



Australian Government

ELIMINATING ANTISEMITISM

Australian Government response
to the Special Envoy's Plan to
Combat Antisemitism



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SUPPORT SERVICES

If you experience or witness hate, racism or prejudice, stand up; speak up; and report it. When you report, you can help stop the behaviour from continuing or growing. You also become part of a larger movement to remove hate, racism and prejudice from our society.

In an emergency or life-threatening situation, call Triple Zero (000) and ask for Police. If there is no immediate danger, call the Police Assistance Line (131 444) or report anonymously via Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000).

Reporting hate lets authorities understand patterns of behaviour in local areas, so they can create a safer community for everyone.

More information on reporting a hate crime or incident is available on the Department of Home Affairs Website, along with contact information for support services for those targeted: [Addressing hate](#).

INTRODUCTION

There is no place in Australia for antisemitism, hatred or discrimination.

At the very heart of what it means to be an Australian is the right to be proud of who you are and what you believe. Australia's Jewish community have made a profound contribution to the success story of modern Australia and, every member of that community should be able to worship, learn, work and live in peace and safety.

The evil act of terrorism and antisemitism perpetrated at Bondi Beach on 14 December, the first night of Chanukah, was an attack on Jewish Australians and an attack on all Australians.

We grieve for those whose lives were taken, we stand with their loved ones and friends. We vow that from this tragedy Australia will emerge stronger, more united and safer for all who call our nation home.

Terrorists target the innocent. Their objective, always, is to create fear, stoke division and divide communities. The Government and our nation will stand together against this hatred. To show that Australia, united, is better and braver than those who seek to do us harm.

While antisemitism and extremism can lead to violence, violence is not the beginning of the harm they do. Abuse, prejudice and discrimination can take a devastating toll on the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

The Australian Government is fully committed to eradicating the root causes of antisemitism, extremism and prejudice, as well as working to prevent their terrible consequences.

While the appointment of the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism and her ongoing work are critical, this is a whole-of-nation endeavour that demands continuous effort.

We must act through education and enforcement, our culture and our laws, changing attitudes as well as taking local action. To fulfil our Australian values by ensuring we value every Australian.

We sincerely thank Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, Ms Jillian Segal AO, for the *Special Envoy's Plan to Combat Antisemitism*.

The Australian Government adopts the Plan to Combat Antisemitism and will work through the implementation of the 13 recommendations in consultation with the Jewish Australian community.

We recognise this plan reflects the outcome of extensive consultations with the Jewish Australian community. It is important to recognise that this is not merely a list of recommendations for Government action, it is a program of work to be led by the Envoy, supported and implemented by both the Commonwealth and States and Territories, as well as the broader community.

The Special Envoy's work will build on and strengthen the Australian Government's efforts to build social cohesion and address the impacts of conflicts in the Middle East within Australia.

We acknowledge the substantial contributions made by the many individuals and organisations across the Australian community to the Special Envoy's report. Many of those consulted had lived experience of prejudice, hatred and discrimination. Their contributions are acts of true courage.

The key actions contained in the Plan to Combat Antisemitism will require sustained effort in consultation with institutions, organisations and individuals across Australia.

The key areas of accelerated focus included in the response are:

- Establish an Antisemitism Education Taskforce led by Mr David Gonski AC. The Taskforce will ensure that the Australian education system prevents, tackles and properly responds to antisemitism. The Taskforce will include the Special Envoy and representatives from across the Australian education system.
- Develop a comprehensive legislative package to crack down on people who spread hate, division and radicalisation including strengthening penalties for hate speech that urges violence – led by the Attorney-General and Minister for Home Affairs.
- Direct the eSafety Commissioner and the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism to work together, with the Minister for Communications, to provide online safety advice on best practices to address online antisemitism, to inform the Government's response to the Online Safety Act Review in the first quarter of 2026.
- Give the Minister for Home Affairs new powers to reject visas for those who spread hate and division.

The Australian Government is committed to strengthening national unity by confronting antisemitism, hatred and prejudice, wherever they occur.

