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### Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Affidavit - Form 59 - Rule 29.02(1)  
Court of Filing: FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)  
Date of Lodgment: 8/05/2024 9:17:00 AM AEST  
Date Accepted for Filing: 9/05/2024 9:18:52 AM AEST  
File Number: NSD372/2023  
File Title: MEHREEN FARUQI v PAULINE HANSON  
Registry: NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



*Sia Lagos*

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Form 59  
Rule 29.02(1)

### Affidavit

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

Affidavit of: Lauren Rae Gasparini  
Address: Level 4, 343 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Occupation: Senior Associate  
Date: 8 May 2024

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I, Lauren Rae Gasparini, Senior Associate, of Level 4, 343 George St, Sydney NSW 2000 affirm:

1. I am a Senior Associate at the firm Marque Lawyers, the solicitors for the Applicant in these proceedings.
2. The material annexed to this affidavit was sourced on 2, 3 and 7 May 2024.

#### Respondent's evidence

3. On 18 January 2024, I received an email from Mr Danny Eid, the Respondent's solicitor at that time, attaching a copy of the Respondent's sworn affidavit in these proceedings.
4. At paragraph 20 of her affidavit, the Respondent swears the following:

*"Since Ms Faruqi became an Australian Senator I have been aware of her Twitter account and have followed her tweets. As at September 2022 I was familiar with the sort of posts that Senator Faruqi often made. I had observed that she often made offensive comments."*

5. I am aware that the Applicant was sworn in as a Senator of the Australian Senate on 20 August 2018 because she has affirmed this evidence at paragraph 17 of her affidavit affirmed on 3 October 2023 in these proceedings.

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## Faruqi Twitter

### *Migrant Muslim Mother Tweet*

6. On 20 August 2018, the Applicant published a tweet to her Twitter account (@MehreenFaruqi) (**Faruqi Twitter**) which states the following; *"I'm a woman. I'm a migrant. I'm muslim. I'm a mother. I'm Mehreen Faruqi. This is my story"* (**Migrant Muslim Mother Tweet**). Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 16-17** and marked **Annexure LG-1** is a screenshot of the Migrant Muslim Mother Tweet taken on 3 May 2024.
7. On 3 May 2024, I conducted searches of the website known as the Wayback Machine which can be accessed via the following link; <https://web.archive.org/>. The Wayback Machine is an internet archive, which archives web pages on certain dates. The Wayback Machine stores that information and the information is accessible for public use.
8. I conducted the following searches of the Faruqi Twitter using the Wayback Machine on 3 May 2024.
  - (a) A search of the Faruqi Twitter for the date 22 September 2018 (being the earliest archived date available on the Wayback Machine since the Migrant Muslim Mother Tweet was published), which shows that the Migrant Muslim Mother Tweet is 'pinned' to the Faruqi Twitter. This means that any person who accesses the Faruqi Twitter will see the Migrant Muslim Mother Tweet as the first tweet on the Faruqi Twitter. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 18-19** and marked **Annexure LG-2** is a screenshot of this Wayback Machine search.
  - (b) A search of the Faruqi Twitter for the date 9 September 2022 (being the date on which Senator Hanson published the tweet the subject of this proceeding), which shows that the Migrant Muslim Mother Tweet was still 'pinned' to the Faruqi Twitter on this date. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 20-21** and marked **Annexure LG-3** is a screenshot of this Wayback Machine search.

### *Applicant's tweets containing maiden speech*

9. On 20 August 2018, the Applicant was sworn in as a Senator. On 21 August 2018, the Applicant delivered her maiden speech to the Australian Senate.
10. On 21 August 2018 at 5:01pm, the Applicant tweeted parts of the text of her maiden speech to the Australian Senate to the Faruqi Twitter in a series of tweets.
11. The Applicant posted the following tweets (among others):
 

*"Good Evening. Assalamoalikum".*

*"The reality is that my presence in the Senate is an affront for some. They are offended that people of colour, and Muslims, have the audacity to not only exist, but to open our mouths and join the public debate. Some politicians call us cockroaches".*

*"Some, if they had their way, would ban us from making Australia our home. So it is with great pride that I stand here before you unapologetically a brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman".*
12. The tweets transcribed above are screenshotted and annexed to this affidavit at **pages 22-23** and marked **Annexure LG-4**. The tweets can also be viewed via this hyperlink; <https://twitter.com/MehreenFaruqi/status/1031798316030341122>.

*A Farrugia*



*Further tweets published by the Applicant*

13. On 12 September 2018 at 5:18pm, the Applicant posted a tweet tagging the Respondent's Twitter account (@PaulineHansonOz). The Applicant posted:

*"I'm curious. @PaulineHansonOz am I a good Muslim or a bad one? #auspol?"*

A screenshot of this tweet is annexed at **pages 24-25** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-5**. This tweet can also be viewed via this hyperlink:

<https://twitter.com/MehreenFaruqi/status/1039775221492797440>.

14. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 26-48** and marked **Annexure LG-6** are screenshots of further tweets published to the Faruqi Twitter on and from 20 August 2018 in which the Applicant refers to the fact that she is a Muslim.

**Tweets tagging the Applicant and Respondent and identifying the Applicant as a Muslim**

15. On 15 April 2019, the Applicant posted the tweet screenshotted at **pages 49-50** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-7**. At 7:30pm, the Twitter account @Balmaincraig posted the following comment, tagging the Respondent's Twitter account:

*"A Green Muslim ha ha and your (sic) telling aussies how to vote omg your in for a shock I hope @PaulineHansonOz & OneNationAus does great."*

Screenshots of the Applicant's tweet and @Balmaincraig's reply are annexed at **pages 49-50** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-7**. The exchange can also be viewed via this hyperlink:

<https://twitter.com/Balmaincraig/status/1117721726450720768>.

16. On 20 October 2019, the Twitter account @ICPAFed posted a photograph on Twitter with the following caption tagging both the Applicant and the Respondent's Twitter account "... We thank @PaulineHansonOz @DuniamJonathon @MehreenFaruqi for their support of this Rural Hardship Education Fund motion ..."

17. At 8:47pm on 21 October 2019, the Twitter account @gmacdaddy333 replied to this post with the comment:

*"Pauline Hanson working with a Muslim immigrant, her base must be shattered!"*

18. Screenshots of @ICPAFed's tweet and @gmacdaddy333's reply are annexed to this affidavit at **pages 51-52** and marked **Annexure LG-8**. The tweet and reply can also be viewed via this hyperlink: <https://twitter.com/gmacdaddy333/status/1186217365479886850>.

**Podcast interviews featuring the Respondent**

*Paul Murray Live*

19. On 8 July 2020, the Respondent participated in a podcast episode of "Paul Murray Live" with Cory Bernardi and host, Paul Murray. The podcast episode was published to the website entitled

'omny.fm' on 9 July 2020. A link to the downloaded podcast episode is annexed to this affidavit at pages **53-54** and marked **LG-9**.

20. At timestamp 1:06:11-1:07:07 of this podcast episode, Mr Bernardi states the following (emphasis added).

*"We've got our own version of that in the Parliament. Mehreen Faruqi who came from the New South Wales Parliament, from Pakistani origins, Muslim woman who I don't think has given a speech that doesn't say about how racist Australia is, how terrible it is, how misogynistic it is, how Islamophobic it is, everything that's wrong with it.*

*Her son of course is employed by the ABC. You know, they've got good jobs, they've got high profiles. From a country that they clearly think so much is wrong with – and that's just one of them. These Greens are infecting parliaments, councils, culture, schools right around the country. They are determined to dismantle what makes our country such a fantastic one. They are the pillars of the West. The Greens don't want that - they want to be in charge of global governance and they will do anything they can to bring us down."*

21. During Mr Bernardi's comments referred to in the preceding paragraph, the Respondent can be heard making a sound in response to the above comments made by Mr Bernardi (at timestamp 1:06:42-1:06:43 of the podcast).
22. The Respondent continues to participate in the podcast episode (including by recommencing speaking at timestamp 1:08:55) until Mr Murray states, "*Pauline we'll see you soon*" (at timestamp 1:09:15-1:09:16).
23. Annexed at **pages 55-56** of this affidavit and marked **LG-10** are screenshots of the transcript from this podcast which are available on the Apple Podcast application, and which reflect the comments referred to at paragraph 20 above.

#### *Alan Jones podcast*

24. On 22 August 2022 (being 18 days before the Respondent published her tweet which is the subject of these proceedings), the Respondent participated in a podcast episode of 'Alan Jones' with Professor James Allan and host, Alan Jones. The podcast episode was published to the Apple Podcast application and can be listened to via the following link; <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/alan-jones/id1601157093?i=1000576993212> (which is also annexed to this affidavit at pages **57-58** and marked **LG-11**).

25. At timestamp 28:31-28:51 of this podcast, Mr Jones states the following (emphasis added).

*"Before Pauline joins me, I noticed that the Labor Senator, Fatima Payman, part of a growing Muslim bloc in the Federal Parliament with Ed Husic and Ann Aly of Labor and Mehreen Faruqi of the Greens, Senator Payman was born in Kabul, and her family fled the Taliban for Pakistan when she was two.*"

26. At timestamp 31:01-31:35 of this podcast episode, Mr Jones and the Respondent have the following exchange.

Alan Jones: *"I've always found Ed Husic a very common sense Australian in reaching out to this growing Muslim bloc in the parliament. What would you say to the Pauline?"*

*A Farrugia*



The Respondent: *“Don’t forget where you are. Don’t forget our values and the country that you have come to, you fled to... Don’t turn your back on the culture or who we are as a people, as a nation, and never forget where you come from, why you fled that nation, and to ensure that this country never turns into the place that you’ve fled.”*

27. Annexed at **pages 59-61** of this affidavit and marked **LG-12** are screenshots of the transcripts from this podcast which are available on the Apple Podcast application, and which reflect the statements referred to at paragraphs 25 to 26 above.

#### **Media identifying the Applicant as Muslim**

28. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 62-141** and marked **Annexure LG-13** are examples of media articles, which were published between 15 August 2018 and 13 July 2022 and which clearly identify the Applicant as a Muslim. The articles annexed to this affidavit (including at paragraphs 42, 53-54 and 56 below) have been marked (in red line) to remove any references to matters which were before the Australian Parliament, including references to parliamentary speeches and photographs taken in Parliament.
29. These media articles are annexed for the purpose of establishing that the fact of the Applicant being Australia’s first female Muslim senator and/or the fact that she is a Muslim was widely reported by the media. The articles are not adduced for any other purpose(s) including any purpose which is inconsistent with section 16(3) of the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987* (Cth).
- (a) An article entitled ‘Australia senate appoints first Muslim woman amid race row’ which was published by BBC on 15 August 2018, and which can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-45191320>.
  - (b) An article entitled ‘Mehreen Faruqi to become first female Muslim senator amid Fraser Anning outrage’ which was published by The Guardian on 15 August 2018, and which can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/aug/15/mehreen-faruqi-to-become-first-female-muslim-senator-amid-fraser-anning-outrage>.
  - (c) An article written by the Applicant entitled, ‘I’m heading to the Senate and there’s not a damn thing Fraser Anning can do about it’ which was published by Junkee on 15 August 2018 and which states that the Applicant is “*a Muslim migrant*”. This article can be accessed via the following link: <https://junkee.com/mehreen-faruqi-fraser-anning/171636>.
  - (d) An article entitled ‘Incoming Senator Mehreen Faruqi ready to take on racism & Fraser Anning’ which was published by Women’s Agenda on 15 August 2018, and which identifies the Applicant as “*the first Muslim woman elected to any Parliament in Australia*”. The article refers to former One Nation Senator, Fraser Anning. This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/incoming-senator-mehreen-faruqi-ready-to-take-on-racism-fraser-anning/>.
  - (e) An article entitled ‘Ready and raring to represent the community’ which was published by SBS Punjabi on 20 August 2018, and which identifies the Applicant as the “*the first Muslim woman, as well as the first migrant from the Indian subcontinent to occupy a seat in the federal Parliament.*” This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/punjabi/en/article/ready-and-raring-to-represent-the-community/x0cuc8q4k>.

A Farrugia



- (f) An article entitled 'Australia's first female Muslim senator sworn into parliament' which was published by 9News on 20 August 2018 and in which the Applicant's religion is explicitly referred to. This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.9news.com.au/national/mehreen-faruqi-sworn-in-parliament/f0a0eac9-7ca5-43bd-bce9-9071574e7d62>.
- (g) An article entitled 'Pak-Origin Mehreen Faruqi Becomes First Female Muslim Australian Senator' which was published by NDTV World on 20 August 2018, and which can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/mehreen-faruqi-of-pakistani-origin-becomes-first-female-muslim-australian-senator-1903145>.
- (h) An article entitled 'Mehreen Faruqi warns against 'normalisation' of racism in first Senate Speech' which was published by The Guardian on 21 August 2018, and which identifies the Applicant as "*Australia's first female Muslim Senator*". This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/aug/21/mehreen-faruqi-warns-against-normalisation-of-racism-in-first-senate-speech>.
- (i) An article entitled 'Australia's first female Muslim senator Mehreen Faruqi calls out racism in maiden speech' which was published by SBSNews on 21 August 2018 and which can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/australias-first-female-muslim-senator-mehreen-faruqi-calls-out-racism-in-maiden-speech/iw66g6sl6>.
- (j) An article entitled "'I'm, unapologetically, a brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman': Mehreen Faruqi's first speech' which was published by Women's Agenda on 21 August 2018, and which identifies the Applicant as "*Australia's first female, Muslim Senator*". This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/im-unapologetically-a-brown-muslim-migrant-feminist-woman-senator-mehreen-faruqis-blistering-first-speech/>.
- (k) An article entitled "'Everyone who is not a straight, white man is targeted': Australia's first female Muslim senator claims new migrants aren't welcomed anymore and says minorities are trolled online' which was published by Daily Mail Australia on 22 August 2018, and which can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6085035/Australias-Muslim-senator-Mehreen-Faruqi-says-people-affronted-shes-parliament.html>.
- (l) An article entitled 'While All Eyes Were On Dutton, Our First Female Muslim Senator Gave A Powerful Maiden Speech' which was published by Junkee on 22 August 2018 and which can be accessed via the following link; <https://junkee.com/mehreen-faruqi-maiden-address/172349>.
- (m) An article entitled 'Pauline Hanson to abstain from Senate vote condemning Fraser Anning's Christchurch comments' which was published by ABC News on 18 March 2019 and which identifies the Applicant as "*Australia's first Muslim senator*". This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-18/hanson-anning-censure-vote-hinch-faruqi-christchurch-attack/10910708>.
- (n) An article entitled 'Christchurch shooting: Australia's moment of hate speech reckoning' which was published by BBC on 21 March 2019 and which refers to the Applicant as "*the nation's first female Muslim senator*". This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-47620391>.

- (o) An article entitled “If he has any dignity left, he should resign”: Anning petition tops 1.3 million’ which was published by SBS on 21 March 2019 and which refers to the Applicant as “*Australia’s first female Muslim Senator*”. This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/if-he-has-any-dignity-left-he-should-resign-anning-petition-tops-1-3-million/0s3eip2xg>.
- (p) An article entitled, ‘A sea of white faces in Australia’s party of multiculturalism’ which was published by The New York Times on 6 October 2021, and which identifies the Applicant as “*Australia’s first female Muslim member of Parliament.*” This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/06/world/australia/labor-party-diversity.html>.
- (q) An article entitled ‘How online abuse in Australia is shutting down crucial debates and damaging democracy’ which was published by ABC News on 13 February 2022 and which identifies the Applicant as “*Australia’s first female Muslim senator*”. This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-02-13/online-abuse-australia-silencing-debate-damaging-democracy/100818564>.
- (r) An article entitled “Racism Does Kill People”: Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi on an Anti-Racist Australia’ which was published by Sydney Criminal Lawyers on 31 March 2022 and which identifies the Applicant as “*the first Muslim woman senator this country has ever seen.*” This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au/blog/racism-does-kill-people-greens-senator-mehreen-faruqi-on-an-anti-racist-australia/>.
- (s) An article entitled ‘Muslim senator to fight discrimination’ which was published by the Senior on 11 June 2022, and which identifies the Applicant as the “*first Muslim Australian in the senior leadership position of a large political party.*” This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.thesenior.com.au/story/7776091/muslim-senator-to-fight-discrimination/>.
- (t) An article entitled “Outright racism’: Greens Senator blows the whistle on Parliament’ which was published by The Australian on 13 June 2022 and which identifies the Applicant as “*the first Muslim Australian to take on a senior leadership position of a large political party in the country*”. This article can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/breaking-news/outright-racism-greens-senator-blows-the-whistle-on-parliament/news-story/86d6630f1c9810053ec487328257f37a>.

**Videos uploaded by the Applicant which address the Respondent and refer to the fact that the Applicant is a Muslim**

*Video published to the Applicant’s Facebook page on 15 September 2016*

30. On 15 September 2016 at 11:18am, the Applicant published a video entitled “Hey Senator Hanson, why so angry?...” to the Applicant’s public Facebook page (**15 September 2016 Video**), in which the Applicant addresses Senator Hanson directly and also identifies herself as a Muslim. The Applicant states the following:

*“Assalamoalikum. Pauline Hanson wouldn’t want people like me here. My friends often tell me I tick so many minority boxes – woman, muslim, brown, immigrant. Senator Hanson, so sorry you feel swamped by a vibrant, diverse and multicultural Australia, but for many of us it’s a beautiful, welcoming and fun place to be. You see, hate is so boring.*

A Farrugia





*So maybe you just need to let loose and have some multicultural fun. How about some samosas and chai at my place?"*

Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 142-143** and marked **Annexure LG-14** is a document containing a link to the 15 September 2016 Video. The 15 September 2016 Video can also be viewed via this hyperlink: [https://www.facebook.com/mehreenfaruqi/videos/hey-senator-hanson-why-so-angry-why-dont-you-come-on-over-for-some-chai-and-samo/1106112819453831/?locale2=ms\\_MY&paipv=0&eav=Afb85QJwRI4K5-kdZ3sKewdUTxqvqagQyRgGO-uW\\_K5ircyhKB3IUir8uy3v-uiQF-M&\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/mehreenfaruqi/videos/hey-senator-hanson-why-so-angry-why-dont-you-come-on-over-for-some-chai-and-samo/1106112819453831/?locale2=ms_MY&paipv=0&eav=Afb85QJwRI4K5-kdZ3sKewdUTxqvqagQyRgGO-uW_K5ircyhKB3IUir8uy3v-uiQF-M&_rdr).

31. As at the date of affirming this affidavit, I have observed that the 15 September 2016 Video has attracted over 2,000 'reactions', 203 comments and has been viewed over 119,000 times.

*Video published to the Applicant's YouTube account on 9 August 2017*

32. On 9 August 2017, the Applicant published a video entitled 'Seriously Pauline?' to her public YouTube account ('Mehreen Faruqi'), in which the Applicant directly addresses the Respondent and refers to the fact that she is a Muslim (**9 August 2017 Video**). A transcription of timestamp 0:23-0:37 of the 9 August 2017 Video which I have prepared is below:

*"Ok ok enough. Seriously Senator Hanson, why don't you lay off attacking us and actually come and meet a Muslim. My offer for samosa and chai is still open."*

33. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 144-145** and marked **Annexure LG-15** is a screenshot of the Applicant's video posted to YouTube and a link to a video extract of the 9 August 2017 Video.

#### **Media referring to the Applicant and the Respondent and identifying the Applicant as a Muslim**

*News.com.au article – 27 July 2015*

34. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 146-150** and marked **Annexure LG-16** is an article entitled, "Greens NSW MP Dr Mehreen Faruqi hits back after receiving racist tweet", written by Rebecca Sullivan and published by news.com.au on 27 July 2015. The article can be viewed via this hyperlink; <https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/greens-nsw-mp-dr-mehreen-faruqi-hits-back-after-receiving-racist-tweet/news-story/7b4d9ef506a4b4207c66a5bdf50ff96e>.

35. I have read this article and observed that the article identifies the Applicant as a Muslim in a number of places, including the by-line which reads, "MEHREEN Faruqi, Australia's first female Muslim MP, says the Reclaim Australia movement has legitimised "blatant, ugly" racism in Australia". I have also observed that the article refers to the Reclaim Australia rally (which the Respondent attended) and that the article refers to the Respondent directly by name. The article states, "Federal government MP George Christensen and former One Nation leader Pauline Hanson were among Reclaim Australia's speakers at the rallies."

