

# Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Review of the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group

April 17, 2026

## Recommendations

1. AIJAC recommends that the PJCIS not recommend the disallowance of the *Criminal Code (Prohibited Hate Group-Hizb ut-Tahrir) Regulations 2026*
2. AIJAC recommends that the PJCIS urge the Australian Government to seek to have social media platforms remove Stand for Palestine from their platforms on the basis that they are run by and/or coordinate with a proscribed hate group

## Introduction

The Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) as part of its review of the decision to list Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT) as a prohibited hate group under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.

AIJAC is the premier independent public affairs organisation for the Australian Jewish community. It regularly engages with Australian governments, parliamentarians and agencies on issues of national security, counter-terrorism, antisemitism and social cohesion.

AIJAC welcomes the listing of HuT. The decision to list HuT as a prohibited hate group is an important and necessary step in confronting the spread of extremist ideology that threatens social cohesion, public safety and the fundamental values of Australian society.

HuT has a long history of promoting an extremist Islamist ideology, rejecting liberal democratic values, spreading antisemitism, glorifying violence against Jews and Israel, and contributing to communal division. Indeed, AIJAC has written about how HuT's Australian branch has promoted antisemitism, communal hatred and anti-democratic ideologies for many years.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Ahron Shapiro, "Anti-Israel conspiracy theorists try to link Israel with Beirut port blast", *Fresh AIR*, August 12, 2020, <https://aijac.org.au/fresh-air/anti-israel-conspiracy-theorists-try-to-link-israel-with-beirut-port-blast/>; Ran Porat, "The hateful rhetoric of Hizb ut-Tahrir Australia", *Australia/Israel Review*, October 2020,

This submission is intended to assist the PJCIS in its statutory review by explaining why the listing is justified and why there is no basis for disallowance.

It further suggests to the PJCIS that HuT continues to operate social media accounts, and recommends that the PJCIS urge the Australian Government to take relevant actions to address this.

## AIJAC supported the legislation that enabled this listing

AIJAC supported the legislative changes that created the prohibited hate group framework and enabled organisations such as HuT to be listed under the *Criminal Code*.<sup>2</sup> AIJAC has long argued that Australia’s legal framework needed to be strengthened to better address extremist organisations that didn’t meet the technical threshold for terrorist proscription, but which nevertheless promote hatred, incitement and communal harm.<sup>3</sup>

Requests have been made for HuT to be proscribed as a terrorist group in Australia over the past two decades. In 2007, then-Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock said the views of HuT Australia were “inimicable with a liberal democratic society” but that the group did not meet the Commonwealth’s criteria for banning.<sup>4</sup>

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<https://aijac.org.au/australia-israel-review/the-hateful-rhetoric-of-hizb-ut-tahrir-australia/>; Ran Porat, “Yet more extremist voices in Australia exposed”, *Australia/Israel Review*, December 2020, <https://aijac.org.au/australia-israel-review/yet-more-extremist-voices-in-australia-exposed/>; *Submission from the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) to the Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria*, May 2022, [https://aijac.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/019\\_Australia\\_Israel\\_Jewish\\_Affairs\\_Council.pdf](https://aijac.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/019_Australia_Israel_Jewish_Affairs_Council.pdf); Ran Porat, “More Hate from HT”, *Australia/Israel Review*, November 2022, <https://aijac.org.au/australia-israel-review/more-hate-from-ht/>; Ran Porat, “Hateful to the end”, *Australia/Israel Review*, March 2026, <https://aijac.org.au/australia-israel-review/hateful-to-the-end/>;

<sup>2</sup> See “AIJAC welcomes Hate Crimes legislation”, Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council, January 21, 2026, <https://aijac.org.au/media-release/aijac-welcomes-hate-crimes-legislation/>.

