

From: Moira Deeming

Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 2:51 PM

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Subject: Expulsion Motion

Dear Colleagues,

I respectfully write to ask that you vote against the motion to expel me from the Liberal Party Parliamentary team because I am innocent of these charges, I am a brand new MP and deserve the chance to learn from this, and because guilt by various degrees of association is not a standard that any one of us can avoid transgressing.

I love the Liberal Party and I truly want to stay part of our Parliamentary team. Regardless of the outcome of this vote, I'll be keeping my Liberal Party membership and representing us in Parliament to the best of my ability.

I want you all to know that I have learned many painful lessons from this experience, and that I deeply regret the trouble this has caused my state and federal colleagues and the wider party membership. And also, that my offer to publicly back the current leadership team if the vote to expel me fails, still stands.

Although the vote to expel an MP should be based on facts and evidence, I do understand and lament the fact that as a Party we seem to be wedged between two very unpleasant media narratives.

The first false narrative is that I or the Liberal Party are in any way, shape, or form, directly or indirectly somehow 'pro-Nazi', due to my affiliation with the "Let Women Speak" Australia campaign. This accusation is demonstrably false. It has been damaging in the extreme to my reputation and to the Liberal Party brand.

The second narrative is that the Victorian Liberal Party Parliamentary team is anti-women and anti-free speech for punishing my advocacy and involvement with a legal and mainstream 'women's rights' campaign event, previously attended and supported by other senior female Coalition MPs like Senator Jacinta Price and Senator Claire Chandler.

I believe that we can take control of this situation and create for ourselves, a third media narrative- one where we avoid both catastrophes and emerge united as a team around the current leadership.

The fact is that the information provided to our Leadership team was poorly researched and the allegations made based on that information have been proven wrong. But that is good news for us all, because the Leadership have legitimate grounds to retract the expulsion motion.

To that end, I would like to clarify for all my colleagues, the sentiments I expressed on Sunday night in my meeting with the four members of the Leadership team and Nick Johnson.

1. I condemn Nazism unreservedly, and my offer to make another public statement to that effect, workshopped with the media department and signed off on by Leadership- still stands.
2. I condemn bigotry towards the LGBTQI+ community, and especially any inferences or claims that being a part of that community implies any kind of paedophilia- and my offer to make another public statement to that effect, workshopped with the media department and signed off on by Leadership- still stands.
3. Until the meeting on Sunday night, I had never before heard allegations that 'Standing For Women' or Kelly-Jay Keen had alleged associations to any degree whatsoever, as a Nazi or a Nazi sympathiser. The quotes read to me by Nick Johnson in that meeting were a total shock. I accept that an experienced person such as Nick was able to find those accusations in "under ten minutes". For example, the main allegations came from a single article from a small left wing pro-Scottish newspaper. For my part, I had only ever known of Kelly-Jay Keen and the "Standing For Women" organisation through the lens of mainstream media interviews about them and with them, with mainstream interviewers in the UK, Canada and NZ. In Australia SFW associations were with prominent female Coalition MPs like Senator Jacinta Price and Senator Claire Chandler, and with mainstream organisations like CPAC and Women's Forum. The majority of speakers at the previous events have been left-wing middle-aged women and members of the LGBT community themselves. I maintain that I had no reasonable ability to foresee the ambush by Nazis at Parliament House that day. And my offer made on Sunday night, to have my future attendance at events vetted by Party Leadership, still stands.
4. I acknowledge that I was unwilling on Sunday night, to accept a characterisation of my video clip with Katherine Deves, Angela Jones and Kellie-Jay Keen (where we lamented the presence of those Nazi's anywhere near our group) as "having drinks with Nazis". I found the accusation deeply offensive because that is something that I would never do, as I find Nazism abhorrent on every level. But my offer to accept regular guidance on all things political, still stands.
5. I acknowledge that I am a new and inexperienced MP, and that I do not adequately understand the 'unspoken' or nuanced expectations that seem to be obvious to others- even to other new MPs. My offer to take close guidance from wiser heads on all aspects of politics into the future, still stands.
6. I acknowledge that I did not follow up on my requests made at our inaugural Coalition conference, for specific help with how to wisely manage my pursuit of fairer sex-based protections. My offer to take close guidance from 'wiser heads' on these issues into the future, still stands.
7. I acknowledge that I did not follow up on my requests, made in an Upper House Parliamentary team meeting, for written guidelines and tips for New MPs. My offer to take closer guidance from 'wiser heads' on these issues into the future, still stands.
8. I didn't realise that I was expected to directly ask Leadership for permission to go to the "Let Women Speak" rally. I had been unaware of the Leadership's desire for me to do so, because as far as I could see, this was not common practice. However, my offer to run event attendance by 'wiser heads' on these issues into the future, still stands.
9. I acknowledge that I did not realise how strongly some Liberal MPs object to my advocacy for sex-based rights, parents rights and free speech as they relate to transgender laws. Or that they consider my views on this topic to be so politically toxic and out of step with a progressive modern-day Liberal Party, that they believed I needed to become an independent MP in order to pursue them. I had been under the impression that so long as I spoke respectfully and

didn't announce policies, I was welcome to advocate on these topics. I had no idea that this was a non-negotiable issue or that the number of times that I spoke about it were being counted as 'strikes' against me (my maiden speech, IWD speech and attendance at the LWS event). If I do survive this expulsion motion, I hope that we can discuss these issues together in private so that we all have clarity and unity going forward.

10. I acknowledge that I was given the option to resign from the Parliamentary team or be put through a motion of expulsion, but that I did not give an answer that night. This is because I was under the impression that I had until Tuesday to speak with others and try to negotiate a solution. I was further advised by supporters in the party not to speak with media or make any statements until such negotiations had prevailed. Then I saw the expulsion motion announcement in the media. I tried to negotiate further under media silence, but eventually concluded that whatever else happened, I surely had the right and the responsibility to make a statement on social media condemning Nazism and explaining what really happened. I acknowledge that this move angered some of my colleagues. However, in my defence, I have never been through anything like this before, I don't know the rules, and I was unable to get help from our media department. I am truly shocked and saddened at how this situation has unfolded, not only for myself, but for the whole parliamentary team.

If you have any questions or would like any assurances, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards,

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