*Guardian opinion piece – 6 July 2016*

36. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 151-154** and marked **Annexure LG-17** is an opinion piece written by the Applicant entitled, "The Pauline Hanson resurgence: as a Muslim, I'm surprised it took so long".
37. The Applicant's opinion piece was published in The Guardian on 6 July 2016. It can be viewed via this hyperlink; <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/06/the-pauline-hanson-resurgence-as-a-muslim-im-surprised-it-took-so-long>.

*A Farrugia*



38. I have read this article and have observed that:

- (a) the Respondent is identified three times in this article;
- (b) Pauline Hanson's One Nation is referred to directly in the article;
- (c) the article's headline expressly states that the Applicant is a Muslim;
- (d) in the body of the article, the Applicant refers to Muslims as a group and uses the word "we" to indicate that she is a Muslim ("*As around half a million Muslims across Australia celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr to mark the end of Ramadan, we are confronted with the reality that the first ever explicitly anti-Muslim party MPs are set to be elected to federal parliament*");
- (e) the Applicant states, "*as an Australian Muslim, I am surprised it took this long for Islamophobic groups to cross into the mainstream*"; and
- (f) the Applicant states, "*over the last three years I have been in NSW Parliament as the sole Muslim woman MP...*".

*ABC article – 15 March 2019*

39. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 155-159** and marked **Annexure LG-18** is an article entitled, "*Christchurch mosque shooting prompts large vigil at Lakemba Mosque*", published by the ABC on 15 March 2019. The article can be viewed at this hyperlink; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-15/christchurch-shooting-prompts-warning-to-aus-muslim-communities/10905986>.
40. I have read this article and have observed that the Respondent is identified by name in the same paragraph as the identification of the Applicant as "*Australia's first female Muslim Senator.*" The article states, "*Australia's first female Muslim senator, Mehreen Faruqi, condemned anti-Islam sentiment in Australia, particularly "far-right [politicians] like Pauline Hanson and Fraser Anning*".

*Women's Agenda article – 17 March 2019*

41. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 160-162** and marked **Annexure LG-19** is an article entitled, "*There's a lot of reflection to be done': Mehreen Faruqi calls on politicians to end war of division*" written by Tarla Lambert and published by Women's Agenda on 17 March 2019. The article can be viewed at this hyperlink; <https://womensagenda.com.au/politics/theres-a-lot-of-reflection-to-be-done-mehreen-faruqi-calls-on-politicians-to-end-war-of-division/>.
42. I have read this article and have observed that it refers to the Applicant as "Australia's first ever, and currently only Muslim Senator" and also refers to the Respondent by name. The article states, "*And when I talk about politicians, I have to say I'm not only talking about the usual suspects like One Nation's Pauline Hanson, or Fraser Anning ... I am talking about other politicians as well who have been dog whistling and who have been race-painting for years.*"

*ABC article – 18 March 2019*

43. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 163-166** and marked **Annexure LG-20** is an article entitled, "Pauline Hanson to abstain from Senate vote condemning Fraser Anning's Christchurch comments", written by Eliza Laschon and published by ABC on 18 March 2019. The article can be viewed at this hyperlink; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-18/hanson-anning-censure-vote-hinch-faruqi-christchurch-attack/10910708>.

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44. I have read this article and have observed that the Respondent is identified four times in this article, which also expressly refers to the Applicant as “Australia’s first Muslim Senator”.

#### Twitter comments tagging @PaulineHansonOz and referring to the Applicant as Muslim

*Thread published on 2 December 2019*

45. Annexed at **pages 167-169** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-21** is a screenshot of a thread on Twitter posted on 2 December 2019. The thread can be accessed via this hyperlink: <https://twitter.com/nonbelievers/status/1202512801899540490>.
46. I have observed this Twitter thread and have seen that the Respondent’s twitter account @PaulineHansonOz has been tagged by the Twitter user @nonbelievers. At 7:59pm, @nonbelievers referred to the fact that the Applicant is a Muslim and posted, “It would be as big a joke as Mehreen being a “muslim feminist”.
47. I have also observed that earlier in the thread, @nonbelievers posted, “Let’s realise one thing that with these two @mehreenfaruqi @oz\_f here in Australia, Pakistan’s deep state, ISI and the muslim brotherhood have successfully made themselves mainstream”.

*Thread published on 28 April 2020*

48. Annexed at **pages 170-175** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-22** is a copy of a thread on Twitter posted on 28 April 2020. The thread can be accessed via the following link; <https://twitter.com/westonights/status/1259638794694782976>.
49. I have observed this Twitter thread and have seen that the Respondent’s Twitter account @PaulineHansonOz has been tagged by the Twitter user @Virgini86646075.
50. At 10:17am on 11 May 2020, the Twitter user @westonights commented the following “Funny how the Anti Australian big mouthed unelected Green Faruqi & her fellow loud mouthed Muslim Abdel Magied are silent on this issue. Bloody hypocrites & don’t tell me they don’t know all about this child sex abuse.”

#### The Respondent’s Facebook post – 16 July 2017

51. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 176-177** and marked **Annexure LG-23** is a screenshot of a post uploaded to the Respondent’s Facebook account, “Pauline Hanson’s Please Explain” (**Hanson Facebook**) on 16 July 2017. The Respondent uploaded a photograph of Sami Shah’s book, “The Islamic Republic of Australia, Muslims down under, from halal to hijabs and everything in between” with the caption, “How do you feel about Dymocks book range? #auspol #OneNation #PaulineHanson #Dymocks #Sale #Islam. This post can be viewed via this hyperlink: [https://www.facebook.com/PaulineHansonAu/photos/a.127409370796717/644903645713951/?type=3&ref=embed\\_post](https://www.facebook.com/PaulineHansonAu/photos/a.127409370796717/644903645713951/?type=3&ref=embed_post).
52. On 17 July 2017, Huffpost published an article written by Josh Butler in relation to the Respondent’s Facebook post described in the preceding paragraph which can be viewed via this hyperlink: [https://www.huffpost.com/archive/au/entry/comedian-responds-to-racist-abuse-after-pauline-hanson-criticise\\_au\\_5cd35f8fe4b0acea94ffabd6](https://www.huffpost.com/archive/au/entry/comedian-responds-to-racist-abuse-after-pauline-hanson-criticise_au_5cd35f8fe4b0acea94ffabd6). This article clearly identifies the author,

A Farrugia



Sami Shah, as Pakistani. A copy of this article is annexed at **pages 178-187** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-24**.

53. Screenshots of comments on the Respondent's Facebook post which make clear that the author of the book is from Pakistan post are annexed at **pages 188-189** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-25**.

#### **Reporting of the Applicant's public profile as a Muslim**

54. Annexed at pages **190-230** of this affidavit and marked **Annexure LG-26** is a collection of examples of media reporting during the period between the Applicant being sworn in as Senator on 20 August 2018 and the Respondent's tweet on 9 September 2022 which demonstrate public reporting of the Applicant being a Muslim woman.

55. Those articles can be accessed via the following hyperlinks:

- (a) 7 February 2019, The Guardian, "*The abuse and hate I get when I speak out hurts = but shutting up isn't an option*", written by the Applicant:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/08/the-abuse-and-hate-i-get-when-i-speak-out-hurts-but-shutting-up-isnt-an-option>.
- (b) 25 March 2019, BuzzFeed, "*Here's how Muslim women in Australia have been targeted by the far right*": <https://www.buzzfeed.com/ginarushton/australia-far-right-nationalism-racism-sexism>.
- (c) 12 June 2020, The Big Smoke, "*Vilification nation? Senator Mehreen Faruqi on racism in our society*": <https://thebigsmoke.com.au/2020/06/12/vilification-nation-senator-mehreen-faruqi-on-racism-in-our-society/>.
- (d) 22 March 2021, ABC, "*'Hold the line': Women of colour on the fight for gender equality*": <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-23/women-of-colour-on-the-fight-for-gender-equality/100021506>.
- (e) 24 April 2021, the Guardian, "*Recipes for Ramadan: Mehreen Faruqi's nostalgic pakoras*": [https://www.theguardian.com/food/2021/apr/24/recipes-for-ramadan-mehreen-faruqis-nostalgic-pakoras?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/food/2021/apr/24/recipes-for-ramadan-mehreen-faruqis-nostalgic-pakoras?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other).
- (f) 13 July 2021, The Monthly, "*Pushback*", written by the Applicant:  
<https://www.themonthly.com.au/blog/mehreen-faruqi/2021/13/2021/1626137759/pushback>.
- (g) 11 June 2022, SBS, "*New Australian Greens deputy leader Mehreen Faruqi vows to fight racism, Islamophobia*": <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/new-australian-greens-deputy-leader-mehreen-faruqi-vows-to-fight-racism-islamophobia/eaehpxlfp>.

#### **Too Muslim, Too Migrant, Too Loud**

56. The Applicant's Memoir, *Too Muslim, Too Migrant, Too Loud*, was published on 2 July 2021. The fact that the Applicant is a Muslim is referred to directly in the title of the Applicant's book.
57. The Applicant engaged in media interviews in relation to the release of her memoir. For example, on 25 June 2021, Benjamin Law wrote an article published in the Sydney Morning Herald entitled, "Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi: 'Since moving here I've started swearing a lot'", which references the Applicant's "upcoming memoir ... *Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud*". A copy of that article is

A Farrugia



annexed to this affidavit at **pages 231-235** and marked **Annexure LG-27**. It can also be viewed via this hyperlink; <https://www.smh.com.au/national/greens-senator-mehreen-faruqi-since-moving-here-i-ve-started-swearing-a-lot-20210514-p57s2d.html>.

58. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 236-241** and marked **Annexure LG-28** is an article published by The Guardian on 30 June 2021, also publicising the upcoming release of the Applicant's memoir. This article can be accessed via this hyperlink; <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/jun/30/for-eight-years-ive-served-australia-the-racist-hate-and-disgusting-abuse-still-crushes-me>. The article is an extract from the Applicant's memoir and identifies the fact that the Applicant is a Muslim multiple times including in the following statement:

*"I am a migrant. I am a Muslim. I am a woman. I am an engineer. I am here to stay".*

59. The Applicant's memoir is also referenced by its title in other online media articles, including for example, an article written by the Applicant and published by the Women's Agenda entitled, "Diversity brings much-needed lived experience into politics: Senator Mehreen Faruqi" which was published on 13 September 2021. This article can be accessed via this hyperlink: <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/diversity-brings-much-needed-lived-experience-into-politics-senator-mehreen-faruqi/>.

#### **Comments on the Respondent's Facebook page**

60. On 14 August 2017 at 3:36pm, Senator Hanson uploaded a video to the Hanson Facebook accompanied by a post which said the following.

*"Today I asked the Government what guarantees they could give the Australian people that the definition of marriage would not be altered by future Governments to include polygamy and child marriages without a referendum.*

*The Government could give you NO guarantees!*

*The former president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Keysar Trad, has recently called for Muslims to campaign for multiple marriage equality.*

*As long as there is no definition of marriage enshrined in the Australian Constitution there is nothing to stop future governments pandering to minorities and helping Keysar Trad's dream become a reality!*

*#PaulineHanson #OneNation #KeysarTrad #GeorgeBrandis #Polygamy #ChildBrides #ChildMarriages #Referendum."*

This Facebook post can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=656846041186378&ref=sharing>. Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 242-243** and marked **LG-29** is a screenshot of this post.

61. A Facebook user, Alex Malmstrom, subsequently published a comment responding to the post referred to in the preceding paragraph which said (among other things):

*"Muslims cannot be elected to Govern Australians  
Section 44 of the Australian Constitution may prevent Muslims from taking political office – on a*

*matter of allegiance,  
Greens Muslim candidate Mehreen Faruqi. Picture: Nikki Short Source: The Australian”.*

Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 244-245** and marked **LG-30** is a screenshot of this comment.

62. On 23 August 2018, Senator Hanson uploaded a photo to the Hanson Facebook, accompanied by text which states (among other things) “REMINDER – Do everyone a favour and share this friendly reminder.” This Facebook post can be accessed via the following link;  
<https://www.facebook.com/PaulineHansonAu/posts/pfbid02rGcXkwh7xJi9C36DMyxwMncWSan4jBNcw69NUevqiaqWnfuq8TguxY4qvQPnHl>.

63. A Facebook user, Greg Conly, subsequently published a comment in response to the post referred to in the preceding paragraph which said (among other things).

*“LNP have shot themselves in the foot.. BUT Please Explain Pauline Hanson’s Please Explain how a muslim Mehreen Faruqi has made it into the senate when section 44 states it cannot happen..”*


Annexed to this affidavit at **pages 246-248** and marked **LG-31** is a screenshot of the post referred to in paragraph 62 above, followed by Greg Conly’s comment.

Affirmed by the deponent  
at Sydney  
in New South Wales  
on 8 May 2024  
Before me:

)  
)  
)  
)  
)



Signature of deponent



Signature of witness  
Andrea-Marie Farrugia  
Solicitor  
Marque Lawyers  
Level 4, 343 George Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

***This affidavit was affirmed and witnessed via audio visual link in accordance with Part 2B of the Electronic Transactions Act 2000 (NSW).***

Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-1"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-1" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*

.....  
Signature of Witness

Pinned



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Aug 20, 2018



I'm a woman. I'm a migrant. I'm muslim. I'm a mother.

I'm Mehreen Faruqi. This is my story.



2.3K

1.3K

3.9K



Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-2"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-2" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*

.....  
Signature of Witness





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- Richard Di Natale** @RichardDiNatale
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- Jenny Leong MP** @jennyleong
- The Australian Greens** @AGreens
- Larissa Waters** @larissawaters

**Tweets** | **Tweets & replies** | **Media**


**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Aug 19  
 I'm a woman. I'm a migrant. I'm muslim. I'm a mother. I'm Mehreen Faruqi. This is my story.



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi

Greens Senator for NSW. Feminist, Engineer, Migrant

Sydney | [mehreenfaruqi.org.au](http://mehreenfaruqi.org.au) | Joined January 2011

2,407 Photos and videos





Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-3"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-3" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*

.....  
Signature of Witness



**Mehreen Faruqi**  
@MehreenFaruqi

Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens and Senator for NSW. Feminist and anti-racist, fighting for public education & a just world 🌍🗳️👩🏫

📍 Sydney [mehreenfaruqi.org.au](https://mehreenfaruqi.org.au) 📅 Joined January 2011

2,198 Following 40.6K Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

★ Pinned Tweet



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Aug 20, 2018

I'm a woman. I'm a migrant. I'm muslim. I'm a mother. I'm Mehreen Faruqi. This is my story.



Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-4"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-4" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness



**Mehreen Faruqi**

@MehreenFaruqi

...

"Good Evening. Assalamoalikum,

We are gathered today on stolen land."

My first speech to @AuSenate:

5:01 PM · Aug 21, 2018



**Mehreen Faruqi**

@MehreenFaruqi

...

The reality is that my presence in the Senate is an affront for some. They are offended that people of colour, and Muslims, have the audacity to not only exist, but to open our mouths and join the public debate.

Some politicians call us cockroaches.

5:13 PM · Aug 21, 2018



6



28



81



Post your reply

Reply



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Aug 21, 2018

...

Some, if they had their way, would ban us from making Australia our home.

So it is with great pride I stand here before you unapologetically a brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman.



4



43



182



Rule 29.02(8)

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No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**


Respondent

**Annexure "LG-5"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-5" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness



**Mehreen Faruqi** 

@MehreenFaruqi



I'm curious . [@PaulineHansonOz](#) am I a good Muslim or a bad one?  
[#auspol](#)

5:18 PM · Sep 12, 2018

Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-6"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-6" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness



**Mehreen Faruqi** ✓  
@MehreenFaruqi





Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud is here!! My book is part memoir, part manifesto. It's about a life lived challenging dominant mindsets, bucking the trend & pushing boundaries. It's a raw look into our broken political system from a political outsider in more ways than one.



Allen & Unwin

10:50 AM · Jul 2, 2021











 **Mehreen Faruqi**  @MehreenFaruqi · Jan 21, 2021 ...  
Garry, I said this in my first speech to Parliament, almost like it was written for you: "I am unapologetically a brown, **Muslim**, migrant, feminist woman and Greens Senator."

 **Garry** Yesterday  
To: Mehreen Faruqi >



**scum**

You are a disgusting anti Australian immigrant. How dare you become an Aussie tax payer funded anti Australian politician. You should be ashamed of yourself. I bloody hope you chase me up cos you anti Aussie scum hide behind parliamentary privilege. Grow a brain, you're there to represent our people not to fucking criticise us and our culture. You'd never get away with your discriminatory dialogue in your home country you disgusting anti Aussie cow. Hope you have the guts to reply 🤡🤡🤡🤡

 40  39  319   

 **Mehreen Faruqi**  @MehreenFaruqi · Jan 21, 2021 ...  
"I say 'unapologetically', because if there is one thing people with stories like mine are asked to do constantly, it is to apologise for our presence, because we are not quiet enough, not respectful enough, not thankful enough, not Australian enough."

 10  18  176   

 **Mehreen Faruqi**  @MehreenFaruqi · Jan 21, 2021 ...  
"Mazarrat chahiti hoon, magar afsoas nahin. Yeh maira ghar hai aur mein kaheen naheen jaon gee."

"Sorry, not sorry! This is my home, and I'm not going anywhere."

 7  16  178   



Mehreen Faruqi @MehreenFaruqi · Dec 10, 2021



I'm overjoyed to finally gather together to celebrate my book 'Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud'.

Writing this book was a rollercoaster of an experience & I truly appreciate the support that it has received. Here's to being a political outsider fixing a broken political system!



21

21

114



Mehreen Faruqi @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 28, 2022



I agree with this quote by Angela Davis wholeheartedly.

As the first **Muslim** woman in any Parliament in Australia, I know all too well the toll racism takes on so many in our community and why we must restructure power and privilege to unwind centuries of entrenched injustices.



3

16

69





**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jun 4, 2022

...

Incredibly inspiring to be part of the very first **Muslim** Women's Festival:  
@muslim\_agenda



5 12 75



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · May 31, 2022

...

Congratulations to Ed Husic and Anne Aly — the first federal ministers who are **Muslim**. Representation matters. Very happy to see it at the highest levels of politics. I know our communities will be proud.

30 224 2.2K



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · May 24, 2022

I'm so excited to be joining Australia's first **Muslim** women's festival @muslim\_agenda. I'll be part of the 'Radical and Resisting' panel alongside some incredible women!

Join me on 4th June at Bankstown Arts Centre.  
[events.humanitix.com/muslim-agenda-...](https://events.humanitix.com/muslim-agenda-...)



2 8 30



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Feb 12, 2022

What an honour to speak 'loudly' with these powerhouses at the first ever Sydney **Muslim** Writers Festival in Bankstown today @SaraSalehOz @najsambul @SMWF2022



5 7 56



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jun 30, 2021  
You can call me names. You can call me a maggot, a whore, a cockroach, a cow. You can demand I fuck off back to where I came from. Sorry, not sorry. I'm not going anywhere.  
ICYMI: here's an excerpt of 'Too Migrant, Too **Muslim**, Too Loud', out Jul 2.



From theguardian.com

51 59 322

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Feb 18, 2021  
Pages coordinating to target me and other **Muslim** women with vile hate speech were allowed to stay up for years.

Profit is Facebook's first and only priority. For them, the extreme harm done on the platform is just the cost of doing business. That's why they must be regulated.

**Mollie Gorman** @MollieGorman · Feb 18, 2021  
Facebook's ability to shut down so many pages literally overnight is proof it could have done a lot more a lot quicker to remove sources of misinformation and hate speech.

9 41 123

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jul 20, 2021  
Join me tomorrow night at 7pm as I chat about 'Too Migrant, Too **Muslim**, Too Loud' and what happens when you shatter stereotypes and confront a system steeped in patriarchy, privilege, racism and sexism. Register for this free event via the Zoom link! [events.mosman.nsw.gov.au/events/author-...](https://events.mosman.nsw.gov.au/events/author-...)

13 16 60

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 23, 2021

"I want to change the system, not prop up the boys club. But that is an uphill task, especially for a brown migrant **Muslim** woman."

I spoke to the ABC about why we need more women of colour in Parliament:



abc.net.au  
 Brittany Higgins sparked a moment of reckoning. But As the allegations of sexual assault that have shaken Federal Parliament spark a new push for ...

23 replies 25 retweets 149 likes

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jun 20, 2022

Really great to have another **Muslim** woman join the Senate. Representation matters and I look forward to working with Fatima. Congratulations.



**Antony Green - elections** @AntonyGreenElec · Jun 20, 2022  
 Labor wins final seat in WA Senate with Afghan refugee Fatima Payman winning a third seat for Labor. #auspol

6 replies 16 retweets 154 likes

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 2, 2022

This was difficult to read.

It's hard being a **Muslim** in politics. There are only a few of us, and Islamophobia is real.

