

**Submission
No 63**

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT SLOGANS THAT INCITE HATRED

Organisation: The University of New South Wales Student Representative Council

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The Student Representative Council of UNSW is deeply concerned by any implication that the phrases referred to in the terms of reference of this inquiry pose a threat to social harmony. To police the use of language, and additionally the use of language from the Arabic-speaking community, is the definition of attacking social cohesion. Furthermore, the attempts made to try and tie such phrases to acts of terror is clearly an attempt to manufacture fractures in the social fabric.

This inquiry should take heed of the fact that to prohibit something is not to prevent it. The prohibition of the phrase cited, we strongly believe, would only further encourage its usage. Those seeking to protest the government would be handed the easiest method of protest imaginable.

It would be incredibly hurtful to our Arabic-speaking and our Palestinian community at UNSW, at a time when these communities are already hurt and unheard by the government. At a time when Islamophobia and Anti-semitism runs rampant, it is incredibly disappointing that the response of this government is to try to pit the Muslim and Jewish community against each other. We need to accept that there are differing views within and between these communities, without treating such discord as the downfall of our multicultural society.