We will provide national leadership and we will back community leadership, which is every bit as critical to the task. We will work with all Australians in good faith to ensure our nation is stronger and safer for Australians of every faith.



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister



The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs

THE SPECIAL ENVOY'S ONGOING WORK PLAN

The Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism has an extensive and ongoing program of work that will be delivered through the Plan to Combat Antisemitism.

The Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism has:

- undertaken substantial engagement across key sectors, establishing constructive relationships and partnerships with universities, media outlets, professional associations, and community groups
- worked closely with the Group of Eight (Go8) universities to develop a new definition of antisemitism as it relates to the university sector that was endorsed at the Universities Australia Vice-Chancellor's plenary
- supported the delivery of staff training programs by Monash University to a number of universities
- appointed Emeritus Professor Greg Craven AO GCSG to lead the University Report Card initiative.

Moving into 2026, the Special Envoy will focus on accelerating and embedding the activities outlined above, including:

- working in close alignment with David Gonski on the Antisemitism Education Taskforce
- working with the eSafety Commissioner to improve online safety and ensure our laws are fit for purpose
- delivering the first University Report Card assessing how Australian universities are responding to antisemitism on campus by measuring institutions against their adoption of an appropriate definition of antisemitism, their delivery of training to staff, the accessibility and fairness of complaints processes and governance responses to activities that may incite discrimination
- working closely with the Australian Public Service Commission and senior leaders across the Australian Public Service (APS) to strengthen understanding of antisemitism, its impacts in the workplace, the use of a working definition for antisemitism and how best to use learning programs to educate the APS broadly.

Progress will continue as the Australian Government works systematically with the Special Envoy to undertake targeted actions that will further align with her key actions.

The Australian Government response to recommendations and key actions in the Plan to Combat Antisemitism

The Albanese Government appointed Australia's first ever Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism Ms Jillian Segal in July 2024.

Ms Segal provided her Plan to Combat Antisemitism (the Plan) to Government in July 2025 and the Prime Minister and Ms Segal released it publicly on July 10, 2025.

The Plan had 13 recommendations, with some acted on immediately. Today the Government is providing its response to the Plan demonstrating action on recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Definition

The Australian Government's official definition of antisemitism is the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition](#).

This definition of antisemitism will assist in framing the issue, understanding its causes and coordinating across governments and communities to undertake action to address it.

The Envoy will publish a supplementary guide to the IHRA definition, which will assist in its application in an Australian context.

Recommendation 2: Law reform, training and enforcement

The Australian Government is committed to a strong legislative framework that eliminates antisemitism in our community:

- the Government has introduced a landmark ban on the Nazi salute and the public display of Nazi symbols as well as symbols of any terrorist organisation in Australia. A mandatory minimum penalty of 12 months imprisonment applies, with up to a maximum of 5 years imprisonment
- we have the toughest laws against hate crimes in Australia's history. The Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Act 2025 strengthens and expands criminal offences relating to advocating or threatening force or violence against groups, members or close associates of groups, or their property or places of worship
- we will develop a comprehensive legislative package to crack down on people who spread hate, division and radicalisation including strengthening penalties for hate speech that urges violence
- the Minister for Home Affairs will have new powers to cancel or reject visas for non-citizens who come here to spread hate and division, including more specific cancellation grounds, in addition to the existing provisions that allow for refusal or cancellation where there is a risk that a non-citizen would vilify a segment of the community or would incite discord in the Australian community or a segment of the community.

The Government has also:

- made it a criminal offence to be a member of, be associated with, or provide support to, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) which directed two antisemitic attacks in Australia
- imposed counter-terrorism financing sanctions on the white supremacist terrorist network Terrorgram
- made the listing of Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organisations permanent
- legislated to expand offences for advocating terrorism and increased the penalty for doing so, as well as criminalising the possession and dissemination of violent extremist material.

Recommendation 3: Education, awareness and public discourse

Addressing antisemitism in the education sector is a priority for the Australian Government. The approach needs to be comprehensive, including early childhood education and care, schools and universities.