There are more than 600,000 **Muslims** in Australia. There has never been a federal Coalition **Muslim** MP.

[thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/...](https://thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/...)

1 reply 19 retweets 61 likes

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2021  
2 years ago I said "Australian politicians need to understand that demonising **Muslims** and encouraging division has consequences. When they encourage hate for electoral gain, they are literally playing games with our lives."

It's distressing that the message just hasn't sunk in.

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 17, 2019  
Through the tears and hugs our community is sharing, we are facing the reality that some politicians have been whipping up anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment for years.  
An anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant Australian terrorist has now killed fifty...  
[Show more](#)



19 29 112

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jun 25, 2021  
I had a chat to @mrbenjaminlaw about sex, religion, death and swearing – you know, just the usual. We also talked about my new book, 'Too Muslim, Too Migrant, Too Loud', which I'm excited to say will be out on July 2!



From smh.com.au

61 40 200



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 31, 2022

Can't wait to talk with the amazing Michael Mohammed Ahmad about writing 'Too Migrant, Too **Muslim**, Too Loud'. Join us at @SydWritersFest! [swf.org.au/festivals/fest...](http://swf.org.au/festivals/fest...)



1 18



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jul 13, 2021

"They don't want me to campaign for decriminalising abortion or legalising drugs. Either way, I'm accused of being divisive."  
An extract of 'Too Migrant, Too **Muslim**, Too Loud', out now!

**TM The Monthly** @THEMONTHLY · Jul 13, 2021

"No matter what the subject I might be speaking about, they will reduce it to my race and religion," writes @MehreenFaruqi | [bit.ly/3wvqpQk](http://bit.ly/3wvqpQk)

4 14 37



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2022

In the three years since Christchurch, the federal government has not lifted a finger to tackle Islamophobia and racism in this country.

The Liberals have stood by while **Muslims** in Australia are abused, attacked and hated on. They just don't give a damn about us.

1 16 53



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · May 19, 2022

In parliament, it's been a real privilege to work with multicultural **Muslim** communities on issues that matter to us. So, seeing support for the Greens increase is incredibly rewarding.

1 4 30





**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jul 6, 2021

"Many in the environmental movement have bought into the myth that the 'green billionaires' are here to save the world. I don't think they are. [They] are simply about amassing wealth and power."  
Excerpt from 'Too Migrant, Too **Muslim**, Too Loud', out now!



4 replies 4 retweets 31 likes



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Aug 23, 2021

One to add to your evening listening 🎧

It was lovely to talk with @tarla\_jambert @womensagenda about the recent release of my book and about being a **Muslim**, migrant, feminist woman in politics.

#TooMigrantTooMuslimTooLoud



4 replies 5 retweets 16 likes



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jun 10, 2022

Replying to @MehreenFaruqi

I'm conscious that my election makes me the first **Muslim** Australian to be in the senior leadership of a major federal political party. In a diverse society, it's appropriate & frankly necessary that our parties and their leadership are reflective of our multicultural country.

8 replies 20 retweets 254 likes



**Mehreen Faruqi**  @MehreenFaruqi · Jun 10, 2022



Replying to @MehreenFaruqi

After a historic election result for the Greens, we have again made history: with a leadership team which is majority women, and including a First Nations woman and a migrant, **Muslim** woman. I'm so proud to be part of this team.

 2

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 211



**Mehreen Faruqi**  @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2021



Replying to @MehreenFaruqi

I remember exactly where I was that day, just as I'm pretty sure every **Muslim** in this part of the world remembers exactly where they were. It was shattering. Our hearts broke as we came to understand the enormity of the hate-fuelled massacre.

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 88





**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Dec 6, 2021

...

Yesterday I spoke out against Morrison's Religious Discrimination Bill that is dressed up to look like it will tackle discrimination, when it enables bigotry and hate to be unleashed against many communities including LGBTQI+, women, people with disabilities and minority faiths.



1 14 87 [repost icon] [share icon]



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Dec 6, 2021

...

It was wonderful to be joined by @lydia\_shelly, @rachaeljacobs and so many others saying 'NO' to this bill that must be voted down.

1 2 12 [repost icon] [share icon]



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi

...

I am a proud Muslim woman. I fundamentally believe that everyone should have the freedom to hold a religious belief or not. No one should be discriminated against on the basis of their religion. And no one should be allowed to use their religion as a reason to harm other people.

2:36 PM · Dec 6, 2021

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2021  
Two years ago today, an Australian man walked into two mosques in Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand, and killed 51 innocent Muslims.

This was an attack, the NZ Royal Commission ended up confirming, driven by an “extreme right-wing Islamophobic ideology”.



27 165 511

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2021  
I remember exactly where I was that day, just as I’m pretty sure every Muslim in this part of the world remembers exactly where they were. It was shattering. Our hearts broke as we came to understand the enormity of the hate-fuelled massacre.

3 9 88

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2021  
Two years on, how far have we come to ensure this will never happen again? Not nearly far enough. In fact, we have arguably gone further down the wrong path.

Open racism and Islamophobia continue to be tolerated and even encouraged in politics and the media.

2 13 77

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2021  
Two years on, how far have we come to ensure this will never happen again? Not nearly far enough. In fact, we have arguably gone further down the wrong path.

Open racism and Islamophobia continue to be tolerated and even encouraged in politics and the media.

2 13 77

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi

Neo-Nazis and far-right white nationalists organise online, their toxic hatred seeping into mainstream public discussions. Muslims continue to experience racism wherever we go.

8:42 AM · Mar 15, 2021



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 3, 2022

Islamophobia in this country is widespread. It is virulent. It is on the rise.

But in the three years since Christchurch, the federal government has not lifted a finger to tackle Islamophobia and racism.



1 13 47



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 3, 2022

MPs across the board are quick to claim Australia as the most successful multicultural country in the world. You will happily use us for photo opportunities at our festivals, religious and cultural events.

1 5 9



**Mehreen Faruqi**  
@MehreenFaruqi

With the month of Ramadan having just started, I'm sure plenty of you will come to Iftars organised by the muslim community, eat our food and celebrate with us, while you brush aside the real issues of Islamophobia and muslim-hate.

10:48 AM · Apr 3, 2022



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2022 ...  
In the three years since Christchurch, the federal government has not lifted a finger to tackle Islamophobia and racism in this country.

The Liberals have stood by while Muslims in Australia are abused, attacked and hated on. They just don't give a damn about us.

1 16 53

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2022 ...  
The killing of 51 Muslims in Christchurch should have woken them up to the reality of Islamophobia, but despite calls to change course and take strong action they decided to ignore this everyday reality of racism for hundreds of thousands of people.

1 2 6

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Mar 15, 2022 ...  
This report shows, yet again, that Muslims are bearing the brunt of vicious discrimination and hatred which has been fomented by politicians, the media and online communities.

[theguardian.com/australia-news...](https://theguardian.com/australia-news...)

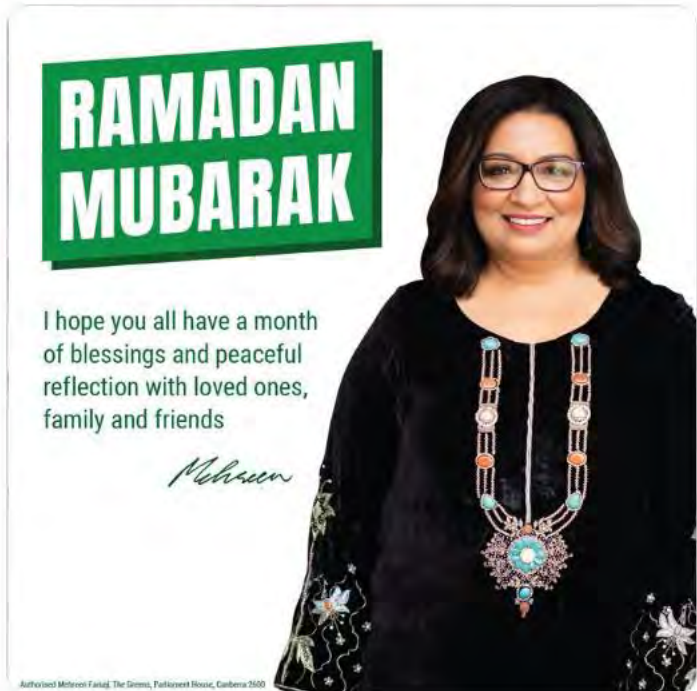
1 7 5

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi ...

Islamophobia is highly gendered with Muslim women the common targets of hateful and bigoted attacks. How many times do we have to be abused before this government will take action?

1:25 PM · Mar 15, 2022

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 12, 2021 ...  
**Ramadan** Mubarak everyone!



56 33 288



Mehreen Faruqi @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 23, 2020

...

Ramadan Mubarak!



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66



Mehreen Faruqi @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 1, 2022

...

Ramadan Mubarak to all!



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108





Mehreen Faruqi @MehreenFaruqi · May 6, 2019  
Ramadan Mubarak!



**RAMADAN MUBARAK**

I hope you all enjoy a month of celebration, peaceful reflection and blessings, and a lovely Eid-ul-Fitr surrounded by loved ones!

**DR MEHREEN FARUQI**  
SENATOR FOR NSW



Authorised by Dr Faruqi. \*I Congratulate to happy 115th ANZAC DAY

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29







**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · May 14, 2019

Getting ready to break my fast. I must confess campaigning during **Ramadan** isn't easy. But it's a fantastic time to reflect and appreciate the world. #greens #auspol #auspol2019 #RamadanKareem #RamadanMubarak



13

11

176





**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Jun 4, 2019

I hope **Ramadan** has been a month of reflection, blessings, giving and time spent with your friends and family. May this Eid bring you joy and be a time of celebration with your loved ones.

Sending you warm wishes for a joyous Eid al-Fitr!



13 15 132



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · May 16, 2019

Handing out at the **Ramadan** food markets in Lakemba tonight. Great conversations and so much support ❤️ [#vote1green](#) [#VoteGreen2019](#) [#auspol](#)



2 11 51



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 21, 2021

...

It was such a pleasure to break fast tonight amongst so many wonderful women. **Ramadan** Mubarak to all.



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140



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 21, 2022

...

This evening I broke my fast with a room full of incredible women - what a privilege! I feel so overjoyed to have shared this special Iftar with you all.

A very big thank you to everyone who was able to attend and **Ramadan** Mubarak to all! 🌙



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**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · May 12, 2021

...

Eid Mubarak! I hope **Ramadan** has been a month of blessings and peaceful reflection with love ones and friends. Sending you well wishes for a joyful Eid-ul-Fitr ❤️

16

18

221





**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 24, 2021  
Pakoras have always been part of Iftar for me and so many. A pleasure to share some reflections and my favourite pakora recipe with the 'Recipes for Ramadan' project and published today in @GuardianAus. Enjoy 🍴



13 28 186

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · May 22, 2019  
Delicious food tastes even more delicious in **Ramadan**. And yes, Jalebi is the best! [abc.net.au/life/ramadan-e...](http://abc.net.au/life/ramadan-e...)

4 6 42

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 3, 2022  
Islamophobia in this country is widespread. It is virulent. It is on the rise.

But in the three years since Christchurch, the federal government has not lifted a finger to tackle Islamophobia and racism.



1 13 47

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 3, 2022  
MPs across the board are quick to claim Australia as the most successful multicultural country in the world. You will happily use us for photo opportunities at our festivals, religious and cultural events.

1 5 9

**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi

With the month of Ramadan having just started, I'm sure plenty of you will come to Iftars organised by the muslim community, eat our food and celebrate with us, while you brush aside the real issues of Islamophobia and muslim-hate.

10:48 AM · Apr 3, 2022



**Mehreen Faruqi**  @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 24, 2020



Want to know what a day of **Ramadan** is like? Head on over to my insta story: [instagram.com/mehreenfaruqi](https://www.instagram.com/mehreenfaruqi)



Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-7"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-7" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness

← Post



**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Apr 15, 2019

BREAKING: One Nation has just won two seats in the NSW Upper House. That means there is a very real threat of the Greens losing the final NSW Senate seat to One Nation at the federal election in just a few weeks. We can't allow that to happen [#auspol](#) [#nswpol](#)



332 309 495



**Craig** @Balmaincraig

A Green Muslim ha ha and your telling aussies how to vote omg your in for a shock I hope [@PaulineHansonOz](#) & [@OneNationAus](#) does great ,

7:30 PM · Apr 15, 2019



Rule 29.02(8)

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Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-8"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-8" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness

← Post



ICPA Federal Council @ICPAFed · Oct 20, 2019

...

Rural & remote families one step closer to securing the education costs for their children during times of hardship. We thank @PaulineHansonOz @DuniamJonathon @MehreenFaruqi for their support of this Rural Hardship Education Fund motion #allstudentsmatter [icpa.com.au/module/latestN...](https://icpa.com.au/module/latestN...)



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43



gmacdaddy333  
@gmacdaddy333

...

Pauline Hanson working with a Muslim immigrant, her base must be shattered!

8:47 PM · Oct 21, 2019

Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-9"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-9" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness

**Document:** Podcast episode of “Paul Murray Live”, published on 8 July 2020

**Link:** [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/b7dt1ilgfsvqpx6wu769u/Paul\\_Murray\\_Live-Wednesday\\_8th\\_July.mp3?rlkey=58xf9fe2txjz9uanj6yasa96a&st=2oc890ps&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/b7dt1ilgfsvqpx6wu769u/Paul_Murray_Live-Wednesday_8th_July.mp3?rlkey=58xf9fe2txjz9uanj6yasa96a&st=2oc890ps&dl=0)

Rule 29.02(8)

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**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-10"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-10" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness



Paul Murray Live, Wednesday

Paul Murray Live

We've got our own version of that in the Parliament.

**Maureen Faruqi, who came from the New South Wales Parliament, from Pakistani origins, Muslim woman who I don't think has given a speech that doesn't say about how racist Australia is, how terrible it is, how misogynistic it is, how Islamophobic it is, everything that's wrong with it.**

Her son, of course, is employed by the ABC. You know, they've got good jobs, they've got high profiles from a country that they clearly think so much is wrong with. And that's just one of them.



Paul Murray Live, Wednesday

Paul Murray Live

Imagine these greens are infecting parliaments, councils, culture, schools right around the country. They are determined to dismantle what makes our country such a fantastic one. They are the pillars of the West.

**The greens don't want that. They want to be in charge of global governance, and they'll do anything they can to bring us down.**

Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

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Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-11"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-11" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness



**Document:** Podcast episode of “Alan Jones”, published on 22 August 2022

**Link:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/alan-jones/id1601157093?i=1000576993212>

Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

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Federal Court of Australia  
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Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-12"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-12" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness



Ilan & Sen Pauline Hanson -

Alan Jones



Before Pauline joins me, I noticed that the Labor Senator, Fatima Payman, part of a growing Muslim bloc in the Federal Parliament with Ed Husik and Ann Ali of

Labor and Mayreen Farooqi of the Greens, Senator Payman was born in Kabul, and her family fled the Taliban for Pakistan when she was two.

Her grandfather was an MP in Afghanistan. Her family was super rich. Her father was studying medicine.

But when they eventually got to Australia, the father who'd been training to be a doctor worked at a recycling pit and as a kitchen hand and as a taxi driver. It's not a bad story.

27-year-old Senator Payman was asked the usual provocative question meant to demonise Pauline Hanson. And the question was, how do you feel about being in the same chamber as Pauline Hanson, unquote. And the

Q Search



en Pauline Hanson - Monday

Alan Jones



Yes, it can be no fun fleeing the Taliban and losing everything. I've always found Ed Husick, a very common sense Australian, in reaching out to this growing Muslim bloc in the parliament. What would you say to them, Pauline?

Don't forget where you are. Don't forget our values and the country that you have come to, you fled to. Her father fled here for a better way of life and brought his family.

Don't turn your back on the culture or who we are as a people, as a nation, and never forget where you come from, why you fled that nation, and to ensure that this country never turns into the place that you've fled.

Good on you. Brilliant stuff, brilliant stuff, brilliant stuff. On unemployment, you've said that those sitting on the dole should get a job.

May not the pr

Q Search

Pauline,

that we spend over \$140 billion, B

Rule 29.02(8)

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Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-13"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-13" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness

# Australia senate appoints first Muslim woman amid race row

15 August 2018

Share



THE GREENS

Mehreen Faruqi is Australia's first Muslim woman in the senate.

**Mehreen Faruqi has joined Australia's senate as its first female Muslim member, on a day the country is caught up in a bitter row over racism.**

Ms Faruqi, who was born in Pakistan, told the BBC that Australia's future would be "stronger for our diversity".

The Greens Party MP for New South Wales was appointed by the senate on Wednesday to fill a vacant seat.

~~It comes as another new senator faces condemnation for a speech calling for a "final solution" on immigration.~~



~~Ms Faruqi, who will be sworn in next week, was among the prominent critics of Fraser Anning's use of the Holocaust-associated term.~~

---

~~The trailblazing MP said Mr Anning had "spat in the face of millions of Australians, spewing hate and racism" in his first speech to parliament on Tuesday.~~  
~~"I'm a Muslim migrant, I'm about to be a Senator and there's not a damn thing Fraser Anning can do about it," she wrote in a piece for website Junkee on Wednesday.~~

## Second milestone

Dr Faruqi migrated from Pakistan to Australia in 1992 with her young family. Prior to entering politics she held a distinguished career as an academic and has a doctorate in environmental engineering.

Her election to the state parliament in 2013 made her the first Muslim woman to attain any political office in Australia.

She told the BBC she would use her new role as senator to fight for a "positive future for Australia where we are stronger for our diversity".

She has said that overt displays of racism are not isolated incidents.

- [The Australian MP fighting the trolls](#)
- [The rise of populist politics in Australia](#)

- Should migrants in Australia face an English test?

~~In her leaving speech to the NSW parliament on Tuesday, she spoke about enduring "toxic, racist and sexist trolling" in her time as an MP "not because of what I'm doing but because of who I am, where I come from, and the colour of my skin".~~

~~And in her Junkee article, she said that with "increasing regularity" politicians were using "race-baiting as an avenue to votes".~~

"I could stand on Bondi Beach, serving sausage sangers in an Akubra, draped in an Australian flag with a southern cross tattoo and, for some, I still wouldn't be Australian enough," she wrote in the Junkee article.

Ms Faruqi said she was excited to bring "much needed diversity" to Canberra, and hoped her presence would encourage non-white Australians.

"The reality is our federal parliament doesn't look anything like the streets and suburbs of Australia. Slowly but surely things are changing."

---

## Australia outcry at 'final solution' speech



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## Australian politics

🕒 This article is more than 5 years old

# Mehreen Faruqi to become first female Muslim senator amid Fraser Anning outrage

**Greens senator says Anning has 'spat in the face of our successful multicultural society'**



📸 Mehreen Faruqi says Anning's use of the term 'final solution' in his speech to parliament was a 'deliberate telegraph' to people who hold white supremacist views. Photograph: Paul Miller/EPA

## Christopher Knaus

Wed 15 Aug 2018 11:57 AEST

Mehreen Faruqi, who will on Wednesday become Australia's first female Muslim senator, has slammed Fraser Anning as a "merchant of hate" who has spat in the face of our successful multicultural society.

Faruqi is due to become a Greens senator for New South Wales this afternoon during a joint sitting of the state parliament, where she will be chosen to fill the casual vacancy left by the outgoing Lee Rhiannon.

The timing of Anning's hateful speech means Faruqi will become Australia's first female Muslim senator less than 24 hours after a fellow senator called for Muslim immigration to be halted entirely.

Faruqi told Guardian Australia Anning's speech had thrown millions of decent Australians under the bus in a "desperate attempt to remain relevant and reignite a long gone racist policy".

"Senator Anning has spat in the face of our successful multicultural society, but I wouldn't expect anything less from an ex-One Nation senator," she said.

"These merchants of hate in the Senate will stop at nothing to keep attacking non-white people simply for the sake of sowing division in our country for their narrow political interests."

I am beyond mad. This kind of vile crap encourages and enables abuse of Muslims around Australia <https://t.co/7HSRxx6K05X>

— Mehreen Faruqi (@MehreenFaruqi) August 14, 2018

Faruqi became Australia's first Muslim woman to enter any Australian parliament when she joined the NSW Legislative Council in June 2013.

~~Her life gives lie to Anning's hateful rhetoric about Muslims.~~ She arrived in Australia from Pakistan in 1992, and forged a successful career as an academic and engineer, working on improving vital infrastructure across the country. Faruqi held leadership roles on major engineering projects, developing stormwater, recycling, cycleways, and hydropower infrastructure. She has a PhD in environmental engineering, led University of NSW's Institute of Environmental Studies, and managed environment and water-related services for both the Mosman and Port Macquarie-Hastings councils.

