



16 January 2024

PUBLIC STATEMENT

We Firmly Oppose the Unfair Targeting of Pro-Palestine Advocates

We firmly oppose the unfair targeting of pro-Palestine advocates, as well as prominent leaders who are exercising their fundamental civil right to freedom of speech in their quest for justice.

Additionally, we firmly reject conflating anti-Israel and anti-Zionism sentiments with anti-Semitism. Such conflation is unwarranted and unjustified. Equating anti-Israel and anti-Zionism with hatred towards Jews is a serious mistake.

The current war in Palestine, especially in Gaza, has escalated since October 7, leading to a marked increase in civilian casualties. Recent reports indicate that over 25,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, have been killed, with injuries exceeding 60,000. Furthermore, there are reports of over 8,000 individuals being missing and over 1.8 million people displaced. There are no words to describe these brutal actions but **GENOCIDE** and **WARCRIMES**, and this must be condemned and must not be misconstrued as anti-Semitic.

We categorically reject the recent calls for Victorian Multicultural Commissioner Mohamed Mohideen to be investigated and dismissed over his pro-Palestine and anti-Israel posts and advocacy.

Commissioner Mohideen is a respected member and a community leader within the Australian Muslim community, known for his significant contributions to community service and his advocacy for a multifaith and multicultural Australia.

The decision by the Victorian Multicultural Commission to initiate an investigation into Commissioner Mohideen's advocacy raises serious concerns and reflects poorly on the Commission's understanding of freedom of speech and the definition of anti-Semitism.

We call upon the Victorian Multicultural Commission to immediately reverse its decision and respect its members views and their freedom of speech and expression.



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