ICJ.

While without a doubt some people in Australia are antisemitic, and the evidence is there for all to see, there is no denying that. All forms of racism must be stamped out. This for us as migrants is even more urgent. We all suffer the indignity of abuse and insult because of who we are, what colour we are and what race and what religion we believe in and what we wear. So, antisemitism is as much a fact as it is of racism against Muslim Australians, Palestinian Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, against Sudanese, against Indians and Asians and so forth and so on and that's a sad fact but we must do all we can to stamp out.

The overwhelming number of Australians, however, are certainly not hateful of our Jewish Australians. Though the overwhelming number of Australians, are opposed to war and opposed to Israeli war crimes and the war criminals and are critical of Israel and those that have supported the slaughter of Palestinian civilians. We've all witnessed Australians rally in opposition to racism and to war crimes. We've seen this in the two year long, weekly rallies at Hyde Park Sydney and in Australia's largest ever antiwar protest on Sydney's Harbour Bridge. Their message is against war and genocide and in support of Justice for the people of Palestine.

If the government is serious about protecting communities, as I know the overwhelming majority of members of parliament are, then Premier Minns must actively utilise existing state and federal laws to tackle incitement to violence and not manufacture illegitimate

claims and create laws based on political pressure. There is no need to ban slogans and silence legitimate political dissent. Community safety can be protected by enforcing existing criminal laws, anti-discrimination and anti-vilification laws. The government should target actual threats or harassment not slogans. Parliament should enhance policing of actual criminal behaviour, target the terrorists not the legitimate citizens opposing war crimes.

Premier Minns should protect and speak of protection of all communities including all people of the Christian faiths, the Islamic faiths, the Jewish, the Sikh, the Hindu, the Buddhist the Shinto and all multicultural Australian communities but without criminalising and jeopardising the citizens' legitimate right to political communication.

What we see instead is an attack on critics of Israel and the intent to depict them as a problem more so than the people who in fact attack Jews and are antisemitic. The agenda today, is not to attack the terrorists, as it seems, but the activists that are exposing the terrorists, and labeling them as key generators of antisemitism.

In a December 2025 report published by the Israeli Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, titled: Deligitimisation and Antisemitism in Australia- A Snapshot. October -December 2025, Israel seeks to deligitimise peace activists, the justice movements as well as the pro Palestine organisations in Australia. As one commentator, Damien Willey notes, Israel seeks to fuse anti-Jewish hatred with political speech opposing Israeli state policy.....and treats the fusion as settled fact", no demonstration offered. No causal mechanism established. "Proximity is enough", "Opposition is enough," he notes.

We hope that we are in this inquiry not in the same situation. Those behind this inquiry are not interested in proving the links or causal effects of slogans to hate and subsequently to violence. Because they simply can't and there is no evidence to show otherwise. They are not interested in establishing the facts and the connections between slogans and harm – cause and effect. They know they can't. They know it's far easier to simply suggest it and based on suggestion ban anti-Israel slogans through legislation and regulation. It's easier to simply fuse political slogans with alleged anti-Jewish hatred as settled facts. No demonstration needed, no causal mechanism required. Proximity between slogans and hate is enough for Premier Minns to legislate it into law.

The Arab and Islamic communities condemn the Bondi Massacre.

The Arab Australian communities of all faiths object to violence and condemned the horrors of the Bondi massacre and what it represents. They were loud and clear. They neither minced words nor politicised or exploited grief or the tragedy and the blood of

innocent civilians for political leverage. They have described the killings for what they were – an abhorrent act of terror. Their anger, their shock and their outpouring of grief was real. Theirs was a genuine rejection of all forms of violence and opposition to all forms of hate.

As newly arrived immigrants to Australia, they valued Australia and what Australia stood for. They valued the principles of equality and of a fair go for all. They valued peace, freedom and democracy. They valued the liberties and the rights embedded in our Australian culture and enshrined in our Australian constitution.

Arab – Muslim and Christian Australian communities – know of the horrors of war and of the senselessness of violence. They are alive to the ever-present threat in ideologies of hate. Many have had firsthand experiences of terror perpetrated upon them by terrorist organisations like ISIS, the IDF, Jabhat Al Nusra and the many shades of terror-inspired groups.

The heartfelt condemnation by Arab and Islamic Australian communities of the attack on innocent civilians in Bondi has filled much of the social media platforms. However, they did not play politics with the victims of terror. They were direct, transparent and genuine.

An attitude the mainstream Australian community rarely sees – given the dominant anti-Palestinian/ anti-Muslim/ anti-Arab narrative in pro-Zionist / pro-Israel mainstream Australian media.

The mainstream English-speaking community therefore deserved to know that culturally diverse Australians are a peace-loving people who oppose all forms of terror, all forms of violence and all forms of hate.

Sadly, much of our media and some of our political leaderships are in lockstep with the likes of Netanyahu and the extremist Zionist propaganda machine that – without hesitation – weaponize grief and use the miseries of civilians to serve their own political and foreign agenda. Let's not forget the wave of fake alleged antisemitic attacks in NSW much of it was leveraged for political purpose.