Ed Husic, the federal Labor member for Chifley, became the first Muslim MP when he was voted into the house of representatives in 2010.

~~Faruqi said Anning's comments were part of a deliberate strategy to create fear and wrongly attribute society's ills to immigrants. She said she would use her career in the Senate to call out such vile comments.~~

~~"The use of the term 'final solution' is a disgusting and deliberate telegraph to appease people who hold deeply sickening and violent white supremacist views," she said.~~

~~"It's pretty sad that such dangerous fringe and racist politics continue to make its way into debate but as a Senator I will call it out every time."~~

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# I'm Heading To The Senate And There's Not A Damn Thing Fraser Anning Can Do About It

by MEHREEN FARUQI 15 AUGUST 2018



**JUNKEE.**

I'm Heading To The Senate And There's Not A Damn Thing Fraser Anning Can Do Abo



Want more Junkee in your life? [Sign up to our newsletter](#), and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) so you always know where to find us.

Mehreen Faruqi arrived in Australia from Pakistan in 1992. Next week, she will be sworn in as a federal Senator. ~~Below, she responds to Fraser Anning's maiden speech.~~

I'm a Muslim migrant, I'm about to be a Senator and there's not a damn thing Fraser Anning can do about it.

~~Last night, Senator Anning spat in the face of millions of Australians, spewing hate and racism in his first speech to Parliament.~~

~~It's easy for him to stand there, in a historically conservative chamber full of white, privileged men and praise the White Australia Policy while calling for a ban on Muslim migration. Come Monday, he'll have to say it to my face.~~



~~It's easy for him to stand there, in a historically conservative chamber full of white, privileged men and praise the White Australia Policy while calling for a ban on Muslim migration. Come Monday, he'll have to say it to my face.~~

~~Anning's attack on non white Australians and Muslims is really out of this world stuff. It seems he would be more comfortable in apartheid South Africa, but the sad reality is that he is a representative in multicultural Australia.~~

~~Imagine how cooked you'd have to be to borrow the core of your first speech straight from 1901. It's like he's stuck in the world's shittiest time machine.~~

~~As kooky as his ideas may be, it is depressing that such dangerous fringe politics has made its way to the nation's capital. And make no mistake, this is not an isolated incident. With increasing regularity, politicians treat race-baiting as an avenue to votes and the media compete to monetise hate. It's a classic Racism 101 to distract people from the damage neoliberalism does to our society.~~

~~In a strange twist of fate, at the same time Senator Anning was spouting his racist rubbish, I was talking in my farewell speech to NSW Parliament about the heavy toll such abuse takes on people on the receiving end. I said:~~

~~"I think we could all be a more aware of the sustained abuse that some of us have to weather. This might go some way to helping encourage others like me to put their hand up and make parliaments look a bit more like the streets and suburbs of the country we live in."~~





~~Some might take Senator Anning's comments as a big joke or just a ridiculous attempt to grab the headlines and remain relevant. And, sure, he might as well have been wearing a tin foil hat with his weird UN immigration conspiracy theories. But we can't ignore the real consequences this will have for the people on the street.~~

~~There is no doubt in my mind that many migrants and especially Muslim-Australians woke up this morning deeply anxious, worried about the license Anning's speech gives to racist opportunists.~~

~~It pisses me off deeply that people like Anning can say whatever they want but will never have their very identity questioned. For people like us, any time we dare express a public view, on anything from plastic bags to decriminalising abortion or banning greyhound racing, it inevitably results in a barrage of racism and questions about our right to be in this country.~~

I could stand on Bondi Beach, serving sausage sangers in an Akubra, draped in an Australian flag with a southern cross tattoo and, for some, I still wouldn't be Australian enough.

~~If Senator Anning really wants to learn about the value of multicultural Australia, he knows where to find me. I'm heading to the Senate and there's not a damn thing he can do about it.~~

—

[NEWS & VIEWS](#)

## Incoming Senator Mehreen Faruqi ready to take on racism & Fraser Anning

by [Women's Agenda](#) | August 15, 2018



**D**r Mehreen Faruqi is just what Australian politics needs right now.

She's replacing Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon in the Senate, becoming Australia's first female Muslim senator.

~~Her appointment comes on the same day that politicians of all sides widely and emotionally condemned racist remarks made by Senator Fraser Anning earlier this week.~~

~~And Faruqi has her sights firmly set on Anning, and is determined to take him on.~~

In an opinion piece for Junkee, she wrote, "I'm a Muslim migrant, I'm about to be a Senator and there's not a damn thing Fraser Anning can do about it."

[Mehreen Faruqi](#)



~~She said that as “kooky” as Anning’s ideas are, it’s depressing to see this level of dangerous fringe politics making its way into Parliament.~~

~~“And make no mistake, this is not an isolated incident,” she wrote. “With increasing regularity, politicians treat race-baiting as an avenue to votes and the media compete to monetise hate. It’s a classic Racism 101 to distract people from the damage neoliberalism does to our society.”~~

~~Delighted to publish this by [@MehreenFaruqi](#) in response to Fraser Anning <https://t.co/yrefvHmcRi>~~

~~— Rob Stott (@Rob\_Stott) [August 15, 2018](#)~~

She added that if Senator Anning wants to learn about the value of multicultural Australia, that he knows where to find her.

Faruqi arrived in Australia in 1992 from Pakistan with her young family. She has a PhD in environmental engineering and has worked as both an academic and an engineer on major infrastructure projects.

She joined the NSW Legislature Council in June 2013, becoming the first Muslim woman elected to any Parliament in Australia.

~~Addressing the NSW Upper House last night, she said that for the past five years she has been subjected to “toxic, racist and sexist trolling.”~~

~~“No matter how much I brush it aside, it does take its toll,” she said.~~

~~She added that she is troubled that “ordinary citizens in a democratic society feel disempowered to pursue political positions” but that she’s excited to bring some much-needed diversity to Canberra.~~

[Pauline Pantsdown](#)  
[@PPantsdown](#)

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Lee Rhiannon announced her retirement as a Greens senator earlier this year, but said at the time that she was “not resigning from politics”.

Faruqi will be sworn in next week,

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[MEHREEN FARUQI](#)

## 'Ready and raring to represent the community'

~~Defying Fraser Anning's idea of Australia,~~ Dr Mehreen Faruqi has become the first Muslim woman, as well as the first migrant from the Indian subcontinent to occupy a seat in the federal Parliament.



Dr Mehreen Faruqi becomes Australia's first Muslim senator Source: Supplied

55-year-old Dr Mehreen Faruqi has scripted history in more ways than one as she took her oath as a Senator in Canberra today. She has become the first Muslim woman to occupy a seat in the federal Parliament, and is also the first migrant from the larger Indian subcontinent to participate in Australia's federal politics.

~~The Greens senator was invited to fill a vacant seat at a time when the country is reeling from the aftershocks of Australia Party Senator, Fraser Anning's hateful rhetoric about Muslims.~~



Dr Mehreen Faruqi joins Australian Parliament as its first female Muslim member Source: Auspic –DPS

## Ready and raring to represent the community

~~“Senator Anning's speech was an insult to millions of Australians and completely out of touch with our vibrant multicultural society,” Dr Faruqi told **SBS Punjabi**.~~

~~“The continued dog whistling and thinly veiled racism from members of the Coalition and even Prime Minister Turnbull has emboldened these voices of hate.”~~



**Senator Mehreen Faruqi**  
about 6 years ago







A little media never hurt nobody    Great to speak on my start in the Senate, multiculturalism and the disaster of the NEG with [Senator Richard Di Natale](#) and [Adam Bandt](#)

223

20

2

Originally from Pakistan, Dr Faruqi migrated to Australia in 1992 with her husband and infant son and has over the years charted a successful career as an academician and engineer, spearheading vital infrastructure projects across the country.

This is however, the second time that Dr Faruqi's has made history in Australian politics.

She had earlier become the first Muslim female to hold a political office when she was elected to the New South Wales Parliament in 2013.



Source: AAP

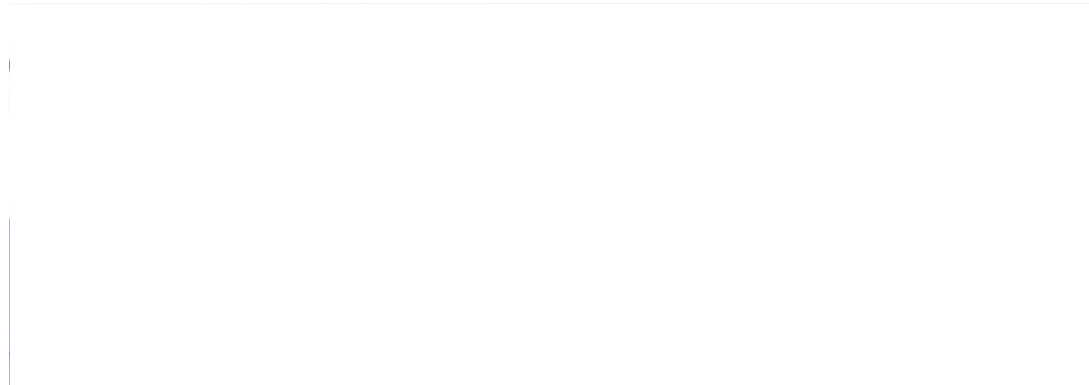
~~Dr Faruqi, who has been highly critical of Senator Anning's recent speech, told **SBS Punjabi** that she has been really concerned that the politics of division, fear and racism have found a home in the Federal Parliament.~~

"The Turnbull Government has been a complete disaster for the environment, young people are being swindled and ordinary citizens are not being heard, while the big end of town has the ear of the Government."

"The Greens say it doesn't have to be this way," added Dr Faruqi.

The parliamentarian, who wants to use her position to "shake up the status quo", says it's time to push the boundaries.

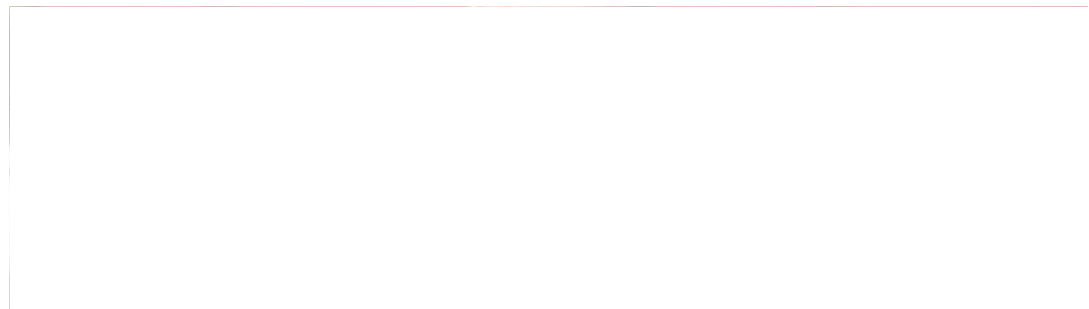
“We are a wealthy country but so many are being left behind. This is the time to push boundaries and make the changes that are needed for a future for everyone, no matter where they come from, the colour of their skin, their religion, their post code or their bank balance,” said Dr Faruqi.



H ATTEMPTED MURDER AFTER INJURED MAN 'BURIED ALIVE'

## first female Muslim senator sworn into parliament

18



Australia's first female Muslim senator sworn into parliament

Australia's first female Muslim senator says her door is always open for the colleague who gave a "racist" speech in parliament last week.

Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi was sworn into parliament on today, less than a week after crossbench senator Fraser Anning called for curbs to Muslim migration and a "final solution" on immigration policy.

ake up the status quo," Senator Faruqi told reporters in Canberra.



een sworn in as Greens senator today. (AAP)

"If Senator Anning wants to come and have a chat to me and learn a thing or two about the beauty and richness of multicultural Australia he can knock on my door."

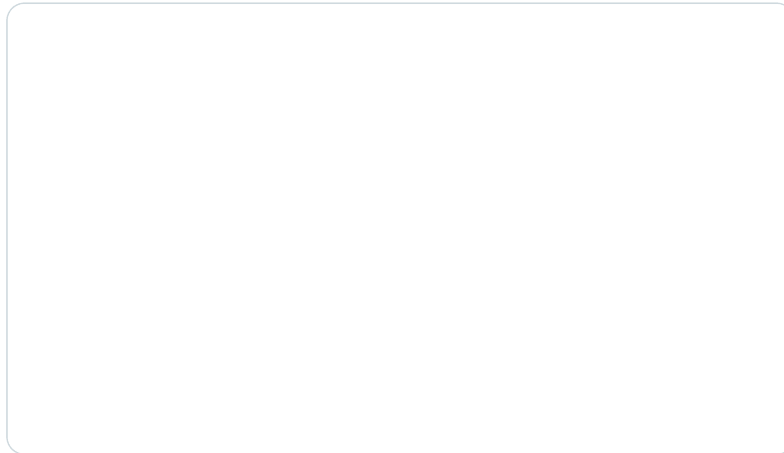
Senator Anning shook hands with his new colleague this morning, congratulating her on entering parliament in a brief exchange.

Fellow Greens embraced Senator Faruqi, who replaces factional rival and veteran senator Lee Rhiannon in the upper house.

Senator Faruqi migrated to Australia from Pakistan in 1992 and has represented the Greens in the NSW upper house since 2013.

@RichardDiNatale · Follow

An honour to welcome @MehreenFaruqi to our #Greens team.



10:04 AM · Aug 20, 2018



202 Reply Share

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~~"After last week particularly, it is really good to have you here," Labor's Senate leader Penny Wong told Senator Faruqi.~~

~~Independent Derryn Hinch said he was thrilled the new Greens senator was in parliament.~~

~~Liberal National senator Ian Macdonald also congratulated Senator Faruqi, before joking it was "probably the only nice thing" he'd say to her.~~

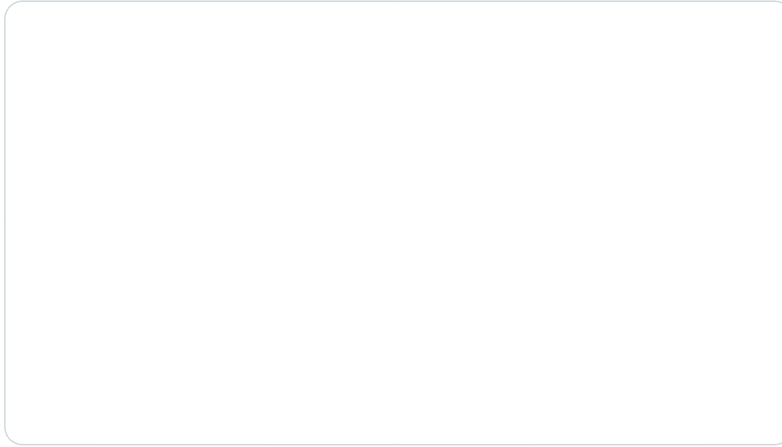
Senator Faruqi said her "sleeves are rolled up" and she is ready to work.

She described the Turnbull government as a "disaster" for the environment while young people were being "screwed over."



@AuSenate · Follow

Senator @MehreenFaruqi was sworn in this morning as a senator for New South Wales



10:30 AM · Aug 20, 2018



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ns were not being heard while the big end of town had the ear of government.

tone issue would be pushing boundaries towards an inclusive Australia.

lenging assumptions regarding racism, immigration and the value of multicultural Australia,"

to stand up and call out racism, no matter who does it or where it comes from."

ment Greens Racism

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News > World > Pak-Origin Mehreen Faruqi Becomes First Female Muslim Australian Senator

🕒 This Article is From Aug 20, 2018

# Pak-Origin Mehreen Faruqi Becomes First Female Muslim Australian Senator

Mehreen Faruqi migrated to Australia from Pakistan in 1992 and represented the Green Party in the New South Wales Legislative Council since 2013.

World | Indo-Asian News Service | Updated: August 20, 2018 1:08 pm IST

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Image credit: [twitter.com/MehreenFaruqi](https://twitter.com/MehreenFaruqi)



**Canberra:** Pakistani-origin Mehreen Faruqi, of the Australian Green Party, today became the first Muslim woman to occupy a seat in the country's Senate.

~~Ms Faruqi took office a week after senator Fraser Anning, of Australia's Katter Party, made controversial comments on Muslim and non-English speaking immigrants from the "third world", reports EFE news.~~

~~"After last week particularly, it is really good to have you here," Labor Party leader Penny Wong said in the Senate, referring to remarks by Mr Anning, who also called for a plebiscite on immigration.~~

~~Ms Faruqi was among the prominent critics of Mr Anning's use of the Holocaust-associated term. Last week she said that Mr Anning had "spat in the face of millions of Australians, spewing hate and racism".~~

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"I'm a Muslim migrant, I'm about to be a Senator and there's not a damn thing Fraser Anning can do about it," she wrote in a piece for website Junkee last week.

Ms Faruqi migrated to Australia from Pakistan in 1992 and represented the Green Party in the New South Wales Legislative Council since 2013.

She replaces Lee Rhiannon from the Green Party, WHO announced her retirement in May.

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Mehreen Faruqi,

Australia,



## Australian Greens

● This article is more than 5 years old

# Mehreen Faruqi warns against 'normalisation' of racism in first Senate speech

Greens senator says condemnation of racism by major parties means nothing as long as they politicise race



▶ 'I'm not going anywhere': Australia's first female Muslim senator makes maiden speech – video

## Christopher Knaus

Tue 21 Aug 2018 17:52 AEST

Australia's first female Muslim senator has used her maiden speech to warn of the dangerous "normalisation" of racism by media and politicians, linking it directly to the more blatant discrimination by the likes of [Fraser Anning](#).

Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi on Tuesday condemned the use of "dog-whistling and race-baiting as an electoral tactic", revealing she had been the subject of thousands of racist and sexist messages and letters during her time in New South Wales' upper house.

~~“The reality is that my presence in the Senate is an affront for some,” Faruqi said.~~

~~“They are offended that people of colour, and Muslims, have the audacity to not only exist, but to open our mouths and join the public debate.”~~

~~“Some politicians call us cockroaches. Some say we are a disease for which Australia needs vaccination. Some, if they had their way, would ban us from making Australia our home.”~~

~~Even when Muslims spoke out about racism, they were condemned and criticised for having a “victim mentality”, Faruqi said.~~

~~“We will not be silenced. We will speak out.”~~

~~Faruqi said the type of unity shown by the major parties last week following Anning’s speech was hollow. It meant nothing unless politicians stopped politicising racial issues, including through rhetoric on African gangs in Victoria.~~

~~“It’s all well and good for politicians to condemn the most blatant racism, but we cannot allow them to use these public displays of solidarity as cover for their own role in creating and fanning racial divisions,” Faruqi said.~~

~~“You can’t condemn racism and then, in a warm glow of self-congratulation, allow deep rooted structures of discrimination to remain in access to healthcare and public services, in our prisons and justice system, and in our immigration system.”~~

Faruqi, a successful engineer and academic, **filled the casual vacancy left by Lee Rhiannon’s departure**. She was named the Greens’ education spokeswoman on Tuesday, replacing Sarah Hanson-Young, who assumed responsibility for the environment portfolio.

Welcome to [@MehreenFaruqi](#) who is set to take over the education portfolio for [@Greens](#). And thanks to [@sarahinthesen8](#) for her work in the role!

– Universities Aust. (@uniaus) **August 21, 2018**

Faruqi joined the NSW Legislative Council in June 2013, becoming the first Muslim woman to enter any Australian parliament.

Faruqi left Pakistan for Australia in 1992. She has a PhD in environmental engineering, led University of New South Wales institute of environmental studies, and managed environment and water-related services for both the Mosman and Port Macquarie-Hastings councils.

~~She used her maiden speech to quote a verse from Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz on resistance, speaking truth, and speaking out.~~

~~Faruqi said she was unapologetically a “brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman”.~~

~~“And I say unapologetically because if there is one thing people with stories like mine are asked to do constantly, it is apologise for our presence because we are not quiet enough, not respectful enough, not thankful enough, not Australian enough - for some, we will never be Australian enough,” Faruqi said.~~

~~“But how can I be Australian enough? Do I need to point to my love of cricket? My career in the public service? My husband’s role as major in the army reserves?”~~

~~“Instead of being accepted, because this is our home, we are asked to apologise for every action of someone who looks like us. We are subject to rules that white people never will be.”~~

Faruqi joined the Greens after watching Bob Brown and Kerry Nettle in 2003, in the lead-up to the invasion of Iraq. She said it was the courage of Brown and Nettle, in standing up to the lies about the war, that inspired her.

