



To:

[Committee, PJCIS \(REPS\)](#)

Subject:

Submission on Exposure Draft: Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026

Date:

Tuesday, 13 January 2026 10:46:19 PM

Dear Committee Secretary,

I wish to make a public submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security regarding the Exposure Draft of the Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026.

While I support measures to address antisemitism and all forms of racism, I am concerned that the Bill, as currently framed, risks undermining freedom of expression and disproportionately impacting Palestinian voices and those advocating for Palestinian human rights.

International experience demonstrates this risk clearly. In the United Kingdom, expansive counter-extremism and terrorism powers have been used to criminalise peaceful protest and political expression related to Palestine, including arrests for holding signs or expressing support for non-violent advocacy groups. These developments have been widely criticised by civil liberties organisations and UN experts as a dangerous conflation of political dissent with extremism.

In Australia, there is already evidence that criticism of Israeli state policy, including discussion of civilian harm and international humanitarian law in Gaza, is frequently mischaracterised as antisemitic or extremist. Without precise and narrow definitions, this Bill could further entrench that pattern, chilling legitimate speech, protest, academic discussion, and community advocacy.

I am particularly concerned that:

Vague or overly broad definitions of “extremism” may be used to suppress political speech rather than prevent violence;

Palestinian perspectives and community organising may be disproportionately targeted or silenced;

Legitimate criticism of foreign governments could be conflated with hatred toward ethnic or religious groups;

Enforcement may be influenced by coordinated complaint or lobbying campaigns rather than objective harm-based assessment.

The tragic events at Bondi must not be used to justify laws that curtail democratic freedoms or marginalise already vulnerable communities. Effective responses to hate must be carefully targeted at violence and genuine incitement, not peaceful advocacy or criticism of state conduct.

I urge the Committee to:

Ensure clear, narrow, and objective definitions of “extremism”;

Explicitly protect peaceful protest, political speech, and human rights advocacy;

Safeguard criticism of foreign states from being mislabelled as hate or extremism;

Include strong oversight and accountability mechanisms to prevent misuse.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Cheers,
Mohamed Shehab