

Dear Sir / Madam

I wish to protest the planned legislation known as the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

The right to freedom of speech and expression is one of the touchstones of a democratic society and legislation that impedes those freedoms can not be of benefit to this nation. They have a flow on affect to our religious freedom, something that we have treasured in the past. I understand for example that amongst other things the bill reverses the onus of proof on respondents in complaint matters. This is a denial of natural justice.

I especially note that former NSW chief justice Mr Spiegelman, as reported in the media in the last few days, has even condemned the proposed bill

I hope, and I ask, that the enquiry committee will recommend that the legislation not go ahead.

Yours sincerely

Fr David J Smith