

I am the son of a Holocaust survivor and emigrated here from the UK 28 years ago with my wife (whose grandmother was also a Holocaust survivor) and 3 children.

The reason for moving here at that time was that I saw the rise of antisemitism beginning to raise its ugly head in the UK and Europe and thought Australia's multicultural openness would provide a safe place to bring up our family, and, for most of that time, I was right to make this decision, based on that logic.

However, I saw the rise in antisemitism once again raise its ugly head during the 2014 Hamas-Israel War, and so, having retired some 3 years ago, I committed to becoming a volunteer Guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum, and for the past 2 years, I have had the honour of taking groups of non-Jewish students and adults through the Museum.

One of our roles as guides is to explain how the rise of antisemitism in Germany and Eastern Europe took hold over a period of unchecked racism, fanned by the flames of prejudice and falsehoods, perpetuated by people who lapped up the false ideology that Jews are the cause of all the problems in the world.

After the horrific terrorist massacres in Israel on October 7, 2023, I saw the immediate angry and widespread reaction to this, **not** as a condemnation of this barbaric act, but a massive campaign of hatred towards Jews and Israel enacted across the globe.

This was most notable on the steps of the Sydney Opera House on October 9, where pro-Palestine protestors rallied against the Opera House lights being lit up in support of Israel. They were openly shouting "F—ck the Jews" and "Gas the Jews" in front of a massive amount of police, and not one person was arrested for hate speech or incitement to riot.

Had the protestors shouted "F—ck the Gays" or "Gass the Aboriginals", I'm sure that would have resulted in mass arrests.

Then, across university campuses around the country, and especially here in Sydney, we saw this antisemitism rise from weekly Pro-Palestinian marches, with people waving Hamas (a listed terrorist organisation) flags, organising tent camp protestors sporting anti-Zionism and anti-Jewish flags, placards and banners, and harassing Jewish students and lecturers, with no action to clamp down on these misguided people from the University Chancellor.

These protests were like the rabid anti-Jewish protests and attacks that grew throughout Germany under the Nazi regime in the 1930's, but this time, they are reported to have

been organised by international pan-Islamist and fundamentalist political organisations.

As the late UK Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Sacks, stated “Antisemitism is a virus that mutates, so that new antisemites can deny they are antisemites at all, because their hate is different from the old. In the Middle Ages Jews were hated for their religion. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century they were hated for their race. Today they are hated for their nation state, Israel.”

This has been exemplified by the recent acquiescence by Sydney University to tolerate hate speech by caving in to its tent camp extremists, which is an absolute disgrace.

Therefore, I fully support the proposal for a Commission of Inquiry into Antisemitism at Australian Universities Bill 2024 (No. 2), put forward by Julian Leeser MP.