

come to give evidence yesterday, and we were asking about that. That's just some further detail for you. Thank you for your responses. I will go to the deputy chair, Senator Abetz.

**Senator ABETZ:** Thank you to the witnesses for their submissions. I know time is slipping away, so I will ask Mr Chiu a question. You seem to believe that Australian politics is too white. I just want to ask you whether or not you believe in the quote from Martin Luther King that people should not be judged by the colour of the skin but by the content of their character. Isn't that a more important characteristic in our body politic—that we have men and women of integrity, of commitment to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, general tolerance et cetera, as opposed to some physical characteristic that may have no bearing whatsoever on their capacity to be a representative of the people?

**Mr Chiu:** Thank you for the question. To give a bit of context: that was more to provoke a response rather than to explicitly say that. What I have suggested in my submission is targets. The purpose isn't to say that we must have people from a particular background, but the point was to prompt thinking and conversation about why we aren't reflective of the population. I think we can all agree that, in an ideal world, we would not need things like targets, but we know these kinds of mechanisms have worked when applied to, say, gender. If you look at the Liberal Party, for example, even it has targets for women, because it recognises underrepresentation. I don't think that the existence of targets is suggesting that we don't believe in equality or that people shouldn't be judged on the content of their character; rather it recognises that we live in an imperfect world and, to achieve equality, we have to think about equity.

**Senator ABETZ:** Can I simply say that, if we're talking about certain diaspora populations being underrepresented, if that were to be the criterion, then I, being an immigrant from a non-English-speaking background, representing the state of Tasmania, am overrepresenting that cohort of Tasmanians. There are other factors a lot more important to be considered than skin colour and ethnic origin, I would suggest to you. Can I ask each of the three witnesses to very briefly tell me whether they are willing to unconditionally condemn the Chinese Communist Party dictatorship? It's not a difficult question.

**Ms Jiang:** As I have stated in a lot of my public statements, I condemn the grievous human rights abuses done by the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party, but I also have said before that I don't think it's fair to force all Chinese Australians to take a position or political action when similar requests are not being made to other Australians.

**CHAIR:** Mr Chiu?

**Mr Chiu:** As I said previously, I support and believe in the universality of human rights. I don't support the Communist Party but I don't believe that it's helpful to get into a political game of denouncements.

**Senator ABETZ:** So you can't condemn it?

**Mr Chiu:** I think my statement was quite clear about how I don't support the Communist Party and I don't support what it does.

**Senator ABETZ:** There's a difference between not supporting something and actively condemning a regime that engages in forced organ harvesting and having a million Uighers in concentration camps—the list goes on, and all we have is this limp statement that we don't support it. Ms Chau?

**Ms Chau:** I think that all migrants should have a right to participate in Australian democracy and to be able to distinguish their ethnicity and race from dual political issues. As citizens, we should first and foremost be treated as every other citizen—and not every other Australian of any other ethnicity has been asked the same question. For example, in your distinguished political career, Senator, have you been asked to be loyal to Australia because you were born in Germany?

**Senator ABETZ:** Oh, absolutely! Have you not read the terrible trolling that I receive? I am astounded that you would ask that question! And, sadly, if you're of Italian origin you will be asked if you're part of the Mafioso—

**Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS:** That's right!

**Senator ABETZ:** If you're Vietnamese you'll be asked if you're part of a triad. If you're German, like myself, you must be a Fascist by birth, irrespective of what your public utterances might be. And so the list goes on. That is why, might I add, that in nearly every single interview that I do unequivocally condemning the Chinese Communist Party I stress that this is not a condemnation of the Chinese people—because I believe that they are just as freedom loving as every other human being on the planet—but that I am condemning the regime under which they suffer, just as much as not all Germans were Nazis, or all Russians communists, or all Italians part of the Mafioso or Vietnamese part of the triads. But, as German-born, can I say that I have no difficulty in saying