She talked of the importance of saving the Great Barrier Reef, the Great Artesian Basin and the Murray-Darling Basin from exploitation and degradation.

Faruqi also floated the idea of punishing corporations that “refuse to pay women the same as they would a man”.

“Gender equality is not just going to happen,” she said.

And to those who want her to “F off back to where I came from”, Faruqi said: “Sorry, not sorry. This is my home and I’m not going anywhere.”

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## ~~Australia's first female Muslim senator Mehreen Faruqi calls out racism in maiden speech~~

~~Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi heavily criticised politicians and the media for what she called the "legitimisation and normalisation" of racism in Australia.~~



~~Mehreen Faruqi delivers her maiden speech in the Senate on 21 August, 2018. Source: SBS News~~

~~Australia's first female Muslim senator has given her maiden speech to the Senate in which she called out political racism, insisting "we can build a future for each and every one of us".~~

~~Mehreen Faruqi delivered her first speech as Greens Senator for New South Wales (NSW) on Tuesday, in which she compared her experience as a migrant to Australia from Pakistan in 1992 to those arriving today.~~

~~"While I did feel welcomed when we arrived here, migrants coming to our shores today would not be able to say the same. The last 26 years have seen governments erode support for newcomers as bigotry and xenophobia has been allowed to flourish," she said.~~

~~Senator Faruqi criticised politicians for "creating and fanning racial divisions",~~

~~singling out comments on "African gang" violence as an example.~~

~~"You can't condemn racism and then in a warm glow of self-congratulation allow deep-rooted structures of discrimination to remain in access to healthcare and public services, in our prisons and justice system and in our immigration system," she said.~~

~~She revealed she had personally been subjected to "thousands" of racist and sexist messages.~~

~~"The existence of racism, sexism and other discrimination is not new but what has changed is its legitimisation, normalisation and encouragement in the media and in politics," she said.~~

~~Senator Faruqi said she would bring "determination" and a "trouble-making streak" to the Senate, adding: "We can build a future for each and every one of us, no matter where we come from, no matter the colour of our skin, our religion, our gender or sexuality, our bank balance or our postcode. I hope I can make you proud."~~

Her inaugural speech came a day after she was sworn in to Parliament, filling the casual vacancy left by Lee Rhiannon.

**“An honour to be sworn into the @AuSenate just now! Excited to get to work with my brilliant Greens colleagues — Mehreen Faruqi (@MehreenFaruqi) August 20, 2018”**

~~Her appointment came a week after Katter's Australian Party Senator Fraser Anning called for Muslims to be banned from migrating to Australia in a widely condemned first speech.~~

Senator Faruqi said she was "beyond mad" at his comments, adding "I'm a Muslim migrant woman, I'm heading to the Senate on Monday and there's nothing Senator Fraser Anning can do about that".

She migrated to Australia from Pakistan in 1992 and forged a successful career as an academic and engineer before heading into state politics.

Senator Faruqi joined the Greens in 2004, explaining in an online biography that the party "closely aligned" with her views on the environment and social issues.

She became the first Muslim woman elected to any Australian parliament when she entered the NSW Legislative Council in 2013.

As a foreign-born Australian, she said at the time, her story "belongs to many".

On Monday, she announced she was taking on the party's education portfolio but would also be working on animal welfare, housing, local government, industry and gun control.

NEWS & VIEWS

# ~~‘I’m, unapologetically, a brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman’: Mehreen Faruqi’s first speech~~

by [Angela Priestley](#) | August 21, 2018



**G**reens Senator Mehreen Faruqi delivered her maiden speech in the Senate on Tuesday, ~~offering an upfront and blistering assessment of Australian politics today.~~

An engineer and academic, Faruqi is Australia’s first female, Muslim Senator, and the 100th woman to sit in the Senate. As we reported last week, she seems determined to take on racism in politics, particularly following racist and inflammatory remarks made during a certain other maiden Senate speech last week.

~~Faruqi told the Senate: “It is with great pride I stand here before you, unapologetically. A brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman and a Greens Senator.”~~

~~“We are subject to rules that white people never will. We don’t have the luxury of mistakes or of slipping up, because as soon as we do we became a case study of existing stereotypes.”~~

~~“They are offended that people of colour, and Muslims, have the audacity to not only exist, but to open our mouths and join the public debate.”~~

**Mehreen Faruqi** · Aug 21, 2018  
 @MehreenFaruqi · Follow  
 Replying to @MehreenFaruqi

I see an unashamedly feminist country where the patriarchy is dismantled, where access to abortion is unambiguously legal, where the safety of women is of the utmost importance and violence against women is confronted as the crisis it is

**Mehreen Faruqi**  
 @MehreenFaruqi · Follow

I have the privilege of being the hundredth woman to sit in the senate. I'm thankful for the ninety-nine others who forged this path.

But I would not be standing here in front of you were it not for the exceptional women in my life.

5:23 PM · Aug 21, 2018

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~~Faruqi shared the need to fight for important environmental causes, including saving the Great Barrier Reef, and also to legislate on policies that will make gender equality happen, such as punishing companies that pay women less than men.~~

~~She shared that she was the recipient of thousands of sexist and racist messages during her time in the NSW Parliament, and that her presence in the Senate, "is an affront to some."~~

~~She said the existence of racism, sexism and other discrimination is not new. "But what has changed is its legitimisation, normalisation and encouragement in the media and politics."~~

~~We must have the courage to admit that racism in Australia exists, she said.~~

~~And she added that condemnation of racism by Australian politicians — as we saw in the Parliament last week — means nothing if politicians go on to create and fan racial divisions.~~

~~"You can't condemn racism and then, in a warm glow of self-congratulation, allow deep-rooted structures of discrimination to remain in access to healthcare and public services, in our prisons and justice system, and in our immigration system."~~

Faruqi also shared her story as a woman, migrant, muslim and mother on social media this week, with a powerful message regarding what she's done despite being told that she couldn't or shouldn't.

"They've tried to label me. They've told me a little girl can't play cricket like my brothers, but I played anyway. They told me a girl can't go to university, but I became an engineer, like my father," she said in the video.

"They told me to go back to where I came from, but I stayed and my family built a life here.



“They told me I couldn’t return to university because there was no childcare service, so we started one.

‘They told me the future of our planet wasn’t important, so I became an environmental academic, teaching sustainability.

“They told me my opinion didn’t matter, so I became the first Muslim woman to sit in an Australian Parliament.”



Not found

I’m a woman. I’m a migrant. I’m muslim. I’m a mother.

I’m Mehreen Faruqi. This is my story.

[pic.twitter.com/VvEiIqATOZ](https://pic.twitter.com/VvEiIqATOZ)

— Mehreen Faruqi (@MehreenFaruqi) [August 20, 2018](#)

SHARE THIS

## ~~'Everyone who is not a straight, white man is targeted': Australia's first female Muslim senator claims new migrants aren't welcomed anymore and says minorities are trolled online~~

- ~~Australia's first Muslim senator Mehreen Faruqi delivered her maiden speech~~
- ~~The former engineer from Pakistan claimed Australia was now more bigoted~~
- ~~The lawmaker, 55, claimed everyone who wasn't a white, straight man targeted~~
- ~~She also addressed how her controversial son Osman was trolled on Twitter~~

By [STEPHEN JOHNSON FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 13:15 AEST, 22 August 2018 | **UPDATED:** 15:11 AEST, 7 November 2018

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~~Australia's first Muslim senator has claimed in her maiden speech to parliament that 'everyone' who was not a straight, white male had been abused online.~~

Mehreen Faruqi, who only renounced her dual Pakistani citizenship in August last year, ~~claimed Australia had become a more racist country since she immigrated with her family in 1992.~~

~~'While I did feel welcomed when I arrived here, migrants coming to our shores today would not be able to say the same,' she told the chamber on Tuesday night.~~

## Muslim senator says her presence is an 'affront' to some



~~Australia's first Muslim senator has claimed in her maiden speech to parliament that 'everyone' who was not a straight, white male had been abused online~~

~~'The last 26 years have seen governments erode support for newcomers as bigotry and xenophobia have been allowed to flourish.~~

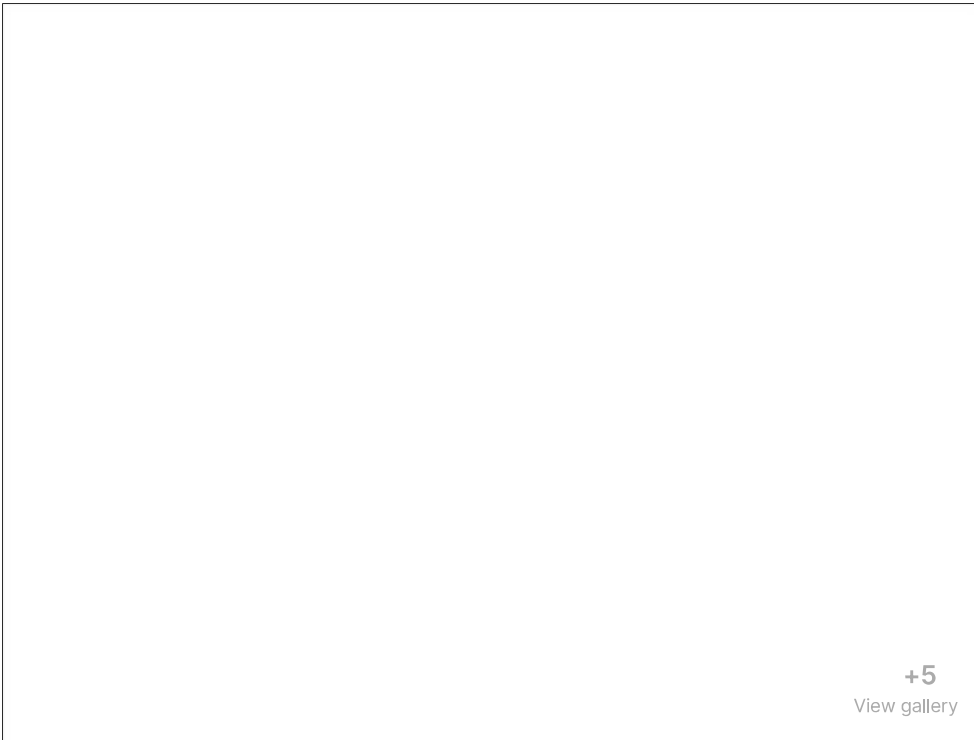


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02:24

~~'A culture of online harassment, bullying and toxicity now targets everyone who is not a straight, white man.'~~



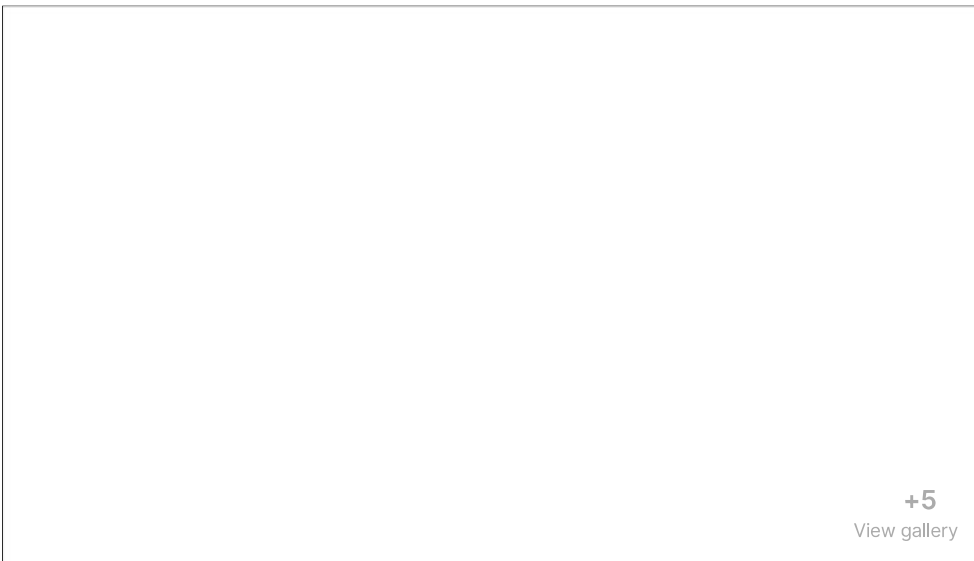
~~Mehreen Faruqi, who only renounced her dual Pakistani citizenship last year, claimed Australia had become a more racist country since she immigrated with her family in 1992~~

~~'They are offended that people of colour and Muslims have the audacity to not only exist but to open our mouths and join the public debate.'~~

~~Without mentioning by name One Nation leader Pauline Hanson or fellow Queensland senator Fraser Anning, from the Katter's Australian Party, she had a go at them for advocating a ban on Muslim immigration.~~

~~'Some politicians call us cockroaches, some say we are a disease which Australia needs vaccination for,' she said.~~

~~'Some, if they had their way, would ban us from making Australia their home.'~~



~~Senator Faruqi said would she would use her platform 'unapologetically' as a 'brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman'~~

~~Senator Faruqi, who last year told state parliamentary hearing she was happy to be in an arranged marriage, also spoke out about how her son Osman Faruqi's mobile~~

~~number was posted on Twitter by conservative Jewish activist Avi Yemini.~~

~~'If we receive death threats and speak out about it, as my son did earlier this month, we are told we have a victim mentality and this is all part and parcel of public life,' she said.~~

The NSW senator's son Osman, who is now a deputy editor with the new ABC lifestyle website, Life, regularly posts anti-white messages on Twitter and was previously a Greens candidate.

Muslim Greens MP ~~says she was happy for arranged marriage~~



In November 2017, he tweeted: 'No one is asking white people to chime in with their hot takes about what the 'real issue' is. For once just sit down.'

He also took legal action against former federal Labor leader Mark Latham in July 2017 for slamming his tweet to controversial Muslim youth activist Yassmin Abdel-Magied: 'The white people are getting f\*\*\*ed Yas, it's happening.'

Mehreen Faruqi, a former engineer and academic, replaced left-wing Lee Rhiannon as a Greens senator after defeating her in a party preselection challenge for the 2019 federal election.



# While All Eyes Were On Dutton, Our First Female Muslim Senator Gave A Powerful Maiden Speech

by TOM CLIFT 22 AUGUST 2018



Want more Junkee in your life? [Sign up to our newsletter](#), and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) so you always know where to find us.

~~Australia's first female Muslim Senator, Mehreen Faruqi, has condemned racism and inequality in a powerful maiden address to Parliament.~~

~~A week after Katter's Australian Party Senator Fraser Anning called for a "final solution" to Muslim immigration, and just hours after Peter Dutton attempted to wrest control of the government away from Malcolm Turnbull, Faruqi took to the floor of the Senate and briefly reminded us that politics in this country doesn't have to be a raging dumpster fire 100 percent of the time.~~

~~Instead, the new Greens Senator used her speech to pledge to fight racism wherever she encounters it, but especially in the nation's capital.~~

~~"The existence of racism, sexism and other discrimination is not new, but what has changed is its legitimisation, normalisation and encouragement in the media and in politics,"~~

~~Faruqi said. "Political leaders, in addition to their old habit of racist dog whistling, are now comfortable outright fanning the flames of racial conflict."~~

~~"It's all well and good for politicians to condemn the most blatant racism, but we cannot allow them to use these public displays of solidarity as cover for their own role in creating and fanning racial division."~~

~~"You cannot condemn racism and then, in a warm glow of self-congratulation, allow deep-rooted structures of discrimination to remain in access to health care and public services, in our prisons and justice system and in our immigration system."~~

~~"The reality is that my presence in the Senate is an affront to some," Faruqi continued. "They are offended that people of colour, and Muslims, have the audacity to not only exist but to open our mouths and join the public debate. Some politicians call us cockroaches. Some say we are a disease against which Australia needs vaccination. Some, if they had their way, would ban us from making Australia our home."~~

~~"So it is with great pride that I stand here before you, unapologetically — a brown, Muslim, migrant, feminist woman, and a Greens senator."~~



A screenshot of a tweet from Mehreen Faruqi (@MehreenFaruqi) dated August 21, 2018. The tweet is a reply to another user and contains text in English and Urdu. The text reads: "To those who want me to F off back to where I came from, I say: Mazarrat chahiti hoon, magar afsoas nahin. Yeh maira ghar hai aur mein kaheen naheen jaon gee. Sorry, not sorry. This is my home and I'm not going anywhere." The tweet has 384 likes and 7 replies. The interface shows the user's profile picture, name, and handle, along with icons for liking, replying, and sharing.

**Mehreen Faruqi**   
@MehreenFaruqi · [Follow](#)

Replying to @MehreenFaruqi

To those who want me to F off back to where I came from, I say:

Mazarrat chahiti hoon, magar afsoas nahin. Yeh maira ghar hai aur mein kaheen naheen jaon gee.

Sorry, not sorry. This is my home and I'm not going anywhere.

5:17 PM · Aug 21, 2018

 384  Reply  Share

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~~Faruqi also took aim at Australia's appalling treatment of asylum seekers, contrasting it with her own experience as a new migrant a quarter of a century ago.~~

~~"While I did feel welcomed when we arrived here, migrants coming to our shores today would not be able to say the same," she said. "The last 26 years have seen governments erode support for newcomers as bigotry and xenophobia have been allowed to flourish."~~

~~You can watch Mehreen Faruqi's full maiden address to Parliament below.~~



# Pauline Hanson to abstain from Senate vote condemning Fraser Anning's Christchurch comments

By political reporter [Eliza Laschon](#)

Posted Mon 18 Mar 2019 at 9:58am, updated Mon 18 Mar 2019 at 1:22pm



Senators Pauline Hanson and Derryn Hinch get into a heated debate over immigration

~~One Nation leader Pauline Hanson will abstain from a vote to censure Senator Fraser Anning over his offensive comments following the New Zealand shooting.~~

~~The Government and Opposition will unite to bring the bipartisan motion when Parliament returns in April, but Senator Hanson has ruled out supporting that.~~

~~"A censure is ... not going to prove anything," she told Sunrise.~~

In response to [Friday's mass shooting](#), in which [50 people were killed](#), Senator Anning said while he opposed any form of violence the attacks were linked to growing fears of Muslims in the community.

## Key points:

- ~~▪ The Government and Labor will join forces to censure Fraser Anning for linking the Christchurch attacks to immigration~~
- ~~▪ Pauline Hanson says she will abstain from the vote~~

Those comments prompted a 17-year-old boy to [smash an egg on Senator Anning's head](#).

~~Footage shows Senator Anning immediately swinging two punches at the teenager. Police have said they are investigating the incident.~~

~~condemning the former One Nation senator~~

- ~~Peter Dutton compares Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi's comments to Senator Anning~~



Fraser Anning responds after being egged

Prime Minister Scott Morrison called Senator Anning's comments "appalling and ugly" and said his Government would move a bipartisan motion of censure — effectively the Parliament saying it disapproves of the actions of an MP — against Senator Anning when Parliament resumes.

The Greens want to go one step further, by amending the Privileges Act so that Senator Anning could be expelled from Parliament.

The Houses of Parliament cannot expel a politician for their behaviour, but [they can be disqualified](#) if they are convicted of offences punishable by imprisonment for a year or longer.

~~Meanwhile, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has condemned a Greens senator for saying his border policies and political rhetoric have "been playing games with our lives", calling her rhetoric as damaging as Senator Anning's.~~

~~**'What they've been doing does come with a cost'**~~

~~In response to New Zealand's mass shooting, Senator Mehreen Faruqi said it was not just far-right politicians who had been "fanning the flames of racism and Islamophobia".~~

~~"It is politicians from government positions ... who have been for years whipping up anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant and anti-asylum seeker sentiments," Senator Faruqi said.~~

~~"It is politicians like Peter Dutton who have actually contributed to creating an atmosphere where hate is allowed to incubate in our society."~~

~~Senator Faruqi, Australia's first Muslim senator, was referring to the Federal Government's border protection policy, Operation Sovereign Borders, and crackdown on boat arrivals.~~

~~"They can't shrug off their responsibility. What they've been doing does come with a cost. It does come with consequences, but really they've been playing games with our lives," Senator Faruqi said.~~

~~Mr Dutton denied the accusations and slammed the comments, saying Senator Faruqi could be critical of the policy but that her rhetoric should be condemned.~~

~~"I'm hardly going to take morals lectures from the extreme left who frankly are just as bad in this circumstances as people like Fraser Anning," Mr Dutton said.~~

~~"They should equally be condemned."~~



# Christchurch shooting: Australia's moment of hate speech reckoning

21 March 2019

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By Frances Mao, BBC News, Sydney



Getty Images

The Christchurch attacks have sparked a debate in Australia about race hate

**When it emerged that the suspect behind the Christchurch mosque shootings was an Australian, it set the stage for some agonised soul-searching in his homeland.**

The prime suspect for the attack, in which 50 people died, is a self-described white supremacist.

