
From: Moira Deeming
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2023 5:36 PM
To: 'letters@theaustralian.com.au' <letters@theaustralian.com.au>
Subject: FW: Confidential

To the Editor/whom it may concern:

I have been advised by a journalist to pre-emptively and peacefully provide assistance to journalists so that they can write about me fairly and accurately. I was given the impression that the following information could be distilled and distributed in the form of educational material, to journalists. If you are not the correct person to send this email to, please feel free to pass it on to the relevant person or let me know.

I note however, that the Australian has been the fairest by far in most instances when it comes to reporting about me. I am especially grateful for the professionalism of Rachael Baxendale.

Nevertheless, the following are a few of the descriptors that I reject as inaccurate, deeply offensive and unjustly harmful to my standing as an MP- and that I believe should not be used when reporting about me unless using a direct quote and should never be implied about me. I feel this is fair. If you disagree, I'd appreciate the opportunity to discuss further with you or another person at your organisation, exactly what my rights and options are.

1. **Anti-trans/Transphobic or homophobic/anti-LGBTQI+ (or other similar terms)**: I am none of those things. I have only ever advocated for fair and balanced laws with regard to sex-based rights, reasonable child safeguards, evidence based care for gender dysphoric minors and age and school appropriate curriculums. I have not said nor felt anything hateful toward LGBTQIA+ people. I have repeatedly condemned hatred and bigotry of all kinds, and especially against transgender and LGB people. There is no justification whatsoever to refer to me as 'anti-trans' or 'anti-LGBTQI+' (or similar)- they are very clearly negatively loaded terms, and there is absolutely no justification for using any of them in reference to me or my views. If I receive the definitions that I've asked for below, I will be happy to further justify this point.
2. **'Far-right' or 'extremist'**: I am not 'far-right' or 'extremist'. These are both highly inflammatory and negatively loaded terms which cannot conceivably be justified to use in describing me or any of my beliefs, personal or political. I appreciate that my positions on have all been widely misrepresented in the media, but I am officially informing you that those terms are completely inaccurate. I was raised in the Labor Party and none of my views have changed or differ at all from the vast majority of Labor voters. If I receive the definitions that I've asked for below, I will be happy to further justify this point.
3. **Religious fundamentalist and/ or similar terms implying some kind of religious political agenda)**: I have never once used religion as a public policy argument and I find it offensive and discriminatory that my personal religious beliefs (none of which are reported accurately in any case) are constantly brought into reports about my political work- and I note that this is not done regarding the religious or atheistic beliefs of other MPs. I have never been involved in any kind of branch stacking (this is very well known and accepted), and I have never been involved in any kind of 'religious recruitment drive' or any kind of 'religious political takeover'. Linking me to people who have been involved in these things simply because we share the same broad 'faith'- is offensive as well as inaccurate, and it unjustly reduces people's willingness to trust me. Happy to discuss further. If I receive the definitions that I've asked for below, I will be happy to further justify this point.
4. **Nazi, Nazi Adjacent, Nazi 'tolerant' or any other descriptor that implies any level of tolerance for Nazism or antisemitism**: I have never ever had anything to do with any form of antisemitism. I have rejected and condemned it ad-nauseum and there has never ever been any evidence that I am an associate

of/sympathetic to/aligned with/supportive of/or platform the views of Nazis/Nazism/antisemitism/hate/vilification. I think it is only fair for reporters to make that fact plain, every single time that they report on or decide on 'titles' for reports that have anything to do with my expulsion saga or whenever I am mentioned in an article that covers Nazism or anything related to it. In fact, I think that a disclaimer should be added to every report ever published about me, which mentions this issue- just to make it clear that each news outlet is not implying in any way that the accusations made about me have any basis. Happy to discuss further. If I receive the definitions that I've asked for below, I will be happy to further justify this point.

5. **Bigot/hateful/discriminatory:** I am not bigoted, hateful or unjustly discriminatory towards anyone at all. There is such a thing as positive discrimination in the law- which is balances rights- and that is all I seek. I reject all forms of bigotry, hate and unjust discrimination and there is no evidence that that is not true. I have never incited hatred or vilification toward anyone. I have in fact, worked incredibly hard to demonstrate restraint and grace toward people who have incited violence and hate toward me on the basis of easily provable lies and atrociously bigoted stereotypes about Christians, Liberals and women. Not only have I not exhibited any behaviours that could be justifiably described as bigoted, but having never returned like for like, I believe that should be reflected in how I am described. Happy to discuss further. If I receive the definitions that I've asked for below, I will be happy to further justify this point.

One that I'm confused about:

6. **Conservative:** I'm just wondering what constitutes a conservative these days- if you could define it, perhaps that is one label I might wear- but as I come from the Left and haven't changed my views, I'd need to know what journalists mean when they use this term.

And lastly, so that there are no wires crossed- when reporters employed by your organisation use the following terms, how are they generally understood or defined?

1. Anti-trans
2. Conservative
3. Transphobic
4. Far Right
5. Extremist
6. Far Right
7. Right wing
8. Anti-LGBTQI+ (or similar acronym)
9. Religious fundamentalist (or similar)

I look forward to your response,

Kind Regards,

Moira Deeming MP

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