<sup>3</sup> See, for examples, Colin Rubenstein, “Hate Speech and Terrorism”, *Australia/Israel Review*, June 2006, <https://aijac.org.au/australia-israel-review/editorial-hate-speech-and-terrorism/>; *AIJAC’s submission to the Australian Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security regarding extremist movements and radicalism in Australia*, February 2021, <https://aijac.org.au/submissions/aijacs-submission-to-the-australian-parliamentary-joint-committee-on-intelligence-and-security-regarding-extremist-movements-and-radicalism-in-australia/>; “AIJAC welcomes ‘critically important’ Victorian report into anti-vilification laws and recommendation to ban Nazi symbols”, Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council, March 3, 2021, <https://aijac.org.au/media-release/aijac-welcomes-critically-important-victorian-report-into-anti-vilification-laws-and-recommendation-to-ban-nazi-symbols/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;adv=yes;orderBy=customrank;page=0;query=%22hizb%20ut-tahrir%22%20Decade%3A%222000s%22;rec=11;resCount=Default>

The Australian Government re-considered the status of the organisation in 2015<sup>5</sup> but again decided against proscribing it.

The matter was again raised in 2017 and then-Attorney-General George Brandis said the Government would keep the organisation “carefully under review”. Brandis told media that ASIO was asked to “refresh” its advice on HuT Australia but the advice came back that the group did not “meet the threshold”.<sup>6</sup>

What has not been addressed by successive governments – until now – is the continued sense of threat that the Australian Jewish community experienced while HuT operated freely in Australia.

## The listing is justified and should not be disallowed

The Explanatory Statement accompanying the *Criminal Code (Prohibited Hate Group-Hizb ut-Tahrir) Regulations 2026* makes clear that the statutory threshold for listing was met.<sup>7</sup> The AFP Minister was satisfied on reasonable grounds that HuT had advocated engaging in conduct constituting a hate crime, and that specifying the organisation as a prohibited hate group was reasonably necessary to protect the Australian community, or part of it, from social, psychological and physical harm.<sup>8</sup>

In particular, the Explanatory Statement records that HuT praised attacks that would constitute hate crimes if carried out in Australia, including the Hamas terrorist attack of October 7, 2023. It further states that there is an unacceptable risk that such praise might have the effect of leading a person to engage in conduct constituting a hate crime, and that HuT’s rhetoric and propaganda have previously served as a conduit for radicalisation to violence.<sup>9</sup>

AIJAC has previously documented examples of HuT figures publicly spreading antisemitic hatred, engaging in Holocaust denial, promoting conspiracy theories, refusing to unequivocally condemn ISIS, and calling for the destruction of Israel and the expulsion of Jews from it.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Ben McClellan, “Hizb ut-Tahrir won’t condemn Islamic State death cult”, *Daily Telegraph*, February 19, 2015, <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/hizb-uttahrir-wont-condemn-islamic-state-deathcult/news-story/032b37b7c4f33c4b7f4b5428b81b5184>.

<sup>6</sup> Transcript of interview with Peter van Onselen, Sky News, 31 May 2017, <https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;adv=yes;orderBy=customrank;page=0;query=%22hizb%20ut-tahrir%22;rec=4;resCount=Default>

<sup>7</sup> Explanatory Statement, *Criminal Code (Prohibited Hate Group-Hizb ut-Tahrir) Regulations 2026*.

<sup>8</sup> Explanatory Statement, *Criminal Code (Prohibited Hate Group-Hizb ut-Tahrir) Regulations 2026*.

<sup>9</sup> Explanatory Statement, *Criminal Code (Prohibited Hate Group-Hizb ut-Tahrir) Regulations 2026*.

<sup>10</sup> See, for example, Ahron Shapiro, “Anti-Israel conspiracy theorists try to link Israel with Beirut port blast”, *Fresh AIR*, August 12, 2020, <https://aijac.org.au/fresh-air/anti-israel-conspiracy-theorists-try-to-link-israel-with-beirut>

The case for action against HuT is tied to the real and cumulative effect of the organisation's conduct on targeted communities in Australia, especially the Jewish community. HuT's rhetoric is not simply offensive political speech but part of an ideological project that dehumanises Jews, legitimises violence, undermines social cohesion and creates a permissive environment for hatred and intimidation.

For these reasons, AIJAC recommends that the PJCIS not recommend the disallowance of the *Criminal Code (Prohibited Hate Group-Hizb ut-Tahrir) Regulations 2026*.