Australia's government immediately joined the unequivocal condemnation of the attack, but the conversation at home was already turning to whether racism and hate speech had become normalised.

## The debate turned in Australia

Within hours of the mass shootings, while the rest of the world was still grieving, the debate took an unsavoury turn in Australia when a far-right senator issued a statement in which he blamed the attack on Muslim migration.

Fraser Anning is a senator who entered parliament in 2017 on 19 votes, as replacement for another disqualified lawmaker. He ~~lost affiliation with all parties last year, when he used the phrase "Final Solution" in parliament, while urging a ban on Muslim migration.~~

On Friday he put out this statement: "The real cause of bloodshed on New Zealand streets today is the immigration program that allowed Muslim fanatics to migrate to New Zealand in the first place".



Fraser Anning was "egged" by a teenager the day after his Christchurch comments

The comments sparked immediate fury and condemnation from other lawmakers, who have vowed to formally censure him.

It also prompted overwhelming anger from the Australian public, with close to 1.4 million people signing an online petition demanding the senator resign for "supporting right-wing terrorism".

In the day that followed his statement, the debate grew more heated when a teenager smashed an egg on the senator's head at a televised press conference.

The senator lashed out in response, hitting the 17-year-old before his supporters - four adult men - violently tackled the boy to the ground and put him in a chokehold. The images immediately went viral and "Egg Boy" was celebrated online as a hero, despite criticism from some circles for his actions.



Many Australians praised Egg Boy's retaliation against Fraser Anning

When he was later identified as Melbourne schoolboy Will Connolly, his Instagram account gained 350,000 new followers. He also received more than A\$70,000 (£37,000; \$50,000) in crowdfunded donations, which he later pledged to the victims of the Christchurch shootings.

The public response was a clear sign of the swelling anger and shame among many Australians and the desire to throw support behind "Egg Boy"s" message.

## Outcry, but not surprise

The senator's comments were an extreme example of hate speech but not entirely alien to Australian political debate, says Bilal Rauf from the Australian National Imams Council.

He says rhetoric targeting migrants and minority groups has become commonplace and this has emboldened political violence.

- [Ardern calls for global anti-racism fight](#)
- [The rise of populist politics in Australia](#)

"In many ways, for the people who have borne the brunt of these words, the attack in Christchurch was not a surprise," he told the BBC.

"The situation has gotten so toxic, so fuelled by divisive things that the politicians and media commentators say, that it [an attack against Muslims] was only a matter of time."





Getty Images

Muslim and migrant communities say they have been targeted in public debate

Political journalists have also accused politicians of stoking racial tensions for political gain:

- **"Australia's hate problem goes well beyond Anning - it goes right to the top"**, wrote The Monthly magazine.
- The Australian Financial Reviews newspaper said: **"Politicians should know that dog whistling has consequences"**.
- **Network Ten TV host Waleed Aly also isolated instances of political hate speech** in a monologue which has attracted more than 12 million views online.

On Wednesday, Mr Morrison was criticised for announcing a cut to the migration intake so soon after the attack, which many feel was fuelled by anti-immigrant rhetoric.

~~Observers have suggested that Australia's migration debate, while couched in concerns about population control and border security, has also veered into dog-whistle territory in recent times.~~

## So what has been said?

~~In the past, government ministers have referred to "African gangs" and suggested that Lebanese Muslim migration in the 1990s was "a mistake".~~

~~Australia's former Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Tim Soutphommasane told the BBC he had seen a "return of race politics" in the past five years.~~

~~He notes a "crucial" development was the government's attempts to weaken hate speech laws in 2014 and 2017.~~

~~"That encouraged far-right extremists and others to believe that free speech permitted hate speech - that they had a right to be bigots," he said.~~

## Victims of the Christchurch shootings

Fifty people lost their lives in the shootings at two mosques in the city.



- The child, the father, the aspiring footballer
- 'This mosque was precious to us': A city in shock
- 'I lost a best friend'

~~There are several other instances. In October, the government backed a motion from far-right, anti-immigration senator Pauline Hanson, which almost succeeded in passing a white supremacist slogan - "It's OK to be white" - through parliament.~~

~~The same senator wore a burka into parliament in 2017, in what her critics said was a "political stunt" that risked alienating the nation's Muslim population.~~

"Some politicians in Australia have for years been whipping up anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment," said the nation's first female Muslim senator, Mehreen Faruqi this week.

She told the ABC: "This is damaging and hurting the community, and this does have consequences."



Getty Images



People of different faith have mourned the Christchurch victims at services across Australia

~~The government rejected the criticism as political point scoring. Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said Ms Faruqi's comments were "as bad as Fraser Anning's" sparking further outcry.~~

- **Jacinda Ardern: 'A leader with love on full display'**

Dr Soutphommasane suggests that the Christchurch tragedy should present a "chance for a reset". Australia's political class should now focus on fighting racism and strengthening hate speech laws, he says.

"If leaders here want to counter far-right extremism, they must deal with its causes. For years, we've seen none of that."

## What role has the media played?

Australia's media has a long history of peddling racist, anti-migration narratives, says Dr John Budarick, a media researcher from the University of Adelaide.



A comic is asking searching questions about race relations in the wake of the attack

Yet there has been a notable promotion of far-right views in mainstream media following Donald Trump's election in 2016, he says. Analysts say this is a global trend. "These racist positions are being given public legitimacy. They're being treated as another side to politics and as part of our democracy when they really shouldn't be," he told the BBC.

- **Australia 'Hitler fan' TV backlash widens**

- **Serena cartoon not racist, watchdog rules**

- **The polarising 'African gangs' debate in Australia**

In Australia last year, far-right activists like Milo Yiannopoulos and Lauren Southern were invited onto mainstream networks for interviews.

Pauline Hanson - ~~who wore the burka in the Senate~~ - had a weekly guest spot on the nation's most popular breakfast show, Channel Seven's Sunrise for years.

Meanwhile, Sky News Australia, a network owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, last year **broadcast an interview with Blair Cottrell, a convicted Nazi sympathiser**, which it later apologised for.





Local far-right groups have gained increased media attention

On Friday, it was one of the few broadcasters in the world which repeatedly aired edited clips of the Christchurch gunman's video. It, and other Australian broadcasters Channel Seven and Nine, are now on notice to be investigated by the nation's media watchdog.

It also prompted one of Sky's producers, a 19-year-old Muslim woman, to publicly resign.

"I had many crises of conscience working here, but the events of Friday snapped me out of the endless cycle of justifying my job to myself," **wrote Rashna Farrukh in a piece published on Tuesday.**

"I stood on the other side of the studio doors while they slammed every minority group in the country - mine included - increasing polarisation and paranoia among their viewers."

In response, Sky has said it is committed to "debate and discussion which is vital to a healthy democracy".

Many journalists are also pointing the finger at their own industry - although this is a controversial assertion.

## Where to from here?

One of the questions being asked is how some outlets could have loosened their definition of what views are acceptable to allow a platform for.

Dr Burdekin suggests that some are just blatantly partisan and anti-immigration in their views but others struggle under a poorly interpreted duty to editorial balance.

"There's a sense in some outlets that there's a need for balance and that means accommodating extreme views for freedom of speech."

- **The problem with mass shootings and the media**

However, he says those on the far-left have not been given the same platform as those on the far-right.

"If we're going to change things, there needs to be a focus now on where we place the margins, on who we give a platform to and who we allow that privilege of having a public voice."

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**Ardern calls for global anti-racism fight**

**'A leader with love on full display'**

**The problem with mass shootings and the media**

**Christchurch and the new threat of far-right violence**

**Stories of heroism emerge from NZ attacks**

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## 'If he has any dignity left, he should resign': Anning petition tops 1.3 million

A petition calling for the senator to be dumped over his anti-Muslim comments about the Christchurch attacks has been presented to the Greens to table in Parliament.



Fraser Anning has come under widespread criticism for his comments following the Christchurch attacks. Source: AAP

An Australian man who started a petition to kick Senator Fraser Anning out of Parliament over his anti-Muslim comments believes he should resign after collecting more than 1.3 million signatures.

Handing over the petition on Thursday to Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Australia's first female Muslim Senator, Melbourne writer Harris Sultan said the independent Queensland senator could not ignore that many people.

"If he has any dignity left, he should resign from his position himself," Mr Harris told SBS News.



Harris Sultan and Kate Ahmad handed over the petition signed by 1.3 million people on Wednesday morning. Source: SBS News

Mr Sultan has never started a petition before, but when he heard what the former One Nation candidate said on the day of the Christchurch attacks, he said he felt compelled to do something.

Part of his statement released following the massacre said the "real cause of bloodshed on New Zealand streets today is the immigration program which allowed Muslim fanatics to migrate to New Zealand in the first place".

"Whilst this kind of violent vigilantism can never be justified, what it highlights is the growing fear within our community, both in Australia and New Zealand, of the increasing Muslim presence," it continued.





Fraser Anning has come under widespread criticism for his comments following the Christchurch attacks. Source: AAP

Mr Harris, who has Muslim family members, said: "It was very hurtful when Fraser Anning said what he said".

"He basically condemned my entire family and said they shouldn't be in Australia when they are living in Australia peacefully and paying taxes like anyone else."

Mr Harris said he had been overwhelmed by the response to the petition, which was merged with another on the same topic, started by Sydney doctor Kate Ahmad.

"The Australia that I know and love has values, values that promote peace and harmony, love and tolerance and this petition has proved in a very loud voice that we don't abandon our values, we don't abandon the ship, we don't let go of our communities or values in difficult times," Mr Harris said.

Senator Anning said on Monday he had no regrets about the comments he made and would await the result of the federal election in May.

## **Greens seize on loophole to push for expulsion**

~~Senator Faruqi said she would table the petition when Parliament returned at the start of April, before the Greens moved to use a parliamentary process to suspend Senator Anning for the remaining two sitting weeks.~~

"Together we can actually give the boot to politicians like Fraser Anning who trade in bigotry and hate speech," Senator Faruqi said.

While Parliament no longer has the power to expel an elected politician, it can suspend them.



Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi Source: David Foote/Auspic

A suspension is usually for a matter of hours, but the Greens have obtained legal advice saying there's no rule preventing the suspension from being much longer.



The move would require the support of the major parties.

"Fifty people have been massacred by a white nationalist terrorist from Australia. If we don't draw the line when will we?" Senator Faruqi said.

The Greens have also proposed a code of conduct for parliamentarians that would prohibit hate speech.

~~Senator Faruqi has accused conservative politicians including Prime Minister Scott Morrison of "dog whistling" on refugees and migration.~~

"They have not been listening and they're not even listening now. I'm still grieving but I also feel a little bit of despair in our politicians.

"Where hope is coming from is the community. People from across the spectrum in the community have shown solidarity with the Muslim community now and it is those people who will make sure that we make politicians accountable."

Mr Morrison has denounced the man charged over the Christchurch attacks and urged Australians to come together to stamp out extremism.

## *A Sea of White Faces in Australia's 'Party of Multiculturalism'*

A young daughter of Vietnamese refugees was set to run for Parliament. Then she was passed over for a white insider, and a debate over cultural diversity flared into the open.

By Yan Zhuang

Oct. 6, 2021

**Want to stay updated on what's happening in Australia? [Sign up for Your Places: Global Update](#), and we'll send our latest coverage to your inbox.**

MELBOURNE, Australia — She seemed an ideal political candidate in a country that likes to call itself the world's "most successful multicultural nation."

Tu Le, a young Australian lawyer who is the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, was set to become the opposition Labor Party's candidate for Parliament in one of Sydney's most diverse districts. She grew up nearby, works as an advocate for exploited migrant workers and had the backing of the incumbent.

Then Ms. Le was passed over. The leaders of the center-left party, which casts itself as a bastion of diversity, instead chose a white American-born senator, Kristina Keneally, from Sydney's wealthy northeast to run for the safe Labor seat in the city's impoverished southwest.

But Ms. Le, unlike many before her, did not go quietly. She and other young members of the political left have pushed into the open a debate over the near absence of cultural diversity in Australia's halls of power, which has persisted even as the country has been transformed by non-European migration.

While about a quarter of the population is nonwhite, members of minority groups make up only about 6 percent of the federal Parliament, according to a 2018 study. That figure has barely budged since, leaving Australia far behind comparable democracies like Britain, Canada and the United States.



The shopping district of Cabramatta. In Australia, migrant communities are often courted for photo opportunities and as fund-raising bases or voting blocs, but are largely shut out of electoral power. Matthew Abbott for The New York Times

In Australia, migrant communities are often seen but not heard: courted for photo opportunities and as fund-raising bases or voting blocs, but largely shut out of electoral power, elected officials and party members said. Now, more are demanding change after global reckonings on race like the Black Lives Matter movement and a pandemic that has crystallized Australia’s class and racial inequalities.

“The Australia that I live in and the one that I work in, Parliament, are two completely different worlds,” said Mehreen Faruqi, a Greens party senator who in 2013 became Australia’s first female Muslim member of Parliament. “And we now know why they are two completely different worlds. It’s because people are not willing to step aside and actually make room for this representation.”

The backlash has reached the highest levels of the Labor Party, which is hoping to unseat Prime Minister Scott Morrison in a federal election that must be held by May.

The Labor leader, Anthony Albanese, faced criticism when he held up the white senator, Ms. Keneally, 52, as a migrant “success story” because she had been born in the United States. Some party members called the comment tone deaf, a charge they also leveled at former Prime Minister Paul Keating after he said local candidates “would take years to scramble” to Ms. Keneally’s “level of executive ability, if they can ever get there at all.”

Ms. Keneally, one of the Labor Party’s most senior members, told a radio interviewer that she had “made a deliberate decision” to seek the southwestern Sydney seat. She did so, she said, because it represents an overlooked community that had “never had a local member who sits at the highest level of government, at a senior level at the cabinet table, and I think they deserve that.”



Senator Kristina Keneally, right, with the Labor Party leader, Anthony Albanese, second from left. Saeed Khan/Agence France-  
Presse — Getty Images

She plans to move to the district, she said. In the Australian political system, candidates for parliamentary seats are decided either by party leaders or through an internal vote of party members from that district. Candidates do not have to live in the district they seek to represent.

When contacted for comment, Ms. Keneally’s office referred The New York Times to previous media interviews.

Chris Hayes, the veteran lawmaker who is vacating the southwestern Sydney seat, said he had endorsed Ms. Le because of her deep connections with the community.

“It would be sensational to be able to not only say that we in Labor are the party of multiculturalism, but to actually show it in our faces,” he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in March.

Ms. Le, 30, said she believed the party leadership sidelined her because it saw her as a “tick-the-box exercise” instead of a viable contender.





Ms. Le said she believed the party leadership sidelined her because it saw her as a “tick-the-box exercise” instead of a viable contender. Matthew Abbott for The New York Times

As an outsider, “the system was stacked against me,” she said. “I haven’t ‘paid my dues,’ I haven’t ‘served my time’ or been in with the faceless men or factional bosses for years.”

What she finds especially disappointing about Labor’s decision, she said, is the message it sends: that the party takes for granted the working-class and migrant communities it relies on for votes.

Australia has not experienced the same sorts of fights over political representation that have resulted in growing electoral clout for minority groups in other countries, said Tim Soutphommasane, a former national racial discrimination commissioner, in part because it introduced a “top down” policy of multiculturalism in the 1970s.

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That has generated recognition of minority groups, though often in the form of “celebratory” multiculturalism, he said, that uses food and cultural festivals as stand-ins for genuine engagement.

When ethnic minorities get involved in Australian politics, they are often pushed to become their communities’ de facto representatives — expected to speak on multiculturalism issues, or relegated to recruiting party members from the same cultural background — and then are punished for supposedly not having broader appeal.



While about a quarter of the population of Australia is nonwhite, members of minority groups make up only about six percent of the federal Parliament. Sam Mooy/Getty Images

“The expectation from inside the parties as well as the community is that you’re there to represent the minority, the small portion of your community that’s from the same ethnic background as you,” said Elizabeth Lee, a Korean Australian who is the leader of the Australian Capital Territory’s Liberal Party. “It’s very hard to break through that mold.”

Many ethnically diverse candidates never make it to Parliament because their parties do not put them in winnable races, said Peter Khalil, a Labor member of Parliament.

During his own election half a decade ago, he was told to shave his goatee because it made him “look like a Muslim,” he said. (Mr. Khalil is a Coptic Christian.)

“They want to bleach you, whiten you,” he added, “because there’s a fear that you’ll scare people off.”

In the Australian political system, the displacement of a local candidate by a higher-ranking party insider is not unusual. Mr. Morrison was chosen to run for a seat in 2007 after a more popular Lebanese Australian candidate, Michael Towke, said he was forced to withdraw by leaders of the center-right Liberal Party.





The pandemic has crystallized Australia's class and racial inequalities. Matthew Abbott for The New York Times

Ms. Keneally moved to the safe Labor seat, with the backing of party leaders, because she was in danger of losing her current seat. Her backers also note that she has been endorsed by a handful of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Middle Eastern community leaders.

Joseph Haweil, 32, the mayor of a municipality in Melbourne and a Labor Party member, said that as a political aspirant from a refugee background, he saw in the controversy over Ms. Le a glimpse of his possible future. Mr. Haweil is Assyrian, a minority group from the Middle East.

“You can spend years and years doing the groundwork, the most important thing in politics — assisting local communities, understanding your local community with a view to help them as a public policy maker — and that’s not still enough to get you over the line,” he said.

Osmond Chiu, 34, a party member who is Chinese Australian, said “the message it sent was that culturally diverse representation is an afterthought in Labor, and it will always be sacrificed whenever it is politically inconvenient.”

Ms. Le spoke out in a way that others in the past have avoided, perhaps to preserve future political opportunities. She said that she was uncertain what she would do next, but that she hoped political parties would now think twice before making a decision like the one that shut her out.

“It’s definitely tapped into something quite uncomfortable to discuss, but I think it needs to be out in the open,” she said. “I don’t think people will stand for it anymore.”

**Yan Zhuang** is a reporter in The New York Times's Australia bureau, based in Melbourne. More about Yan Zhuang

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 4 of the New York edition with the headline: In Society of Many Colors, Halls of Power Are White

## How online abuse in Australia is shutting down crucial debates and damaging democracy

By Nicolle White

Posted Sun 13 Feb 2022 at 5:00am, updated Sun 13 Feb 2022 at 9:36am



Online abuse is frequently directed at female politicians, some of whom are concerned it is silencing debate and threatening democracy. (ABC News: Luke Bowden; Supplied)

*"She should stay in the brothel where she clearly belongs."*

*"Being hated is sometimes very well deserved."*

*"Drop dead, you dirty dog c\*\*\*."*

*"Die, Nazi scum."*

In Australia, [more than a third of internet users](#) have experienced some kind of online harassment or abuse such as offensive language, being sent unwanted sexual material or threats of physical violence.

In some industries, such as politics and journalism, online abuse is commonplace, and even expected — particularly for women or people from minority communities.

Victorian MP [Fiona Patten has spoken publicly](#) about the toll such abuse takes, last year revealing she had deactivated some of her social media accounts after becoming concerned about the wellbeing of her staff,

who were having to wade through "misogynistic, violent" comments, including the ones above.

But while online abuse can have serious psychological impacts on individuals, it also has broader implications for a healthy society. With the pandemic exposing deep ideological divisions within the community and a federal election looming, there are growing concerns such attacks are shutting down crucial conversations, pushing out voices, and ultimately threatening the health of Australia's democracy.



Anna Patten says online abuse is having a "silencing effect", particularly on women. *(Supplied)*

## **Women 'toning down' coverage, leaving journalism**

Online abuse has a uniquely "chilling" effect on women and people from culturally diverse communities. [Research suggests that 71 per cent](#) of female journalists have experienced online abuse, with Indigenous and LGBTIQ+ journalists disproportionately impacted.

The consequences are alarming. Many journalists say they've "[toned down](#)" or avoided covering some stories after being harassed online, while others have reported [leaving the profession entirely](#).

This silencing effect is even more concerning when considered in the context of when journalists experience the most abuse — when [writing about gender, politics, and human rights](#).



But for many trolls, silencing is precisely the goal: Online abusers often target their harassment to dissuade women from pursuing careers in journalism, and deter journalists from reporting on particular topics.

Following his investigation into alleged war crimes by Australian forces in Afghanistan, ABC journalist Mark Willacy was targeted with violent threats online, including videos of his book being burnt and shot.

([Victoria Police in December charged a man](#) with making a threat to kill and using a telecommunications device to menace.)

