



ועד הרבנים דאוסטרלאסיה

## RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

25 December 2025

5 Tevet 578

**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**  
**Prime Minister**  
**Parliament House**  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Dear Prime Minister,

We write as rabbis serving Jewish communities throughout Australia. We represent different streams of Jewish life and hold differing personal views on politics and public policy. What unites us at this time is our shared responsibility for the spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing of our communities.

Over the past two years, and with devastating clarity in recent weeks, we have witnessed a profound and dangerous escalation of antisemitism masquerading as anti-Zionism in Australia.

The hate-fuelled marches and demonstrations that have taken place in the heart of our major cities — particularly at iconic landmarks — have, at their core, objectives that include:

- I. the establishment of a single Palestinian state in the Holy Land coupled with the elimination of Israel (as reflected in the slogan “from the river to the sea”); and
- II. more disturbingly, the “globalisation of the intifada,” a euphemism for violence against, and ultimately the extermination of, world Jewry.

These marches and demonstrations have been permitted to proceed largely unhindered, while Jews have been directed by police to stay away “for your own protection.” (sic.)

We are demanding nothing less than the banning of such marches and demonstrations, and the criminalisation of the phrases “death to the IDF,” “globalise the intifada,” and “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”

This is not an abstract concern. It is a lived reality.

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We have sat with grieving families. We have visited the injured. We have stood with children who no longer feel safe walking to school. We have watched members of our communities withdraw from public spaces, universities, and civic life out of fear.

The massacre at Bondi Beach did not emerge in a vacuum. It was the most tragic and violent manifestation of a climate in which visceral hatred towards Jews — such as that described above — has been allowed to grow louder, more normalised, and more tolerated.

As rabbis, we are entrusted with listening closely to our communities. What we are hearing is fear, anger, and a deep sense that existing responses have been insufficient.

For this reason, we strongly believe that a Federal Royal Commission into antisemitism in Australia is now necessary.

Antisemitism today does not recognise state borders. It spreads like a cancer through national and global networks — online platforms, funding streams, radical Islamist and other extremist ideologies, and radicalisation pathways — many of which fall substantially within Commonwealth responsibility.

A Federal Royal Commission would allow Australia to examine, in a serious and coordinated manner:

- how antisemitic hatred is being normalised in public discourse and online spaces
- the role of institutions, including universities and social media platforms
- gaps in counter-extremism frameworks and intelligence coordination
- the impact of sustained hatred on a minority community's ability to live openly and safely
- the practical steps required to neutralise radicalisation and violence

This is not about blame. It is about prevention and healing.

We acknowledge the Government's announcement of internal reviews and departmental processes. These may have value. However, from the perspective of our communities, they do not provide the independence, transparency, or public confidence that this moment requires.

A Federal Royal Commission offers a process that is independent, transparent, and capable of confronting difficult truths authoritatively.

Trust has been badly shaken. Restoring it requires openness.

This call is not an endorsement of any political party or political agenda. It is a moral and ethical imperative.

Our tradition and our history teach that when lives are lost and danger persists, silence is not neutrality. On the contrary, the Bible — the bedrock of our Judeo-Christian civilisation — enjoins us “not to stand passively when the blood of your neighbour is shed” (Leviticus 19:16).

To be silent at this time is to abdicate responsibility.

In summation, we respectfully call upon the Federal Government to:

- a) take immediate steps to outlaw hate-fuelled marches and demonstrations and the incendiary slogans that invariably accompany them; and
- b) establish a Federal Royal Commission into antisemitism in Australia, with terms of reference broad enough to address systemic, national, and inter-jurisdictional concerns.

This is about restoring and safeguarding Australia's moral compass, founded on the universal moral laws that the Bible gave the world. It is also about ensuring that no segment of Australian society is forced to endure what we are enduring now.

We are confident that our words will be considered with the utmost gravity by your Government.

Thank you.

**Rabbi Nochum Schapiro, President  
and the Executive of the Rabbinical Association of Australasia**