The Australian Government is establishing the **Antisemitism Education Taskforce** (the Taskforce) to be chaired by David Gonski AC.

The purpose of the Taskforce is to ensure that the Australian education system prevents, tackles and properly responds to antisemitism. This includes relevant elements of the Plan to Combat Antisemitism developed by Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, Jillian Segal AO.

The Taskforce will include Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism and representatives from across the Australian education system: including early childhood education and care, schools and universities. Representation on the taskforce will include: the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority, representatives of state and territory educational authorities, non-government schools, Universities Australia, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the interim Australian Tertiary Education Commission.

Initial areas of priority will include implementation of the measures outlined below and identification of further measures needed to ensure the Australian education system is able to prevent, tackle and properly respond to antisemitism.

The Taskforce builds on a range of accelerated investments and new initiatives to tackle antisemitism in schools, including:

- a focused review of elements of the Australian Curriculum to identify opportunities to strengthen its capacity to support: a rejection of all forms of antisemitic thought and antisemitic actions, a deep understanding of Jewish Australians' history and culture, and a mature understanding and expression of Australian values
- supporting the expansion of the Special Envoy's United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization teacher training into schools across Australia
- extending and expanding the funding for Together for Humanity over 4 years to continue its work to build intercultural understanding and social cohesion in schools
- providing teachers and schools a new hub with access to free high-quality resources and guidance to strengthen social cohesion in schools, and combat antisemitism through new online resources.

Recommendation 4: Institutional accountability and university reform

The Taskforce builds on a range of accelerated investments and new initiatives to tackle antisemitism in universities, including:

- strengthening the powers and penalties of TEQSA to ensure it is able to step in and act when it is justified in the public interest
- strengthening Commonwealth higher education regulation to ensure institutions demonstrate a commitment to addressing racism, and ensuring the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency can monitor compliance
- supporting the Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism (MIRRA) to expand its training program to deliver training to university staff and leadership on recognising antisemitism in universities across Australia
- in February 2026, the Special Envoy will attend the Education Ministers Meeting to provide an update on the Plan to address antisemitism and support a discussion about the role of the education system and school communities
- establishing the Expert Council on University Governance which has provided the Education Ministers Meeting with principles to ensure universities are safe and welcoming
- tasked the Australian Human Rights Commission to undertake the Respect@Uni Study, led by Race Discrimination Commissioner Mr Giridharan Sivaraman. The Study examines the prevalence, nature, and impact of individual and systemic racism in Australian universities and is engaging in significant consultation with university students and staff
- appointing the National Student Ombudsman, a free and impartial service to investigate complaints from students, including antisemitism or any other forms of racism
- updating the TEQSA Statement of Regulatory Expectations: Student grievance and complaint mechanisms on 3 October 2025 in the context of protests on university campuses.

Recommendation 5: Security, law enforcement and coordination

The Australian Government has introduced initiatives that focus on prevention and support for security, ensuring Jewish people feel safe to express their faith and culture and to report harassment or intimidation. These include:

- establishing the new National Security Investigations (NSI) teams in the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The remit of these teams includes investigating international groups of concern, and attacking on a global level through operations, capabilities and relationships with the international law enforcement intelligence community
- establishing AFP Special Operation Avalite to investigate threats, violence and hatred towards the Australian Jewish community and parliamentarians. In 2025, the AFP established the new NSI teams from the existing Avalite footprint
 - NSI teams were established to disrupt high-harm, high-impact politically motivated violence, communal violence and hate crimes that do not meet the threshold for terrorism investigations, however drive fear and division in similar ways within Australian communities. These will be achieved through operations, capabilities and relationships with the international law enforcement intelligence community

