

INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Submission in response to Portfolio NO. 5- Justice and Communities.

(a) The causes underlying the increasing prevalence and severity of antisemitic incidents across the state

The purported rise in antisemitism has been debunked by authorities that have claimed the spate of orchestrated pseudo attacks have been linked to organised crime that have been hired by a foreign player.

Authorities representing the NSW police and Australian Federal Police have deemed the incident, namely of a caravan laden with explosives that appeared to target the Jewish community were doctored incidents with the purpose of inflating the threat to the Jewish community in Australia.

None of the alleged offenders arrested showed “any form of antisemitic ideology” on the contrary they were vulnerable persons that had been hired at a measly cost through encrypted messaging applications. NSW Police Deputy Commissioner David Hudson told reporters the attackers were “orchestrated by an organised crime element and conducted to further their own causes”.

Furthermore, favouritism toward specific community members may foster resentment and create social divisions which may augment tensions. One may argue the term “antisemitism” is poorly used as it caters to a linguistic bias. Whilst it is used to specify discrimination against Jews, it excludes other semitic peoples including: Arabs, Assyrians, and Aramaic speaking peoples.

The selective application of terms is offensive and unacceptable. To address discrimination against any Semitic group, consider using "Semitism-phobia" to align with other terminology. If "antisemitism" is preferred, then "anti-Muslim bigotry and hatred" should be recognized as an equivalent term for discrimination against Muslims.

If antisemitism can be notably deemed to be on the rise it would more likely be due to the Zionist State of Israel which has been allegedly committing a genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank whilst conflating their state with the Jewish faith and using Jewish symbolism. This has been well documented in the ICJ (International Court of Justice) and ICC (The International Criminal Court) which has Issued arrest warrants against the Israeli leadership. The Zionist Israeli state has flagrantly and irresponsibly conflated their actions with the Jewish faith and in turn libelled the Jewish people.

(b) Record levels of antisemitism on university campuses and in schools undermining student safety.

This claim is contentious as there is no data to establish a threat to Jewish students on any campus. This claim can only be made due to the universities adopting a dubious definition by the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) which has broadened the definition to scapegoat

the war crimes committed by the Zionist state of Israel. 128 scholars argue that this definition will grant immunity to Israel from criticism for their crimes against humanity. ([128 scholars ask UN not to adopt IHRA definition of anti-Semitism | United Nations News | Al Jazeera](#))

The concerns for student safety should broadly include all students and not single out Jewish students for politically fuelled claims.

(c) The threat to social cohesion in New South Wales presented by antisemitism

While antisemitism, like any form of discrimination, poses a threat to social cohesion, it is a denial of reality to assert that it is the sole threat. Racism in all its manifestations, including anti-Muslim bigotry and hatred, jeopardizes the social fabric of New South Wales. Government policies must be equitable and consistent in addressing all forms of discrimination, rather than selectively prioritizing one over others. True social cohesion necessitates equal protection and respect for all communities.

The following are examples of anti-Muslim incidents across the country:

- **March 2025:** An online threat was made against the Australian Islamic House (AIH) in Edmondson Park, Sydney. A teenager in Western Australia was charged after threatening a "Christchurch 2.0" attack, referencing the 2019 terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Jewish Council of Australia condemned this threat, highlighting the broader trend of Islamophobia and rising far-right extremism in Australia.
- **February 2025:** Two Muslim women were physically attacked at a Melbourne shopping center amid rising Islamophobia. Victoria Police stated that the victims were targeted due to their head coverings and are treating the incidents as prejudice-motivated attacks.
- **December 2024:** A school bus belonging to an Adelaide Islamic College was torched in a midnight raid outside the driver's home.

These incidents reflect the pervasive nature of anti-Muslim bigotry and hatred, yet there has been no formal inquiry into anti-Muslim bigotry and hatred in New South Wales.

(d) How community safety might be enhanced, on behalf of the Jewish community

of New South Wales

The safety and security of the Jewish community, alongside all communities in New South Wales, must remain a paramount priority. To achieve this, government policies should be consistent and equitable, ensuring impartial protection for all individuals and avoiding perceptions of preferential treatment.

The ongoing conflict in Palestine has generated significant international condemnation. The Australian government's continued support for Israel's military operations risks inflaming societal tensions, potentially leading to misplaced hostility toward Jewish communities in New South Wales. To mitigate this risk, Jewish community leaders could play a pivotal role by publicly affirming a distinction between Jewish identity and the policies of the Israeli government. A clear condemnation of human rights violations, irrespective of perpetrator, would reinforce the principle that ethical

concerns transcend political allegiance. Such a stance would not only promote social cohesion but also help prevent the unjust attribution of responsibility to local Jewish communities for actions beyond their control.

(e) Enhancing Security Protocols for Synagogues

Security measures for places of worship, including synagogues, mosques, temples, and churches, should be strengthened through standardized protocols. These measures should encompass:

- **Increased Law Enforcement Presence:** Deploy heightened law enforcement around religious sites during periods of elevated risk.
- **Comprehensive Surveillance and Emergency Response Systems:** Implement robust surveillance and emergency response systems uniformly across all places of worship.
- **Community-Driven Security Initiatives:** Foster interfaith collaboration and mutual protection through community-driven security initiatives.

(f) Legal Provisions to Protect Individuals from the Practice of "Doxing" (Publishing Private Information Online Without Consent)

The right to privacy is a fundamental principle that must be upheld. However, the context in which private information is disclosed must also be considered. When individuals engage in hate speech or incitement to violence in private, the exposure of such information may serve a legitimate public interest. While unjustified doxing is to be unequivocally condemned, it is imperative that groups promoting hatred in private settings are held accountable.

Therefore, rather than imposing an outright ban on doxing, it is suggested that the government establish clear legal guidelines to differentiate between:

- 1) **Malicious Doxing:** The intentional release of private information with the intent to intimidate or harm individuals.
- 2) **Public Interest Disclosures:** The exposure of hate groups or individuals who incite violence.

These guidelines shall ensure the protection of individual privacy while addressing the need to hold accountable those who propagate hatred and violence.

(g) Privacy Protections for Publicly Available Personal Information

Public records containing identifiable details—such as land titles and electoral roll data—must be safeguarded to prevent their misuse for harassment, discrimination, or violence. While transparency is essential in a democratic society, it should never come at the expense of individual safety.

To mitigate risks, access to electoral rolls and land title records must be strictly regulated, particularly to prevent exploitation by hate groups or criminal organizations. Government agencies should enforce robust safeguards to ensure that sensitive personal information is only accessible for legitimate, authorized purposes.

(h) The Role of the Sydney Jewish Museum in Holocaust Education and Promoting Inclusive Learning

Holocaust education plays a vital role in fostering historical awareness and empathy, and institutions like the Sydney Jewish Museum contribute significantly to this mission. At the same time, a comprehensive education system should also acknowledge the histories and struggles of all communities, including those affected by conflict and injustice in places like Gaza. A balanced approach ensures that historical education remains fair, inclusive, and free from bias.

Schools and universities should prioritize curricula that promote mutual understanding, respect, and empathy across diverse narratives. Focusing exclusively on one group's suffering while neglecting others risks deepening divisions and fostering resentment. By adopting inclusive education policies—rather than selective narratives—we can build a more cohesive and tolerant society.

Additionally, while combating hate speech is crucial, overly restrictive laws may inadvertently suppress free expression and open dialogue. Rather than relying solely on legal restrictions, fostering constructive public discourse—where criticism of government policies, including those of Israel, is not conflated with antisemitism—can help maintain both social harmony and democratic freedoms.