## **Abuse 'relentless, normalised' in Australian politics**

Online abuse is also frequently directed at politicians. An [analysis by social data company Max Kelsen in 2016](#) found Julia Gillard received twice as much abuse as Kevin Rudd, and that the abuse was "more personal, vitriolic and often sexual".

A [study by PhD candidate Medha Majumdar](#) considered the toll of both online and offline harassment on female politicians, which she describes as "relentless and normalised in Australian politics, particularly for diverse women".

She found online abuse can have devastating offline implications: Some female MPs said they'd had to move house and increase security because of ongoing threats, while others said they'd left politics altogether.

Of the women working in politics who were surveyed by Majumdar, three-quarters (74 per cent) said harassment had negatively affected their interest in remaining in politics.

"A female sitting member should be a respected position in a respected office in society, but you're constantly having to deal with online abuse," Majumdar said. "This pushes women to move away from social media, which means they are disadvantaged come re-election, because people engage on the internet to discuss and understand politics."

Staff who manage politicians' social media accounts are also exposed to online abuse, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

"In Australia we have a political pipeline system where people interested in politics might work for an MP to understand the position then run for public office," Majumdar said. "This constant viewing of abuse deters young people, and young women particularly, from running for office. They think, is this going to be a safe environment for me in the future? Is this something I want to be dealing with for the next 20 years of my career?"



lia Gillard received twice as much abuse as Kevin Rudd, an analysis by Max Kelsen found. (*The Killing Season*)

### **'The abuse thrown at me is always the same'**

After shutting down her social media accounts last year, MP Fiona Patten raised similar concerns about online abuse.

"I can't count on both hands the number of women who won't go on Twitter," she said. "It's having a silencing effect. I used to have a lot of fun on Twitter but now I'm very cautious about the words I use and what I say. It reminds me of how women are careful about what they wear at night to avoid attacks."



YOUTUBE: This is what online abuse looks like. It's not okay.

She's not the only one speaking out. Tasmanian local government members [last year released a statement](#) claiming that online abuse was having a "chilling effect" on women wanting to serve on local councils.

They pointed to a 2019 survey which found 60 per cent of elected members had been bullied or harassed online. Women representatives, the members said, experienced more abuse and attacks than their male colleagues. The group said:

"No-one enters politics if they have thin skin. You expect — indeed, welcome — different perspectives and robust debate focused on the issues. However, what we see every week in Tasmanian local politics, especially on social media, is debate that crosses the line. It stops being about policy or even party politics and becomes deeply personal."

NSW Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi did not anticipate the level of abuse she would receive as Australia's first female Muslim senator. The more she speaks up, she said, the more she's targeted.

"It took me a while to realise that, no matter what I say, the abuse thrown at me is always the same," Dr Faruqi said. "It is based on where I come from, what I look like, my religion. It is making me the 'other'. It takes its toll on your health, the health of your team, on the health of your loved ones and your family."



Shreen Faruqi says political leaders should "call out" online abuse and not engage in it themselves. (*Supplied: The Greens*)

But it also takes a toll on the willingness of marginalised communities to participate in democracy, she believes:

"It has the effect of people not wanting to engage in debate and representation at a political level. I mean, look at our parliament. There is a reason why we are so unrepresentative of mainstream Australia."

For Dr Faruqi, part of the solution lies in fixing the underlying societal issues that contribute to online abuse, and that can start with other MPs calling it out when they see it.

"Leaders should call it out, and not do it themselves," she said. "It is not uncommon for politicians to dog whistle or to spark outright racism or to stand on the sidelines and not say anything. That needs to change."

## **Scientists are self-censoring, too**

The Parliamentary Education Office [states that democracy](#) "relies on the participation of citizens" and the central tenets of democracy include tolerance of opposing ideas and freedom of speech.

In that way, self-censorship in response to online abuse can affect the health of our conversations and industries, and act as a barrier to diverse inclusion.

Of course, it's not only journalism and politics that are being influenced by online abuse, but these institutions are vital to a healthy democratic society — particularly amid a pandemic and approaching election time. Another is science, which is also grappling with the fallout of senior scientists stepping away after being targeted online.



One in five scientists received threats of violence after speaking to the media about COVID-19, a survey by the Australian Science Media Centre found. *(Reuters: Joseph Campbell)*

The Australian Science Media Centre last year reported that [one in five scientists surveyed](#) had received threats of physical or sexual violence after speaking to the media about COVID-19, with many no longer willing to do interviews as a result.

"That concerned us given the impact of taking world leaders with key expertise out of public debate," said Lyndal Byford, director of news and partnerships at the Australian Science Media Centre. Ultimately, she

said, "The public suffers as there is less quality information."

One such scientist is Dale Dominey-Howes, a professor of hazard and disaster risk sciences at Sydney University who has spoken publicly about natural disasters and climate change.

Speaking with the media is usually an enjoyable part of his role, he said, including because it makes him feel he's giving back to the community. But increasingly it's exposing him and his colleagues to threats of harm.

His worst experiences of online abuse followed a campaign to tackle climate change myths.

"I was getting trolled. I was getting insults," Professor Dominey-Howes said. "Somehow, I don't know how, individuals got a hold of my mobile and home address, so I was getting hate mail and death threats and poison letters where people had cut bits out of newspapers to create [messages like], 'I'm going to kill you, I know where you live, You're an idiot. Watch yourself'. And that was being sent to my home.

"It did affect my emotional and mental wellbeing and I spent much of the year away from doing that work because it was just so overwhelming."

**Nicolle White is the ABC's social media wellbeing advisor.**

## "Racism Does Kill People": Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi on an Anti-Racist Australia

31/03/2022 BY PAUL GREGOIRE

 FACT CHECKED

Australia prides itself on being a vibrant multicultural society. The nation isn't so proud of its high levels of racism, however.

But for some reason, those holding onto positions of governance – the majority being white and overwhelmingly male – aren't doing much about it.

This may have something to do with the fact that the nation was birthed via the dispossession of and genocide upon First Nations people, who today make up 30 percent of the Australian adult prisoner population, but under three percent of the overall populace of the continent.

Another key reason for the pervasive racism could be that following 1901 federation, parliament passed a series of bills ensuring only white people could migrate and remain on the continent. Even today, the decades-long White Australia Policy doesn't get called out as white supremacist in nature.

Indeed, the just released third Islamophobia in Australia report reveals that right after the 2019 Christchurch massacre – which saw an Anglo-Australia man gun down 51 Muslims worshipping at mosques – there was an uptick in the number of reported anti-Muslim incidents in this country.

### Empowering all

So, in light of all this, Australian Greens Senator Dr Mehreen Faruqi last week released her party's vision for building an anti-racist and genuinely multicultural Australia.

Key aspects to the policy include providing federal politicians and public servants with anti-racism training, the development of a national anti-racism strategy, a strengthening of laws that criminalise hate speech, and establishing a national database on racial disparities and discrimination.

The Australian Greens also want to hold a referendum so that the public can decide on whether to amend section 44 of the Australian Constitution, so that individuals holding dual citizenship can run for federal parliament.

The flipside of the policy is that it seeks to establish a genuinely multicultural society, so that the diversity that one finds on street corners across the continent will be reflected in positions of power, whether they be political, social or financial.

### Forging change

Senator Faruqi has long spoken out about the persistent racial abuse that she's been subjected to since entering politics.

The Greens politician became the first Muslim woman to ever sit in an Australian parliament in 2013, when she entered the NSW upper house. And in 2018, Dr Faruqi became the first Muslim woman senator this country has ever seen.

The senator underscores that in terms of overt racist incidents in public it's often First Nations women and women of colour who are bearing the overwhelming brunt of this attention that usually comes from complete strangers on the street.

Sydney Criminal Lawyers spoke to Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi about the racism that's been occurring over the pandemic period, the less overt forms of racism the policy will tackle and the unique aspect to the racism that does pervade much of Australian life.

**Last week you launched the Building an Anti-Racist Australia policy on behalf of the Greens, which includes producing a national anti-racism policy.**

**However, of late, the issue of racism has been somewhat overshadowed by the COVID pandemic.**

**In your understanding, Dr Faruqi, how significant is the issue of racism in Australia right now? And why is this the right time to set such a policy in place?**



We know that the Chinese Australian community was targeted and subjected to xenophobia and racism when COVID came to our shores.

In western Sydney, we saw how migrant communities were treated in a discriminatory way with overpolicing and a military presence.

And we saw how international students and migrant workers were actually left high and dry without any government support.

These are all examples of how racism has manifested during the pandemic, and we know racism causes immense harm and trauma to people, communities and to society.

The dispossession and violence against First Nations people that started on invasion, continues to this day within the systems and structures of this country.

And something that really worries me as well, is that, more recently, we've seen a rise in far-right extremism, with racism growing and actually becoming normalised.

So, to be very honest, every time is the right time to start building an anti-racist Australia. And it's high time that we start it now.

**A key part of the Greens anti-racism strategy is to provide federal MPs and Commonwealth employees with anti-racism training.**

**Indeed, your party points out that in a number of cases, it's Australian leaders who've played a pivotal role in propagating racial prejudice.**

**Can you expand on this point?**

Sadly, our parliaments are not at all representative of the diverse communities that live in our streets and suburbs. They're still full of what they call the pale male and stale.

But what's even worse is how some political leaders have been openly complicit in fuelling racism.

~~That's from putting up motions for the racist slogan "it's okay to be white" to talking about banning Muslim migration to the wearing of a burqa in the Senate.~~

~~Insults can be slung across the chamber, which can often be racist.~~

But there are other politicians, who even though they haven't been openly fanning the flames of racism, have been dog whistling about migrants and refugees for years. And then others stand on the sideline and remain silent.

All this has created a normalisation of hate and racism in society and so, it has to stop. There should be no more tinkering around the edges about this: it's time to have an honest reckoning with toxic racism.

It's time to challenge white supremacy, superiority and privilege in the echelons of our leadership, because MPs need to be forced to unpack their privilege: even with their white fragility, and even if it makes them uncomfortable.

It's time for them to learn about the racist, colonial past of Australia, and how pervasive it still is in institutions from justice to health and education.

~~That's the training the Greens want all MPs and all Commonwealth employees to undertake. We want to create more understanding and challenge the notion that the way we act in parliament and the way Australian institutions deliver services are colour blind – because they're not.~~

**Another priority of the Greens is to strengthen hate speech protections or make its expression illegal in jurisdictions where it currently isn't.**

**Hate speech is one of the most overt forms of racism. Your policy, however, seeks to tackle all forms. So, what are some of the less obvious ways in which racism is playing out in the community?**

Hate speech, especially on social media, is a form of racism that's been used quite extensively to attack people who some think don't belong in this country because they don't fit their image of what an Australian should be.

The less obvious forms of racism would include resume racism, where you're less likely to get called back for a job interview if you have a non-Anglo name.

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But, of course, there are even more direct forms of abuse and violence than just hate speech. These involve attacks on people of colour, especially Muslim women wearing hijab. They've been subjected to this quite often.

People don't usually think about government policies that discriminate against people of colour or Indigenous people.

For example, there's the cashless debit card, which I have not been shy in calling a racist policy. There's the overincarceration of First Nations people, with over 500 black deaths in custody. And then there is the cruelty with which refugees are treated.

There's also the growing threat of white supremacy and far-right extremism. At the end of the day, it was extreme right-wing Islamophobic ideology that motivated the terrorist on March 15 2019 in Christchurch, when an Australian man brutally killed 51 Muslims in mosques.

That is racism. And whether it's overt in hate speech or violence and abuse or other forms of racism that are under the radar, at the end of the day, racism does kill people.

**You've spoken out about the online racism you've been subjected to as a public figure. The recently released third Islamophobia in Australia report reveals anti-Muslim prejudice continues to be of significance.**

**But, prior to this, there were periods where people from Asia were targeted and before that people from the Mediterranean were. And, of course, the Greens stipulate that any sort of anti-racism package must have First Nations people central to it.**

**From your perspective, why is this racist streak – which we don't normally like to label as white supremacy in this country – so strong?**

The most recent report on Islamophobia is really scary for a lot of people living in this country, because it shows us how much it is rising and how quickly.

The report tells us that Islamophobia has quadrupled since the Christchurch mosque killings. You would have thought that after those killings, things would have gone the other way. But that's not the case.

This question you ask is one I've contemplated for some time, because it's not as if racism doesn't exist in other colonial countries, but it's the sheer pushback against recognising it in Australia, that's quite unique to us.

While the White Australia Policy was officially dismantled some decades ago. Its legacy is ongoing, and racism is widespread.

Australia has a real racism blind spot and for too long decisionmakers have chosen to pretend that we don't have a problem and people who highlight the impact and the existence of racism are attacked, marginalised and labelled divisive.

But it's racism causing the divisions in our community. The reason for that is that if people in power acknowledged that racism exists, they might be obliged to do something, which could involve sharing some of the power they hold, and they don't want to share that.

We also know that the corridors of power and the decision-making tables are full of privileged white people, many of whom are men. Most of these men have never experienced the corrosiveness of racism. So, it's quite easy for them to ignore it.

A few years ago, with the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, countries around the globe were having conversations about defunding police and statues of imperialists were coming down.

But what shocked me was that over here, those who went to the rallies were blamed for spreading COVID, which we know wasn't true.

So, this real reluctance to even start a conversation is a real issue.

**And lastly, Dr Faruqi, the Greens policy has two sides to it. The other being building a genuinely multicultural Australia.**

**This would include establishing a Multicultural Commission, as well as passing a Multicultural Act at the federal level?**

**So, what would a strengthening of multicultural Australia look like?**

But the real issues that face us aren't being talked about, such as racism and exploitation at work. They have been unaddressed for decades.

Multiculturalism has to be more than politicians using communities of colour as photo opportunities during festivals, like Ramadan, Eid or Diwali, so they can show off the best multicultural country, when we know Australia is not that.

We know that multicultural people, people of colour and people from different ethnic backgrounds are locked out of parliaments and decision-making. That's a very sad indictment upon a country, where almost 50 percent of us are from somewhere else.

It's a hugely multicultural country, ~~but you wouldn't know it if you worked at the workplace where I do.~~

So, the Multicultural Act and Commission are part of the change that will provide the framework for removing those barriers of participation to diverse communities in terms of socioeconomic and political life in the place we all call home.

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## Muslim senator to fight discrimination

By [Paul Osborne](#)

**Updated** June 11 2022 - 3:36am, first published 3:30am



Mehreen Faruqi will be the first Muslim Australian in senior leadership of a large political party.

Greens deputy leader Mehreen Faruqi says it is the honour of her life to be elected to the role, pledging to take a stand on discrimination.

The NSW senator who migrated from Pakistan in 1992 will be the



party.

"In a diverse society, it is appropriate and frankly, necessary, that our parties and their leadership are reflective of our highly multicultural country," Senator Faruqi said after the first post-election partyroom meeting in Melbourne.

The partyroom re-elected Melbourne MP Adam Bandt to the leadership at Friday's meeting, ahead of this weekend's national conference in the Victorian capital.

Senator Faruqi – who came to Australia with her husband, one-year-old son and two suitcases – said she would use her position to "continue to speak up against racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination in our society".

"This is something I have never shied away from, and a fight I will take up until everyone in our community is treated with respect and dignity," she said.

The senator noted the Greens and its grassroots movement had an immense task ahead of it.

"To ensure the new parliament takes decisive, meaningful action on the many complex problems facing our country and our world: not least, the climate crisis and the inequality crisis," she said.

Prior to the election, the Greens had co-deputy leaders in senators Larissa Waters and Nick McKim.

Mr Bandt is unable to attend the national conference in person as he is isolating with COVID-19.

The conference is expected to include sessions on progressive economics, peace, sustainable food, international development,



campaigning and multicultural affairs.

*Australian Associated Press*

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## **‘Outright racism’: Greens Senator blows the whistle on Parliament**

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By **DUNCAN MURRAY**

NCA NEWSWIRE  
12:36PM JUNE 13, 2022

Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi has sensationally blown the whistle on “outright racism” in Federal Parliament.

Senator Faruqi is the first Muslim Australian to take on a senior leadership position of a large political party in the country.

She was named Greens Deputy Leader last week.

Senator Faruqi said she would use the position to call out Islamophobia in Australia and the racism displayed by some of her parliamentary colleagues.

“I have never been shy of saying it like it is and I will continue to speak up against racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination,” she told ABC Radio on Monday.

Senator Faruqi said Islamophobia was getting worse in Australia and had increased since the Christchurch massacre, where 51 Muslims were murdered by an Australian man.

“The political class has a lot to answer for that,” she said.

~~“There has been so much not just dog-whistling against Muslim communities or people of colour, but there has been outright racism spouted in our Parliament.”~~

~~Senator Faruqi referenced a racist speech made by former senator Fraser Anning and other comments from One Nation members.~~

“But we have also had people from major parties who have stood on the sidelines and not called it out,” she said.

“So we have had a situation where Islamophobia, racism, discrimination has been legitimised by people from within parliament.

“And I would hope with the change of government, that would start to change as well.”

## Topics

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**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-14"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-14" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
.....  
Signature of Witness

**Document:** Video entitled “Hey Senator Hanson, why so angry?...” which was published to the Applicant’s public Facebook page on 15 September 2016

**Link:** <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/fp3bqrbr0rxm50wr469na/15-September-2016-Facebook-video.mp4?rlkey=7b6hqbtltvmil6vf1pbadyxca&st=kuwbmdrw&dl=0>



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**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-15"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-15" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

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**Seriously Pauline?**



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**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-16"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-16" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

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Lifestyle Real Life News Life

## Greens NSW MP Dr Mehreen Faruqi hits back after receiving racist tweet

MEHREEN Faruqi, Australia's first female Muslim MP, says the Reclaim Australia movement has legitimised "blatant, ugly" racism in Australia.

Rebecca Sullivan and AAP

3 min read July 27, 2015 - 9:55PM 



Muslim women

GREENS MP Mehreen Faruqi, Australia's first female Muslim MP, says the Reclaim Australia movement has legitimised "blatant, ugly" racism in Australia.

Dr Faruqi made the comments after receiving a racist tweet about a photo she shared on Twitter of a night out with her 19-year-old daughter.

"How beautiful is Brisbane river at night! Enjoying some quality time with my daughter," she tweeted on Saturday night, after speaking on a panel about how to increase democratic engagement of the Muslim community.

User @wesi12 replied, "Before your husband blows it up?"





**alahs-snackbar**  
@wesl12



@MehreenFaruqi @GreensNSW  
Before your husband blows it up?

25/07/2015 6:44 pm

Photo: Mehreen Faruqi.

Dr Faruqi posted the Twitter exchange to Facebook on Monday and said this is the sort of racism legitimised by movements like Reclaim Australia.

Reclaim Australia is an anti-Islamic group which led a series of protests across the country on July 19, with clashes between anti-Muslim and anti-racism demonstrators.

Dr Faruqi, who came to Australia from Pakistan in 1992 and was elected to NSW parliament in 2013, called the messages "vile" and "pretty hurtful".