- providing and extending the Executive Council of Australia Jewry with \$159.5 million in funding, in collaboration with the Community Security Groups and the National Council for Jewish Community Security to improve safety and security at Jewish community sites, including synagogues, and to protect Jewish students in schools and higher education
- under A Safer Australia – Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy:
 - providing \$85.9 million to establish the National Support and Intervention Program (NSIP) to help States and Territories to connect individuals with support services and disengage them from violent behaviours. An evaluation framework is being designed in collaboration with countering violent extremism (CVE) coordinators to ensure the NSIP is fit-for-purpose
 - allocating \$8.5 million to roll out the successful Step Together online and over-the-phone support service on a national level and support CVE practitioner and frontline worker training. This initiative provides support for those who may know someone at risk of involvement in violent extremism
 - developing a national awareness campaign to help the Australian community recognise early signs of radicalisation and raise awareness about violent extremism
- accelerating the implementation of the National Hate Crimes and Incidents Database by providing States and Territories additional resources
- providing an additional \$20 million to expand measures to prevent violent extremism and youth radicalisation through:
 - extending clinical and therapeutic support to individuals who come to the attention of law enforcement as early intervention to prevent future offending
 - legislative reform to address extremism at the earliest stages
 - proposals to address online harms, particularly through the use of AI and generative AI.

Recommendation 6: Digital governance and online regulation

In the modern connected world, the Australian Government recognises the severe impacts that the proliferation of hateful online content can have on both individuals and communities. To address this, the Government:

- will direct the eSafety Commissioner and Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism and Minister for Communications to work together to provide advice on best practices to combat online antisemitism, and report back to Government. This will support the Government's response to the recommendations of the independent review into the Online Safety Act 2021 to ensure Australia's online safety laws are fit for purpose, including consideration as to whether additional arrangements are necessary to address online hate
- criminalised doxxing – the malicious release of personal information
- introduced a landmark social media ban, restricting access to social media for children under the age of 16 to reduce access to harmful content
- quadrupled funding for the eSafety Commissioner, which delivers the Adult Cyber Abuse and Cyberbullying Scheme to address and remove online material intended to cause serious harm to an individual through menacing, harassing or offensive content. This includes antisemitic material.

Recommendation 7: Culture, arts and public broadcasting

As acknowledged in the Plan to Combat Antisemitism, public discourse can play a powerful role in confronting harmful myths and misconceptions, and in promoting culturally affirming stories and representations.

The Australian Government is promoting social cohesion and cultural understanding by:

- providing additional funding to SBS to extend production of SBS Examines - a podcast to dispel misinformation and disinformation impacting Australia's social cohesion
- providing funding to community news organisations under the News Media Relief Program. In 2025, this included support for Polaris Media Group, publisher of The Australian Jewish News, and The Jewish Independent
- providing the Community Broadcasting Foundation with \$85.7 million in funding over 3 years to deliver the Community Broadcasting Program, which supports more than 450 community broadcasters that connect communities and amplify diverse voices
- partnering with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia through a \$1.5 million grant program to support media literacy in culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- launching Dealing with the Moment: Anti-Racism in Community Sport – a free online course to help community coaches, team managers and referees respond when racism occurs
- establishing Creative Workplaces to support fair, safe and respectful workplaces for artists, arts workers and arts organisations in Australia by providing information, resources and referral information about pay, safety and respect.

Recommendation 8: General community education about antisemitism and cohesion-building

The Australian Government continues to work across communities to promote social cohesion and educate Australians on the harm that antisemitism causes, including:

- undertaking a targeted social media campaign on the UN International Day for Countering Hate Speech to promote incident reporting and bystander action (18 June 2025)
- launching the Department of Home Affairs [Addressing Hate](#) webpage which includes victim support resources and a portal to report online extremist content
- funding the Australian Human Rights Commission to deliver a new anti-racism campaign to tackle this issue head on: [There's nothing casual about racism](#).

Recommendation 9: Migration and citizenship

The Australian Government is collaborating with the Special Envoy for Antisemitism to enhance training of immigration officers in relation to antisemitism and hate-related behaviours.

