

TALKING POINTS

Subject	Hamas-Israel conflict	
Date	22 December 2023	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Туре	Whole of Government	
Media Offic	er: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

ISSUE

Talking points developed to support the evolving Hamas-Israel conflict.

TALKING POINTS

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this page, together with the following pages (3 to 7) are irrelevant and have been removed.



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

What is the government doing about the rise in Antisemitism <u>noted</u> by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the rise of Islamophobia noted by the Islamophobia Register?



- Australia values diversity and inclusion, where people should feel safe and free to express who they are, including their faith and heritage.
- There is no place for Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, prejudice, or hatred of any kind in our multicultural society.
- On 19 October 2023, the Government announced \$46.8 million in initiatives across government to address the social cohesion impacts of the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- The initiatives focus on community safety, mental health and wellbeing support to affected communities, online safety, anti racism, funding to community organisations and to help minimise the harms of circulating mis and disinformation that impact communities.

CLEARANCE



Cleared by	Title	Time/Date cleared
Steph McMan	us A/g GM Immigration Operations	12 October 2023
Alice Maclean	Senior Director Visa Support Centre	22 November 2023
Angus Kirkwo	od FAS Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs	29 November2023
Robert O'Farr	ell Assistant Secretary, Counter Terrorism Operational Coordination	18 October 2023
Tim Roy	Assistant Secretary, Countering Violent Extremism	21 November2023
Meredith Byro	n Assistant Secretary, Character and Cancellation	12 October 2023
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Complex and Controversial Cases	17 October 2023
	Director, ABF Media	13 October 2023
	Director, National Security and Crisis Communication	22 December 2023



TALKING POINTS

Subject	Hamas-Israel conflic	et ·
Date	2 April 2024	Version 34
Туре	Whole of Government	
Media Officer	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

ISSUE

Talking points developed to support the evolving Hamas-Israel conflict.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this page, together with the following pages (13 to 19) are irrelevant and have been removed.



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

What is the government doing about the rise in Antisemitism noted by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the rise of Islamophobia noted by the Islamophobia Register?

- Australia values diversity and inclusion, where people should feel safe and free to express
 who they are, including their faith and heritage.
- There is no place for Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, prejudice, or hatred of any kind in our multicultural society.
- On 19 October 2023, the Government announced initiatives across government to address the social cohesion impacts of the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- The initiatives focus on community safety, mental health and wellbeing support to affected communities, online safety, anti racism, funding to community organisations and to help minimise the harms of circulating mis and disinformation that impact communities.



CLEARANCE

Cleared by		Title	Time/Date cleared
	Steph McManus	A/g GM Immigration Operations	12 October 2023
	Angus Kirkwood	FAS Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs	9 February 2024
	Robert O'Farrell	Assistant Secretary, Counter Terrorism Operational Coordination	18 October 2023
	Tim Roy	Assistant Secretary, Countering Violent Extremism	21 November2023
	Meredith Byron	Assistant Secretary, Character and Cancellation	12 October 2023
s 2	22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Complex and Controversial Cases	17 October 2023
	-	Director, ABF Media	13 October 2023
	-	Director, National Security and Crisis Communication	2 April 2024
	Leanne Smith	A/g GM Immigration Operations	29 December 2023
	Alice Maclean	Senior Director Visa Support Centre	6 February 2024
	Erica Biddle	AS, Multicultural Affairs	13 Febuary 2024
	Lavinia Mitchell	A/g AS Humanitarian & Child Wellbeing Policy & Capability	13 Febuary 2024



TALKING POINTS

Subject	Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents (previously Antisemitic incidents)	
Date	28 February 2025 Version: 40	
Туре	Whole of Government	
Media Officer: \$ 22(1)(a)(ii)		Media Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

ISSUE

Talking points to address antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents.



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- The Government has also provided more than \$57 million to improve safety and security at Jewish community sites, including schools and synagogues.
 - In the weeks following the 7 October terrorist attack the Government provided \$25 million to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc (ECAJ) for improved safety and security at Jewish sites across the country, including schools, preschools, synagogues and faith-based community centres.
 - On 8 December 2024, the Government provided a further \$32.5 million to ECAJ for security measures in response to increased violence toward Australia's Jewish community.



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Document 3



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hate crimes database

 On 21 February the Standing Council of Attorneys-General meeting agreed to work together to establish a national hate crimes and incidents database.

s 22(1)(a) (ii)

- The decision to establish this database is a response to longstanding advocacy from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and other community groups. They have long recognised the role such a database could play in tracking and improving responses to antisemitic and other hate crimes and incidents.
- A national database will allow government to better understand the prevalence and impact of hate crimes and develop better-targeted responses.

Additional funding to strengthen Jewish community safety

- The Australian Government has committed over \$78 million to improve safety and security at Australian Jewish community sites, including:
 - \$57.5 million to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, in collaboration with the Community Security Groups and National Council for Jewish Community Security, to address the risks faced by the Australian Jewish community in light of the increase in antisemitism in Australia, and
 - \$21.1 million to 57 Jewish schools, pre-schools, synagogues and community sites as part of the \$50 million <u>Securing Faith-Based Places Program</u>.
- Round Two of the Enhancing Security for Jewish Communities Program, administered by the
 Executive Council of Australian Jewry, is open for applications until 19 March 2025. Application
 form, eligibility criteria, and assessment criteria can be found at https://grants.advisen.com.au.

