

## **CNV Statement – Religious Discrimination Bill**

What sort of Australia do we want?

Do we want an Australia where discrimination is actively practised and causes harm? Where people are not able to live their lives freely? Where some people have more rights than others?

That's not the Australia we want.

The Centre for Non-Violence urges our Federal Parliament to withdraw the Religious Discrimination Bill or agree to significant amendments to protect rights that are currently protected in existing anti-discrimination protections.

The Bill has shifted from its original proposal which was to protect people of faith and without faith from discrimination in certain areas of public life, such as employment, education and the provision of goods and services.

What has evolved is very concerning.

The Bill takes away existing anti-discrimination protections, including on the grounds of race, religion, sex, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

If passed as it currently stands, a significant consequence is that children who identify – now or into the future – as LGBTQ+ will face (preventable) - discrimination, harm and trauma.

Our children – and everyone impacted by this Bill - deserve equality, safety, acceptance, support, love and respect.

This Bill will take away hard fought for and earned rights and protections for LGBTQ+ people, people living with disabilities, women, and others.

Do we want an Australia that not only promotes equality and justice, but ensures our laws and social structures actively deliver on that promise?

Then please protest loudly to your local Federal Member of Parliament and ask them to vote against or seek the required amendments to protect our community and ensure our rights are upheld.