

INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am Jewish, was born and raised in Israel, but have lived the last 35 years of my life in NSW.

Throughout my life in Australia I never experienced or witnessed any incident of Antisemitism. I don't believe Antisemitism is a major systemic problem in Australian society, despite the recent increase in the number of antisemitic incidents.

While antisemitism, like other forms of racism, exists in society, the recent increase in incidents is clearly triggered by the war in Gaza, the conduct of the Israeli state and the ongoing genocide of Palestinians.

The attempts by Zionist propagandists and mainstream media to characterise the protest movement on university campuses as "Antisemitic" is false!

While you may find the odd and rare expression of individual antisemitic sentiment, these do NOT represent the vast majority of participants, many of whom are Jewish!

While these protests are clearly anti-Zionist, they are NOT antisemitic.

To object to the genocide and slaughter of innocent Palestinian lives is NOT antisemitic.

To criticise the apartheid nature of the Israeli state and its structural racism is NOT antisemitic.

We have recently witnessed how quickly the "caravan loaded with explosives" hoax was used to propel fear and disinformation, with some assistance from government representatives, who should have known better!

We are also witnessing the Zionist Federation of Australia filing complaints of antisemitism in the federal court against journalists, including prominent figures like Mary Kostakidis, and others. Such bogus accusations are likely to fail, but their real aim is to intimidate and silence critics, and shut down any sensible public debate in this country about Israel and Palestine.

This inquiry should be mindful of not allowing itself to be used as a political tool by the Zionist lobby, whose aim is to exceptionalise antisemitism, and conflate anti-Zionism with antisemitism.

Such conflation is both false and insidious. It also represents the most present and imminent danger to the well being of Jewish communities in this country!

Real antisemitism can only be effectively confronted in solidarity with other marginalised minorities, and as a part of a broad anti-racism movement and advocacy.

Law and order responses against legitimate protest, and criminalisation of legitimate free speech, only serve to erode the democratic values of this country and further inflame public sentiment.