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Document 3

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this page, together with the following pages (28 to 42) are irrelevant and have been removed.



CLEARANCE

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date cleared
Gemma Smyth	FAS CTCC	28 February 2025
Mark Groote	First Assistant Secretary OCC	28 February 2025
22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Communication	28 February 2025



Department of Home Affairs

TALKING POINTS

Subject	National Terrorism Threat Level - PROBABLE		
Date	2 August 2024 Version: 1		
Туре	Whole of Government		
Media Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)		Media Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	

TALKING POINTS

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Document 4

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this page, together with the following pages (46 to 50) are irrelevant and have been removed.



Social cohesion support for communities affected by the Hamas-Israel conflict

- The Australian Government is providing domestic initiatives across government to address the social cohesion impacts of the Hamas-Israel conflict in Australia.
- The Government awarded \$25 million to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc., to support the safety and security of Australian Jewish communities. This funding is administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

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Document 4

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this page, together with the following pages (53 to 54) are irrelevant and have been removed.



Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs s 22(1)(a)(ii)

CLEARANCE

Drafted by s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Title	Date drafted
Cleared by	Title	Date cleared
Gemma Smyth	FAS Counter-Terrorism Coordination Centre	5/8/2024
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Communication	5/8/2024

s 47E(d) - document 5 (pages 56 to 59) is exempt and has been removed.

s 47C(1), s 47E(d) - Document 6 (pages 60 to 63) is exempt and has been removed.

Organisation	Statement /Comment/	Source (including link)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)		

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this page, together with the following pages (page 66 to 68) is irrelevant and have been removed.

The Zionist Federation of Australia and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry

The Zionist Federation of Australia and @ECAJewry are deeply concerned by the Government's statement and change in language about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The ECAJ and ZFA are representative peak bodies of the Australian Jewish community. ECAJ President Jillian Segal and ZFA President @jeremyleibler jointly stated: "The change in language is inaccurate, ahistorical and counterproductive." "Describing East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza as 'occupied Palestinian territories' effectively denies any Jewish claim to the West Bank and Jerusalem. The most important Jewish holy sites of the Temple Mount and the Western Wall are in East Jerusalem, and there has been an unbroken Jewish presence in the West Bank for thousands of years. Israelis and Palestinians have agreed to negotiate the division of the West Bank between them. Describing the territories as 'Palestinian' not only pre-empts the outcome of negotiations but is counterproductive." "Palestinians and Israelis agreed in 1993 that the settlements and the division of the West Bank and Gaza would be subject to final status negotiations. The Foreign Minister has previously stated that Australia should

https://twitter.com/ZionistFedAus/status/1688859013776121856?s=20

not pre-empt the outcome of final status issues. It is regrettable that the government has now done that." "Palestinian terrorism against Israeli targets has risen dramatically, and Palestinian leadership has refused to enter into negotiations with Israel in the last two years. Instead of attempting to pre-empt the outcome of negotiations in favour of a party that refuses to negotiate, the Australian Government should be urging the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table." "It is concerning that just as Arab states are moving closer to Israel and normalising relations, this announcement moves Australia in the opposite direction. The announcement will be used by Israeli and Palestinian hardliners to bolster support within their respective constituencies and put a peace agreement further out of reach." "The Labor leadership ought to push back against factions within Labor, and instead work to re-establish a sensible, centrist and sustainable bipartisan position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict must not become a political football".

SBS News	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Reaction to the federal government's decision to use the term Occupied Palestinian Territories SBS News
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But Jewish groups have criticised the government's policy change.

Peter Wertheim from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry says it's inaccurate, ahistorical and counterproductive.

"The effect is to give support to the most extreme elements in Palestinian society and the result will be driving the parties even further apart rather than bringing them together."

Dr Bren Carlill from the Zionist Federation of Australia calls the decision absurd.

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Document 8

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this page, together with the following pages (74 to 78) and have been removed.

Executive Council of Australian Jewry

- ECAJ condemns "sad, shameful" Australian vote at UN, 11 March 2024 [statement]

 Even though the General Assembly resolution was watered down so as to provide the Palestinians with enhanced observer status at the UN rather than full membership, it should not have been supported [...] One can only conclude that Australia's vote was driven by domestic political considerations, and not by principle, which makes it a sad and shameful day for all Australians. Australia should have joined the UK, Canada and the US in abstaining or voting against the resolution.
- ECAJ opposes unilateral recognition of Palestinian state, 10 April 2024 [statement]

 The Foreign Minister's speech is not the way to treat a friend and ally of Australia, such as Israel. All reasonable people want to end the cycle of violence and see Israelis and Palestinians living side by side in peace. However, our Government must be clear-eyed about why peace has remained elusive all these years and the steps necessary to finally achieving it.

Israel has unilaterally withdrawn from territory and advanced proposals for two-state solutions since 1937. All Israel's offers have been rejected. Israel is not the obstacle to peace. The state of war exists because of the Iranian-backed jihadists that rule the Palestinians in Gaza and the ineptitude, corruption and generational glorification of violence in the West Bank. The reason the current Israeli government is less than enthusiastic about a two-state solution is because they have never believed the Palestinians are serious about living in peace and coexistence. October 7 proved they were right.