This includes:

- integrating the Special Envoy's expertise and resources into departmental training
- rolling out revised foundational training for all visa and citizenship decision makers, with explicit content on recognising antisemitism
- delivering targeted, advanced training for team leaders and specialist staff, ensuring a more developed ability to recognise antisemitism in the context of visa processing

- the Immigration Group within the Department of Home Affairs will be the first to undertake antisemitic awareness training. This training will ensure decision makers rigorously apply provisions relating to vilification and inciting discord to visa holders and applicants with known antisemitic views
- Give the Minister for Home Affairs new powers to reject visas for those who spread hate and division.

The Australian Government is considering its response to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee report on right wing extremism movements in Australia released [in December 2024].

Recommendation 10: Multicultural and interfaith engagement

Modern Australia is Multicultural Australia. To better support the coordination of policies and programs that foster the benefits of multiculturalism, the Australian Government established the Office for Multicultural Affairs (OMA) in the Department of Home Affairs.

Among its other roles, the OMA operates a long-standing Community Liaison Officer Network that directly supports the communication of official information to multicultural communities and provides a mechanism for those communities to share their priorities and concerns. The OMA leads the Harmony Week and International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination initiatives – these provide a designated time to celebrate all Australian cultures and faiths and to consider countering hate in our society, including antisemitism.

The Australian Government is also empowering culturally and linguistically diverse communities to lead projects that reflect their own experiences and aspirations, through multicultural grants.

Recommendation 11: Global interaction and engagement

The Australian Government actively collaborates with international partners to combat antisemitism including as a member of the Article 18 Alliance (also known as the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance), the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The Australian Government consistently voices our concerns in multilateral fora about the global increase in antisemitism, while also highlighting the need for urgent action to combat it. At the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee in September 2025, Australia reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of antisemitism. And during the Human Rights Council in October 2025, Australia reaffirmed our longstanding commitment to tackle the scourge of antisemitism.

The Government will enhance diplomatic collaboration and sharing of best practices, including by supporting officials-level exchanges with key partners including the United Kingdom and Canada, and by the Special Envoy regularly joining and communicating with other Special Envoys dedicated to combating antisemitism, prioritising alignment and shared learning.

The Australian Government has also signed the Global Guidelines to Counter Antisemitism and joined the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism statement on Iranian Transnational Repression and Other Malign Activities, calling out attacks designed to divide societies and intimidate Jewish communities.

Recommendation 12: Vibrancy, and protection, of Jewish life

All Australians should have the freedom to express their views, practice their faith and go about their lives free from harassment. The Australian Government is supporting Jewish institutions by:

- providing funding to the Holocaust Institute of Western Australia for the Holocaust Institute's Education Centre in Yokine to help upgrade the facility to world-class standards
- supporting the creation of the Centre of Jewish Life and Tolerance to sit alongside the Sydney Jewish Museum under the Multicultural Places of Significance Grant
- supporting the replacement and restoration of Torah Scrolls housed in the Adass Israel Synagogue
- committing \$4.4 million to build the National Holocaust Education Centre in Canberra, to serve as an enduring bulwark against antisemitism and hatred
- supporting the Jewish Arts Quarter in Melbourne, ensuring that it becomes a world-class precinct celebrating Jewish life, arts, culture, education and history within the Elsternwick Cultural Precinct.

Recommendation 13: Community consultation, monitoring, evaluation and data collection

The Plan to Combat Antisemitism highlights the important role of data collection in shaping effective policy and program design.

The Australian Government has initiated and will accelerate work on establishing a national hate crimes and incidents database. This important initiative is being undertaken with all States and Territories and will empower a clearer understanding of the prevalence and impact of hate crimes to enable the development of better-targeted responses.

On 2 October 2025, the Police Ministers Council agreed to provide existing data based on statistical information in current systems to support the establishment of the first phase of the database.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Australian Government commends the outstanding work of the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism which will be critical in giving voice to those across Australia who have long endured hatred, discrimination and antisemitism.

The Australian Government looks forward to continuing to work with the Special Envoy, together progressing a strong agenda to eliminate antisemitism. It will build on the extensive work outlined in this Response to introduce further measures that respond to the key actions of the Plan to Combat Antisemitism. Following the horrific events of 14 December, this Government remains steadfast in its commitment that this tragedy is never repeated.