## Hizb ut-Tahrir's social media presence

There is evidence to suggest that HuT runs pages named "Stand for Palestine" on a number of social media platforms, even though it does not brand these as HuT-run pages. Given that HuT is a prohibited hate group, it stands to reason that social media companies should be asked by the Australian Government to remove these pages.

Investigative reporting by Nine Newspapers, *Channel 9's "60 Minutes"* and News Corp mastheads demonstrates that senior HuT personnel play a central role in creating, administering and amplifying ostensibly independent social media pages that function as de facto front organisations.

These platforms have enabled the group to extend its reach beyond its limited formal membership and embed its messaging within broader pro-Palestinian activist groups.

A prominent example is the "Stand For Palestine" campaign, which emerged shortly after the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks.

A social media account that was previously called and associated with a "Stand4Uyghurs" campaign was rapidly repurposed and rebranded to become "Stand For Palestine".<sup>11</sup>

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[port-blast/](https://www.aifj.org.au/australia-israel-review/the-hateful-rhetoric-of-hizb-ut-tahrir-australia/); Ran Porat, "The hateful rhetoric of Hizb ut-Tahrir Australia, *Australia/Israel Review*, October 2020, <https://www.aifj.org.au/australia-israel-review/the-hateful-rhetoric-of-hizb-ut-tahrir-australia/>; Ran Porat, "Yet more extremist voices in Australia exposed", *Australia/Israel Review*, December 2020, <https://www.aifj.org.au/australia-israel-review/yet-more-extremist-voices-in-australia-exposed/>; *Submission from the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) to the Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria*, May 2022, [https://www.aifj.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/019\\_Australia\\_Israel\\_Jewish\\_Affairs\\_Council.pdf](https://www.aifj.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/019_Australia_Israel_Jewish_Affairs_Council.pdf); Ran Porat, "More Hate from HT", *Australia/Israel Review*, November 2022, <https://www.aifj.org.au/australia-israel-review/more-hate-from-ht/>; Ran Porat, "Hateful to the end", *Australia/Israel Review*, March 2026, <https://www.aifj.org.au/australia-israel-review/hateful-to-the-end/>;

<sup>11</sup> Nick McKenzie, Marta Pascual Juanola and Anne Worthington, "They divide': Group banned in the UK eyes Australian division over war", *Sydney Morning Herald*, June 16, 2024, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/they-prey-on-people-group-banned-in-the-uk-eyes-australian-division-over-war-20240613-p5jlqg.html>

While presented publicly as a grassroots pro-Palestinian initiative, evidence indicates that it has been closely linked to HuT figures. Senior HuT activists and associates are involved in content production, group administration and event organisation, including through WhatsApp and Telegram channels managed by HuT-linked individuals both in Australia and overseas.<sup>12</sup>

As of April 2026, the scale of this operation is significant, with the “Stand For Palestine” Instagram account attracting approximately 74,000 followers<sup>13</sup> and its Facebook page approximately 126,000 followers.<sup>14</sup>

This use of social media front groups serves multiple strategic purposes. First, it allows HuT to obscure its direct involvement behind more broadly appealing branding, thereby reducing the reputational barriers associated with its extremist ideology.

Secondly, it enables the group to insert itself into legitimate protest movements and community campaigns, using widely supported causes as vehicles to introduce and normalise its narratives.

“Stand For Palestine” played a prominent role in the pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Sydney during 2024<sup>15</sup>, with its social media accounts generating and disseminating a continuous stream of content promoting events, messaging and mobilisation activities.<sup>16</sup>

As one extremism expert cited in Nine Newspapers observed, HuT is adept at “using front groups to mask their operations” and leveraging popular causes to “push their agenda” and recruit followers.

Importantly, these activities are not confined to isolated accounts but involve coordinated networks of social media account holders.

HuT-linked individuals routinely collaborate across platforms, sharing content, cross-promoting events, and reinforcing messaging through multiple channels.

