

Racism wrapped in a flag.

Statement from Jewish Voices of Inner Sydney, 1 September 2025

As Australian Jews who are committed to human rights, equality for all, and protections against racism and discrimination for all people, we condemn the March for Australia. The march was an attempt to sow discord and division in our communities. It was a protest against inclusion, and was underpinned by bigotry, hatred, and threats of violence.

The march was organised by extremists, who are racist and anti-migrant, particularly targeting people of colour. The march branded itself as 'a stand for the people, culture, and nation that built Australia' and that 'mass migration has torn at the bonds that held our communities together'. Implicit in these statements are extreme-racist views of Australia as 'White' and 'Anglo/Celtic' and that any others of a different heritage are not part of the 'culture that built Australia'. This is emphasised further when the March for Australia website describes a 'Weakened Identity'. They ask: "who are we as a nation, when one in three people were born overseas?" This view of Australia is manifestly false and has always been a fantasy.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are Australia's First Nations people, and our country has experienced many phases of migration, and is now extremely diverse. Australia was founded in the destruction and denial of First Nations sovereignty. Australian Federation was premised on a White Australia policy that brutally sidelined many multi-ethnic groups who helped develop the nation and sought to keep out people of colour. Despite this, Australia has managed to forge a proud history as a multicultural nation. Australia would not be the country it is today without its rich Indigenous and diverse migrant heritage.

We as Jews take up our place within Australia, a country with a rich Indigenous and multicultural heritage. We are proud to live in a country with a strong Indigenous community and culture, and we urge governments to do more to close the gap that exists in our nation. We are also proud of and acknowledge and support the ongoing contribution that diverse migrant communities and refugees make to our country. This is even more important in these times of horrific events unfolding in Gaza and Palestine.

As Jews, with many of us coming from migrant and refugee backgrounds, we strongly support multiculturalism and the flourishing of people from diverse backgrounds that call Australia home. We welcome those who seek to come here to make it their home too. We believe all people, regardless of their background, have the right to feel safe and welcome in this country. The March for Australia sought to undermine that. We want the Australian Government to act on the structural drivers of racism in our country.

We call on the Australian Government to:

- Urgently fund and implement the Australian Human Rights Commission Anti-Racism Framework
- Address the structural issues exacerbating inequality in Australia, particularly in the housing system, where there must be a concerted effort to ensure housing is primarily for shelter, not a way to make money
- Properly fund public services and infrastructure that have experienced decades of under-investment

- Address the crisis of male identity that makes young men susceptible to recruitment to extremist groups
- Investigate neo-Nazi and fascist groups for breaches of the Anti-Discrimination Act and disrupt the activities of these groups
- Encourage the Antisemitism Envoy to speak out against far-right racism or step down.