



Monday, 24 June 2024

NSW Law Reform Commission
Locked Bag 5000
Parramatta NSW 2124

Attention: Tom Bathurst AC KC

Copy by email: nsw-lrc@dcj.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Serious Racial and Religious Vilification

The Union for Progressive Judaism is the roof body that resources 26 congregations, schools, youth groups and communal organisations across Australia, New Zealand and Asia, resourcing around one-fifth of the affiliated Jewish community.

We supplement our earlier submission with a brief excursion why we say that the criminal law must be enhanced and why we support the submissions to the Commission made by the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

In our view, interfaith relations will be strengthened, not weakened, by improving the effectiveness of section 93Z of the NSW Crimes Act, and by the introduction of an offence of inciting hatred.

When the boundaries of dialogue exclude intentional or recklessness intimidation and threats the role of the moderate interlocutor is strengthened and the legitimacy of extremism is weakened.

The harassment and vilification of people because of the colour of their skin or their national or ethnic origin or their gender or for that matter their religious affiliation, is as harmful in its effect both on the victims, and on society as a whole; no less harmful than statements which defame individuals, breach copyright, promote obscenity, breach official secrecy, demonstrate con-tempt of court and parliament, and mislead or deceive consumers, all of which are prohibited, and widely accepted as rightfully prohibited, by law.

Incorporated in Victoria Reg. No. A0042291F, ABN No.
96 213 500 277

Email: upj@upj.org.au Website: upj.org.au
PO Box 367, Botany, NSW, 1455
Tel:

In societies that have rejected the proposition that every human being is entitled to their dignity and respect, the Jew has also been rejected. The ghettos of Europe are a case in point. They were not created by Jews seeking to sever themselves from society. They were created by Jews whose dignity had been rejected by the society to which they endeavoured to contribute. In Nazi Germany and in the Gulags of the Soviet Union and in the ghetto of Damascus and the desert villages of Gondar, Ethiopia, rejection of dignity led to separation and ghettoisation of the Jew.

A foundation of Australian society is an acceptance of multiculturalism and a limitation upon exclusivism. In a liberal society we treasure the dignity of every human being who lives among us. It is in this environment of enlightenment that Jew, Christian and Muslim and other faith communities can all thrive and benefit each other.

We need criminal laws which reinforce that foundation. We lack them at present.

Yours faithfully,

Danny Hochberg and Larry Lockshin
UPJ Co-Presidents