

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am apposed to terrorism in all its conspicuous forms; however I see this bill as having a subtle potential for the federal bodies to misuse and make it an instrument of terror in several targeted communities.

This Bill imposes on the right of association and individualistic expression by prohibiting people from liaison with other individuals; who may or may not be involved in terrorism. And if the person is unaware of it they still can be vilified and therefore criminalized. Hence, it gives certain powers to governing bodies that can be used against people and therefore could lead to the persecution of several innocent people. This Bill is a threat to the liberalism that is so prominent in Australian society.

This Bill gives powers to certain bodies (ASIO) whose actions are not always under public scrutiny; this entity already has a set of powers which are appropriate for its function, namely investigation and sourcing of intelligence. I feel that not only is this Bill depriving people of their privileged freedom of association but also promotes a subtle form of social discrimination. What I mean by this is that several communities in our society (such as the Muslim community) will (as it already is) be stereotyped of having terrorist affiliations and this will induce a complete segregation of the given community with the larger society. I feel that there is already so much dualism, hostility and segregation amongst communities in general that this will be a catalyst for a complete and overt establishment of such. I therefore implore you to take my submission into

I am against terrorism as defined by the direct or indirect method of initiating fear in a given community thereby inducing some form of capitulation. I feel that this Bill has the potential to execute this; as a result I am ardently against this Bill and send this email as protest to the Bill and as my submission against it.

Yours Truly,

Vinesh Shankar.