



ועד הרבנים דאוסטרלאסיה

RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

21 January 2025

STATEMENT ON THE ESCALATION OF ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA

The Rabbinical Association of Australasia is deeply appalled by the increasing frequency, violence, and severity of attacks against the Jewish community. These assaults represent a growing threat to the safety and well-being of individuals and institutions. The situation has escalated to a point where we can no longer afford to wait for a tragedy to occur.

We call on the federal government to fully utilize existing laws to impose severe penalties on those who promote antisemitism. Individuals responsible for acts of vandalism and antisemitic graffiti should face the harshest consequences. Those who are not Australian citizens must be expelled from the country, while Australian citizens should be held accountable and punished to the fullest extent of the law. If current laws are insufficient, we urge the introduction of new legislation to prevent these actions and send a clear message that antisemitism will not be tolerated.

We also urge immediate action to protect Jewish institutions and leaders. This can be achieved through round-the-clock, fully funded security personnel, allocated directly to the institutions, or by deploying military personnel to safeguard these spaces, as is done in France and other European countries. The government must act swiftly to ensure the safety of Jewish communities and prevent further harm, prioritizing the protection of all citizens against discrimination and violence.

Rabbi Nochum Schapiro

President, Rabbinical Association of Australasia

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