

Submission to the NSW parliamentary inquiry into the Human Rights Bill 2025

Executive summary — Jewish Voices of Inner Sydney, posted 3 July 2026

JVOIS supports the Human Rights Bill 2025 and urges the Committee to recommend its passage. NSW is currently among the jurisdictions with the weakest statutory protection of human rights in comparable democracies. Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland have each enacted human rights legislation; comparable common-law democracies including Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom have done so as well. A NSW Human Rights Act would bring this State into line with those jurisdictions and place dignity, equality and democratic freedom at the centre of government decision-making.

Our support is informed by our community's history and by the evidence about what makes minority communities safer. The rights protected by this Bill are precisely the protections that make minority communities, including Jewish Australians, safer: particularly freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, equality, privacy, liberty, humane treatment and fair hearing, and the right to take part in public life.

Repressive and punitive approaches, by contrast, tend to erode social cohesion and harm the very communities they claim to protect.

This submission sets out seven reasons for our support, identifies seven areas where the Bill could be strengthened, and makes fifteen recommendations.