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<sup>12</sup> Nick McKenzie, Marta Pascual Juanola and Anne Worthington, “‘They divide’: Group banned in the UK eyes Australian division over war”, Sydney Morning Herald, June 16, 2024, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/they-prey-on-people-group-banned-in-the-uk-eyes-australian-division-over-war-20240613-p5jljq.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/stand4palestineaus/?hl=en>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/stand4palestineaus/>

<sup>15</sup> Nick McKenzie, Marta Pascual Juanola and Anne Worthington, “Hate comes to university campus but hides its face”, Sydney Morning Herald, June 16, 2024, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/hate-comes-to-university-campus-but-hides-its-face-20240613-p5jlif.html>

<sup>16</sup> See, for example, <https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18081992392901635/?hl=en>

Content circulated via campaign pages is amplified by personal accounts of HuT activists, while messaging frameworks (such as sermon talking points and campaign materials) are distributed for use across multiple initiatives and audiences.

Anecdotally, content on the social media platforms of “Stand for Palestine” has recently become more Islamist in its focus.

Much of the propaganda posted by “Stand for Palestine” is based on outright dangerous falsehoods or half-truths and has the potential to radicalise extremists towards the sort of violence perpetrated in the massacre on December 14, 2026 at Bondi Beach.<sup>17</sup>

Limiting remedial action to the formal listing of the organisation risks leaving this broader digital infrastructure intact.

Accordingly, AIJAC recommends that the Committee urge the Australian Government to seek to have social media platforms remove Stand for Palestine from their platforms on the basis that it is run by and/or coordinate with a proscribed hate group.

## Social media activities by Hizb ut-Tarir members

The rebranding of existing campaign infrastructure further illustrates this coordinated and adaptive approach. In parallel, senior HuT figures utilise personal social media accounts to disseminate messaging aligned with, and reinforcing, official HuT narratives.

This includes the promotion of HuT events, endorsement of ideological positions, and amplification of campaign content generated through affiliated platforms. Recent incidents further demonstrate the real-world implications of this online ecosystem.

In February 2026, Faraz Nomani – a prominent figure associated with “Stand For Palestine” and a former HuT official who still speaks at events organised by HuT – resigned from a leadership role at the Malek Fahd Islamic School following scrutiny of social media content, “which included a prayer video allegedly supporting Hamas martyrs.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> See, for example, [https://www.instagram.com/sahatenglish/p/DWtUqvrDGrk/?hl=en&img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/sahatenglish/p/DWtUqvrDGrk/?hl=en&img_index=1)

<sup>18</sup> Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Jackson Robb and Paige Fryer, “Malek Fahd Islamic School director Faraz Amin Nomani quits amid scrutiny over old radical political links”, Daily Telegraph, February 23, 2026, <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/education/regions/new-south-wales/malek-fahd-islamic-school-director-faraz-amin-nomani-quits-amid-scrutiny-over-old-radical-political-links/news-story/b8478265d13ad795204031e8e9743c9b>

Similarly, the disruption of an appearance by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at Lakemba Mosque on March 19, 2026, where he was accused of supporting genocide, was linked to an HuT activist who had used social media to call on attendees to confront him.<sup>19</sup>

The interaction between official HuT channels, front organisations and individual social media accounts creates a mutually reinforcing ecosystem that enhances the group's reach, resilience and influence.

Taken together, this evidence demonstrates that HuT's social media presence is not incidental but constitutes a deliberate and structured strategy to extend its influence, circumvent scrutiny, and facilitate recruitment and radicalisation.

## Conclusion

AIJAC welcomes the listing of HuT as a prohibited hate group. AIJAC supported the legislative reforms that made this possible, and it has argued for many years that HuT's conduct warranted stronger legal consequences in Australia. The present listing is justified on the material set out by government, is consistent with the purpose of the legislation, and is an important step in protecting the Australian community from hatred, intimidation and the promotion of violence. AIJAC therefore recommends that the Committee not recommend disallowance and further recommends that the Committee take note of HuT's use of social media.

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<sup>19</sup> Suzan Giuliani, Derrick Krusche and William Tyson, "Prime Minister escorted to safety after angry protesters disrupt Eid prayers at Lakemba Mosque", Daily Telegraph, March 20, 2026, <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/prime-minister-escorted-to-safety-after-angry-protesters-disrupt-eid-prayers-at-lakemba-mosque/news-story/78a591646665346fc2b3e5d7db2dd563>