



WIZO Australia

WIZO. Doing What Matters

Submission to the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion

Submitted by: WIZO Australia (Women's International Zionist Organisation)

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Deadline for Submissions: June 14th 2026

1. Introduction and Purpose

WIZO Australia submits this document to express deep concern regarding the unprecedented rise in antisemitism in Australia. As a premier Jewish women's organisation dedicated to strengthening Israeli society and supporting the global Jewish community, WIZO Australia has witnessed firsthand the impact of this "ugly tidal wave of antisemitism" on our members, their families, and the broader Australian Jewish community.

We believe the current environment of hostility—manifested in threats, physical harassment, and intimidation—has severely degraded the sense of safety and belonging of Jewish Australians.

2. The Nature and Impact of Antisemitism (Terms of Reference)

- **Normalisation of Hate:** Since October 7, 2023, antisemitism has moved from the fringes into mainstream discourse. We highlight that "normalised isn't the same as normal," and the current level of harassment is unacceptable.
- **Impact on Women and Children:** WIZO is particularly concerned about the impact on families. Our community reports increased anxiety, fear of wearing Jewish symbols in public, and the need for heightened security at childcare centres and schools.

An example of fear of wearing Jewish symbols- WIZO Australia has designed a Magen David necklace incorporating a dove to symbolise peace. Since October the 7th we have sold over 400 due to the fact that our women feel safer wearing these as they disguise the Jewish star symbol.

- **The "Complex Face" of Modern Antisemitism:** WIZO Australia analyses that modern antisemitism often manifests through the intense demonisation of Israel, which frequently crosses the line from political discourse into racial hatred against Jewish people.
- **Online Harassment:** Antisemitism has exploded online, creating a 24/7 environment of toxicity that particularly affects young Jewish people.

After October 7th, WIZO Australia had to refrain from posting anything on their social media as they were receiving 100's of hate and antisemitic comments.



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One time all they posted was a sunset over a Tel Aviv beach and they received over 100 hate and antisemitic comments.

Three months ago WIZO AUS reinstated their account and started posting with their comments turned off to avoid any unwanted antisemitic comments.

3. Institutional Responses and Failures

We have observed that many institutions—including schools, universities, and workplace environments—have failed to adequately protect Jewish members from harassment. The inability of institutions to promptly call out and discipline antisemitic behaviour has led to a feeling of abandonment among many in the community.

4. Recommendations for the Commission

WIZO Australia calls on the Commission to consider the following actions:

1. **Strengthening Legal Protections:** Implementation of more robust legislation to handle hate speech, aggravated hate speech, and physical threats, including bringing and maintaining charges against perpetrators of arson and vandalism.
2. **Educational Initiatives:** Mandatory, comprehensive education on antisemitism for educators, public servants, and students to identify and counter harmful tropes.
3. **Online Safety Enforcement:** Empowering regulatory bodies to act swiftly against online platforms that allow the dissemination of antisemitic hate and misinformation.
4. **Institutional Accountability:** Developing clear guidelines for schools and universities to handle reporting of antisemitic incidents, ensuring "zero tolerance" and proper support for victims.

5. Conclusion

WIZO Australia remains committed to fighting against all forms of bigotry. We advocate for a society where all Australians can live with dignity, fairness, and safety. We trust the Royal Commission will act decisively to ensure that the "normalization" of antisemitism in Australia is reversed.



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