This is why they and certain leaders don't even hesitate in making the outrageously false claim that the anti-genocide Sydney protests promote hate and violence against the Australian Jewish community. This is why they have no qualms in asserting that Prime Minister Albanese's recognition of Palestine has contributed to hate of Jews in Australia. No evidence of any connection between recognition of Palestine and such abhorrent terrorist act as we saw in Bondi. If there were a connection, why didn't we see any acts of terror attacks in the 156 other countries that have recognised the state of Palestine?

This push to propagate the Israeli narrative is clearly part of a broader campaign now taking place across the pro-Zionist western media – to amplifying anti-Palestinian specific Bondi beach shooting talking points. A Zionist campaign that has somehow found its way into the NSW Premier’s office and onto his press statements. Here are some examples Caitlin Johnstone sites in her Dec 17, 2025, article: Israel Propagandists Are Uniformly Spouting the Exact same line About the Bondi Shooting:

“Bondi Beach Is What ‘Globalize the Intifada’ Looks Like”

~ **Bret Stephens, New York Times.**

“The Intifada Comes to Australia”

~ **Walter Russell Mead, Wall Street Journal.**

“Shooting at Bondi Beach is what a globalized intifada looks like”

~ **Herb Keinon, Jerusalem Post**

“Palestinian propaganda has globalized the intifada”

~ **Zachary Faria, Washington Examiner**

“Bondi Beach massacre is what globalizing the intifada looks like”

~ **Vivian Bercovici, National Post**

“Chanting ‘globalise the intifada’ leads to Bondi Beach”

~ **Danny Cohen, The Telegraph**

Now we can add Premier Chris Minns to this list for spouting the exact same line about the Bondi massacre “globalise the Intifada” as another Israeli propagandist.

Sadly, this campaign has already born fruit for the alleged war criminal Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Australian Israel lobby as Premier Minns pronounced verbatim his opposition to “globalize intifada” as hate speech. I have attended many of the Sydney protests since October 7, 2023, and strangely enough I have never heard this chant or slogan. This is why we can claim that the outcome of this inquiry has largely been predetermined and I would be surprised if the amending Bill on alleged “hate slogans” is not already in draft form if not in discussion.

So, let’s see who plays on hate. Is it the Pro Israel side or the pro Palestine side. Compare the Zionist propaganda and the play on hate and division with the heartfelt statements of peace and harmony as posted on social media by Arab and Islamic community organisations across Australia. For instance: The Arab Council Australia expressed shock and profound sorrow following the mass shooting at the Jewish community gathering celebrating Hanukkah at Bondi. The statement said: “We extend our deepest condolences and solidarity to the victims, their families and loved ones, to those

who were injured and are fighting for their lives, and to all who witnessed this traumatic event. We also extend our condolences to the wider Australian community, as this tragedy has affected us all.”

Similarly, The Australian Federation of Islamic Council (AFIC) also expressed its “deep sorrow and heartfelt support for all those affected by the tragic shooting incident at Bondi Beach. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, friends, and all members of the community who have been shaken by this senseless act of violence.”

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) was equally forthright in its statement noting that ANIC “unequivocally condemns ISIS as an evil, dangerous terrorist organisation whose actions and ideology stand in complete opposition to the teachings of Islam and the values upheld by Muslims worldwide.”

In its press release, the Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) unequivocally condemned the horrific acts of violence and “... Like all Australians, we are grieving, shocked and seeking answers.”

The Supreme Islamic Shiite Council of Australia also condemned the act of terror noting that “There is no justification – religious, moral, or otherwise – for terrorism or violence against innocent people. Such acts are a betrayal of humanity and stand in complete opposition to the values of Islam, which upholds the sanctity of life, peace, and compassion.”

The Maronite Eparchy of Australia New Zealand and Oceania expressed shock and sadness by the news of the shootings: “We pray for all those that have been killed or injured and our thoughts are with their families and the community...”

In its statement Arrahman Association – Kingsgrove, emphasised the “need to respect public order in Australia and to spread a message of love, peace, and tolerance, and to reject messages of racism and hatred...”

His Grace Bishop Rewis of the Coptic Church Melbourne expressed his community’s deep sorrow noting that “such acts of terror are an affront to people of all faiths, an assault on human dignity and a wound to the soul of our nation.”

Finally, as one of many Pakistani community statements noted: “This is a moment for all Australians, including the Pakistan community, to stand together in unity, compassion, and solidarity, rejecting violence in all its forms and affirming our shared commitment to social harmony...”

The politicisation and exploitation of the blood of innocent civilians massacred at Bondi Beach to drive Zionist propaganda and to propagate an anti-protest agenda must be unequivocally condemned and rejected.

Any attempt to stomp out criticism of Israel's genocidal atrocities must also be rejected.

Together we must stand united against genocide and all forms of violence and hate and be vigilant against a divisive right wing foreign political agenda.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and all those affected by this horrific act of terror. Similarly, our thoughts and prayers are with the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese killed and injured in Gaza, the West Bank and in southern Lebanon.

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Convenor- Arabic Friends of Labor

NSW.