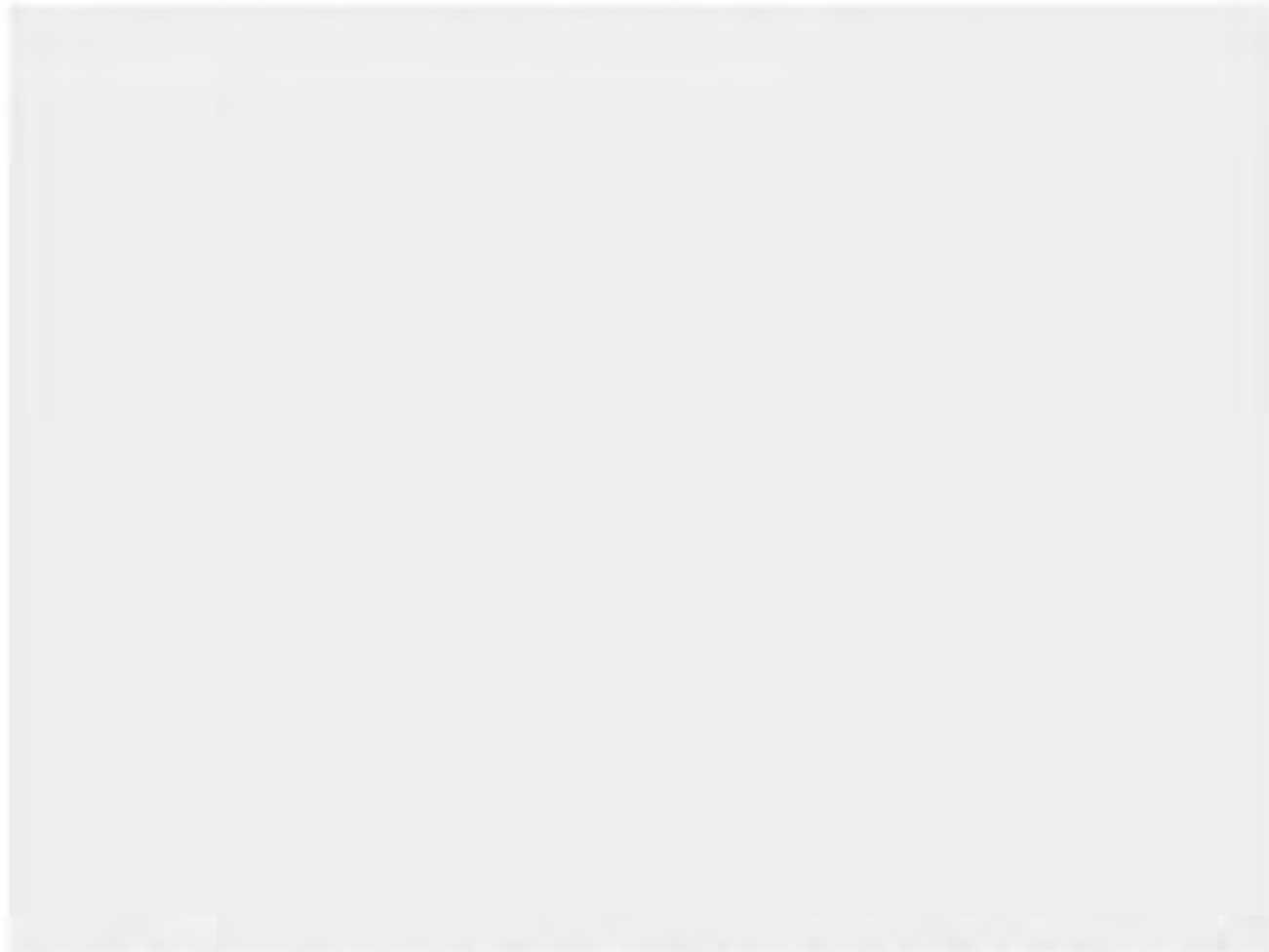
She told *news.com.au* this was just the tip of the iceberg compared to what many people, particularly Muslim women, were experiencing.

"Having lived in Australia for 23 years, in Sydney and regional NSW, being an engineer and raising two kids it does hurt that there are people who feel increasingly emboldened to say I don't belong," she said.

"In the past I have tried to just dismiss racist comments towards me and my family. But as the first Muslim woman in an Australian parliament I have been asked why someone like me would be involved in politics, because I'm 'not even from here', and it's becoming much harder to ignore as the public rhetoric becomes more and more toxic."

Dr Faruqi says the Reclaim Australia movement is stoking the fire of underlying racism in Australia and the risk needs to be taken seriously.

"It is really dangerous and unhelpful to dismiss the Reclaim movement as a tiny fringe group. Their rallies have been poorly attended but their hateful ideas have been gaining traction rapidly on social media and elsewhere," she said.



Coalition MP George Christensen at the Take Back Australia Rally in Mackay on July 19. Photo: Daryl Wright

Federal government MP George Christensen and former One Nation leader Pauline Hanson were among Reclaim Australia's speakers at the rallies.

"We would be foolishly naive to think that we are not at war with radical Islam," Mr Christensen told the rally on July 19, [the ABC reported](#).



"Our voice says we will not surrender, we will not sit idly by and watch the Australian culture and the Australian lifestyle that we love, and that is envied around the world ... we are not going to see that surrendered and handed over to those who hate us for who we are and what we stand for."

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has not publicly condemned the rallies or Mr Christensen.

Opposition immigration spokesman Richard Marles said it was "extraordinary" that the PM would allow MPs to attend "racist" rallies, but prevent them from appearing on the ABC's Q & A program.

Dr Faruqi says Australian politicians need to send a strong response to the leaders of the Reclaim movement.

"These people are not 'patriots' — they are racists, and they are deserving of our complete condemnation. Being Australian is about being welcoming and respectful of others. We should never forget that," she said.

"Australia is generally a welcoming place with a lot of wonderful people — and I am a proud Australian — but that doesn't mean we should let our collective guard down. We should always stand strongly against racism and xenophobia in our community."

Dr Faruqi is the Transport and Status fo Women spokeswoman for the NSW Greens.

*News.com.au* has contacted Twitter user @wesi12 for comment.

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**Opinion** Australian politics

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## The Pauline Hanson resurgence: as a Muslim, I'm surprised it took so long

*Mehreen Faruqi*

Racist and Islamophobic behaviours can no longer be written off as a fringe part of Australian life, or simply Muslims being oversensitive

Wed 6 Jul 2016 11.45 AEST



📷 'If one positive thing comes out of the election of One Nation MPs, it is that at least the cat is out of the bag.'  
Photograph: Dan Peled/EPA

**A**s around half a million Muslims across Australia celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr to mark the end of Ramadan, we are confronted with the reality that the first ever explicitly anti-Muslim party MPs are set to be elected to federal parliament.

Recriminations were strong on Sunday morning as many Australians woke up to the shock news that [Pauline Hanson's One Nation was on track](#) to be elected to the Senate, possibly with more than one seat. Questions were coming thick and fast. Did Australians drop the ball? Was this a fluke of preference flows that lead to another quirky electoral outcome? This was an

embarrassment, but surely it is not symptomatic of how many Australians think and feel?

Sadly, this was no fluke. One Nation received the biggest national Senate vote in the country after the Coalition parties, Labor and the Greens. That is more than the Nick Xenophon Team and any other of the sitting cross bench senators. In fact, in Queensland, One Nation outpolled the Greens to win a quota in its own right.

While tapping into many populist concerns, such as foreign ownership and the loss of Australian jobs to migrants, One Nation's key policy platform was explicitly anti-Muslim: a ban on Muslim immigration, an inquiry or royal commission into Islam, a ban on the building of mosques and a ban on halal certification. Certainly some voted One Nation "[as a means of raising a middle digit in the direction of the parliamentary triangle](#)", but the fact is that One Nation has clear policies on Islam and halal certification, but no position one way or the other on education, health or the environment.

0:00 / 1:19

■◀ [Pauline Hanson: I am as entitled to my seat as much as any elected member of parliament](#)  
Guardian

As an Australian Muslim, I am surprised it took this long for Islamophobic groups to cross into the mainstream. Any Muslim will tell you of the vitriol they face for speaking out online, and the blame they are apportioned in the aftermath of terrorist incidents (I'm certainly bracing myself for more "[Love letters to Mehreen](#)" - a Facebook page I launched as a way of exposing and combatting the racial and sexist hate that comes my way.)

At this election, there were at least five political parties with policies against Muslims running, including One Nation, the Australian Liberty Alliance and Rise Up Australia. At least three others were intending to run, but appear not to have been registered in time.

These are not all fringe groups shunned by the establishment. One of them, Fred Nile's Christian Democratic Party, which prominently ran on banning halal food certification, received the Liberals and Nationals' second and third preferences in a number of key Senate and lower house electorates.

To attribute the rise of far right parties solely to their anti-political, populist rhetoric is naïve and simplistic. Their explicit racism has both drawn support to them and widened their potential audience. We must not forget that Islamophobia did not spontaneously emerge when [Pauline Hanson](#) reoriented the "enemy" to be Muslims rather than East Asians. Rather, groups like One Nation provide an outlet for and amplify existing grievances and fears.

Over the last three years I have been in NSW Parliament as the sole Muslim woman MP, the torrent of racist, Islamophobic and often sexist online abuse has been steadily increasing. We have seen the rise of public protests,

however small, attacking the Muslim population. We have seen broad acceptance of mandatory detention, sexual violence and child abuse of refugees and asylum seekers imprisoned in Nauru and Manus Island, essentially because they are predominantly brown and Muslim.

Across the world, far right groups and individuals have successfully taken advantage of genuine economic uncertainty, growing inequality, and a lingering fear of Muslims, and pinned the blame mostly on those who have no voice. The electorates in which One Nation polled highest in Queensland, Maranoa, Wright and Flynn have some of the lowest rates of overseas born residents.

In NSW, One Nation ran third in the Central Coast seat of Dobell and accumulated more than 12% of the vote in the Hunter seat of Paterson, again both electorates with overseas born populations well below the average. Meanwhile, One Nation polled a mere 1% of the Senate vote in the electorate of Watson, which has a large mixed Muslim and non-Muslim population.

What, then, are the causes of these high votes? The dogwhistling and fearmongering of Coalition politicians such as George Christensen and Cory Bernardi, and the silent complicity of their leaders, must be recognised as playing [a significant role in the rise of Islamophobic sentiments among people who do not have regular contact with Muslims](#). It would be fair to argue that the ongoing fearmongering of these opportunistic major party politicians directly precipitated the electoral success and re-emergence of One Nation.

If one positive thing comes out of the election of One Nation MPs, it is that at least the cat is out of the bag. Racist and Islamophobic behaviours can no longer be written off as a fringe part of Australian life, or simply Muslims being oversensitive.

Shouting at One Nation voters won't help, but finally acknowledging the uncomfortable reality that discrimination and racism against Muslims does exist in our society would be a step towards stamping it out. Creating a broad coalition of supporters of multiculturalism and diversity in our community would be the next essential move.

The next few years will no doubt be testing for Australian Muslims, who having lived peacefully and harmoniously in our multicultural society for decades will now face open hostility from those in the highest office.

Ramadan, the month of reflection and self-discipline may be over, but the dawn of the new Eid moon brings difficult challenges.

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**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-18"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-18" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

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## **Christchurch mosque shooting prompts large vigil at Lakemba Mosque**

Posted Fri 15 Mar 2019 at 6:21pm, updated Fri 15 Mar 2019 at 11:52pm



Hundreds of people gathered to pray for the victims of the Christchurch shootings at Australia's largest mosque in Sydney's south-west. (ABC News: Nour Haydar)

Hundreds of people have gathered to pray for the victims of the Christchurch shootings at Sydney's Lakemba Mosque.

[Police said 49 people were killed](#) in mass shootings targeting worshippers at two mosques in Christchurch, in what New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern labelled "one of New Zealand's darkest days".

There was a strong police presence at the vigil, ahead of which Lebanese Muslim Association president Samier Dandan said there were concerns mosques in Australia could be targeted.

### **Key points:**

- Australia's peak body of Islamic councils described the shooting as an "act of terror"
- Leader Rateb Jneid said politicians must be aware of the consequences of an atmosphere of "hate and division"

"It is definitely a fear, we have actually taken some action — we've called our local police commanders, we've spoken to many different police in regards to increasing the security measures across all places of worship," he said.

- Mosques and Muslim worshippers across Australia are urged to be "extra vigilant"

Mr Dandan condemned the terrorist attack and said his thoughts were with the victims.

"Such a deplorable act of terror has found its way to the shores of our closest neighbour, bringing out the destructive political views of white nationalism," he said.

Other Islamic leaders have also condemned the shooting attack as an "act of terror" inspired by Islamophobia.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) urged governments in Australia at all levels to pay extra attention to anti-Muslim sentiment and extremism.

AFIC president Rateb Jneid said in a statement that the victims and their families were in his prayers.

"It is with deep sorrow that we learn today of the terrorist attack committed against innocent worshippers at a Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand," Dr Jneid said.

"We extend our prayers and thoughts to the victims and survivors, their families and the people of New Zealand during this terrible time," he said.

"This act of terror on innocent worshippers is an atrocity and we grieve with the victims and their families."

## **Politicians warned against 'atmosphere of hate and division'**

Australia's first female Muslim senator, Mehreen Faruqi, condemned anti-Islam sentiment in Australia, particularly "far-right [politicians] like Pauline Hanson and Fraser Anning".

"There is blood on the hands of politicians who incite hate. To me, there is a clear link between their politics of hate and this sickening, senseless violence in Christchurch," she tweeted.

"Muslims have been targeted during Friday prayers. This is not an isolated event with mysterious causes. This is not random. This is the consequence of the Islamophobic and racist hate that has been normalised and legitimised by some politicians and media."

"Attending Friday prayers is a family ritual for millions of Muslims. My heart breaks for everyone who has lost family and friends today, and Muslims around the world who worry for their safety each day.

"Let's call this what it is. A planned terrorist attack targeting Muslims."



the president of AFIC said the shooting was "a product of the ever-increasing Islamophobia and marginalisation of Muslims". (AP: Mark Baker)

Dr Jneid said in the statement that Muslims in Australia needed to be aware of their safety, especially around mosques.

"We encourage all Mosques and places of worship in Australia to be extra vigilant and for members of the Muslim community to be particularly mindful of their safety in the coming days," he said.

He also urged Australian governments to be aware of the "horrific consequences" that can flow from hate speech.

"This massacre today is a product of the ever-increasing Islamophobia and marginalisation of Muslims and is a reminder to all concerned, including political leaders and media commentators, of the horrific consequences

that an atmosphere of hate and division can lead to," he said.

"No country or community is immune to such atrocities.

"We urge governments in Australia, both at a Federal and State level, to give extra attention to the rise of anti-Muslim sentiment and extremism and ensure that the concerns of the Muslim community are being genuinely heard and responded to."



Rule 29.02(8)

**Certificate identifying annexure**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
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Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-19"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-19" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
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[POLITICS](#)

# ‘There’s a lot of reflection to be done’: Mehreen Faruqi calls on politicians to end war of division

by [Tarla Lambert](#) | March 17, 2019



She’s Australia’s first ever, and currently only Muslim Senator, and yet Mehreen Faruqi’s opinion on the Christchurch massacre is merely “attention seeking”, suggested Liberal MP Peter Dutton on ABC Radio National this morning.

In fact, he went so far as to lump Faruqi’s sentiments in with Fraser Anning’s when he said: “One of the regrets I have is we give attention or a spotlight onto people like Fraser Anning, or like this Senator (Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi) as well.”

By all accounts, Mehreen Faruqi’s message has been one of overwhelming unity. She stood in solidarity with Muslim Australians and all Australians over the weekend following Friday’s tragedy.

However, Dutton might be feeling a bit peeved that she specifically called out right-wing, conservative politicians like himself, for fuelling the fires of division and volatility.

“Some politicians in Australia have for years been whipping up anti-muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment,” Faruqi told ABC Breakfast News this morning. “And for years, Muslims have also been warning; we’ve been speaking out and saying this is damaging and hurting the community, and that this does have consequences- this doesn’t happen in a vacuum.”

“And when I talk about politicians, I have to say I’m not only talking about the usual suspects like One Nation’s Pauline Hanson, or Fraser Anning,” she said. “I am talking about other politicians as well who have been dog whistling and who have been race-painting for years.”

Faruqi said the tragedy in Christchurch where Australian man, Brenton Tarrant murdered 50 worshippers in two of the city’s mosques should be the catalyst for deep reflection for several Australian politicians.

“We should always be unified in moments like this, but it shouldn’t have to take fifty people to die for this unity,” she said. “So, I think there’s a lot of reflection to be done by many in the highest office of Australia.”

Faruqi also condemned certain media outlets for stoking the flames of Islamophobia.

“I have to say, that some media has played the role in those messages of hate; not scrutinising those politicians which is their job. I do hope that every single one of those is reflecting on what is going on.”

“And I think, one one other thing I could add as well is: I think we have to question at this point in time, how much focus government and government agencies have put into monitoring and addressing right wing extremism and right wing terrorism. We need to really look into that and make sure that we now start listening to those people bearing the brunt of this division and Islamophobia in Australia, and for once, tackle it.”

It’s hard to fathom how Dutton could disagree with that.

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# Pauline Hanson to abstain from Senate vote condemning Fraser Anning's Christchurch comments

By political reporter [Eliza Laschon](#)

Posted Mon 18 Mar 2019 at 9:58am, updated Mon 18 Mar 2019 at 1:22pm



Senators Pauline Hanson and Derryn Hinch get into a heated debate over immigration

~~One Nation leader Pauline Hanson will abstain from a vote to censure Senator Fraser Anning over his offensive comments following the New Zealand shooting.~~

~~The Government and Opposition will unite to bring the bipartisan motion when Parliament returns in April, but Senator Hanson has ruled out supporting that.~~

"A censure is ... not going to prove anything," she told Sunrise.

In response to [Friday's mass shooting](#), in which [50 people were killed](#), Senator Anning said while he opposed any form of violence the attacks were linked to growing fears of Muslims in the community.

## Key points:

- ~~▪ The Government and Labor will join forces to censure Fraser Anning for linking the Christchurch attacks to immigration~~
- ~~▪ Pauline Hanson says she will abstain from the vote~~



Those comments prompted a 17-year-old boy to [smash an egg on Senator Anning's head](#).

Footage shows Senator Anning immediately swinging two punches at the teenager. Police have said they are investigating the incident.

~~condemning the former One Nation senator~~

- Peter Dutton compares Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi's comments to Senator Anning



Fraser Anning responds after being egged

Prime Minister Scott Morrison called Senator Anning's comments "appalling and ugly" ~~and said his Government would move a bipartisan motion of censure — effectively the Parliament saying it disapproves of the actions of an MP — against Senator Anning when Parliament resumes.~~

The Greens want to go one step further, by amending the Privileges Act so that Senator Anning could be expelled from Parliament.

The Houses of Parliament cannot expel a politician for their behaviour, but [they can be disqualified](#) if they are convicted of offences punishable by imprisonment for a year or longer.

Meanwhile, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has condemned a Greens senator for saying his border policies and political rhetoric have "been playing games with our lives", calling her rhetoric as damaging as Senator Anning's.

**'What they've been doing does come with a cost'**

In response to New Zealand's mass shooting, Senator Mehreen Faruqi said it was not just far-right politicians who had been "fanning the flames of racism and Islamophobia".

"It is politicians from government positions ... who have been for years whipping up anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant and anti-asylum seeker sentiments," Senator Faruqi said.

"It is politicians like Peter Dutton who have actually contributed to creating an atmosphere where hate is allowed to incubate in our society."

Senator Faruqi, Australia's first Muslim senator, was referring to the Federal Government's border protection policy, Operation Sovereign Borders, and crackdown on boat arrivals.

"They can't shrug off their responsibility. What they've been doing does come with a cost. It does come with consequences, but really they've been playing games with our lives," Senator Faruqi said.

Mr Dutton denied the accusations and slammed the comments, saying Senator Faruqi could be critical of the policy but that her rhetoric should be condemned.

"I'm hardly going to take morals lectures from the extreme left who frankly are just as bad in this circumstances as people like Fraser Anning," Mr Dutton said.

"They should equally be condemned."

Rule 29.02(8)

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**Mehreen Faruqi** @MehreenFaruqi · Dec 2, 2019

Don't sprinkle salt on my wounds @oz\_f

3 4



**Temüjin** @JazzKatzz · Dec 3, 2019

We seek a motion for anti-white Europhobia Mehreen. Your son displays his hatred of an ENTIRE race. You both chat about whites like this? And since Islam is an ideology anyone should be free to challenge it in Australia. Osman's racism is worse as he judges skin colour not IDEAS



7 26 43



**Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers · Dec 5, 2019

@OMGTheMess @MelodyM05174377 @TarekFatah @Bradthinks71 @OzraeliAvi @emm\_downunder

Let's realise one thing that with these two @MehreenFaruqi @oz\_f here in Australia, Pakistan's deep state, ISI and the muslim brotherhood have successfully made themselves mainstream

3 1 10



**Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers · Dec 5, 2019

@LamponeAI @Enough175990245

Would be interesting to see how long it takes for @AusFedPolice to start tracking them for links and funding

Even if they dont. I'm sure indian and Israeli agencies would be interested in them for sure

2 2 6

← Post

 **Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers · Dec 5, 2019 ...  
Pakistanis did their dirty work in UK and we all see the outcome of it. Now the new wave is commencing in down under.

[@AusFedPolice](#) do take this seriously


2 3 10

 **Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers · Dec 5, 2019 ...  
[@okeykokey](#) [@DVATW](#) [@KTHopkins](#) [@MRobertsQLD](#) [@RealMarkLatham](#)  
[@PaulineHansonOz](#)

1 1

 **Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers · Dec 5, 2019 ...  
[@BaronBlacky](#)

1 1


 **Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers · Dec 5, 2019 ...  
[@abcnews](#) so it's ok for your employees to tweet about white people as long as they are brown and muslim immigrant?

I'm brown and immigrant, please let me be an editor so I can tweet about the cancer called islam

Any other race has freedom to express

Whities have hate speech

4 6 16

 **Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers · Dec 5, 2019 ...  
Since you have double standards and shaky business ethics and practices

Kindly send a work offer asap, who wouldn't love to work at a corrupt, lying, bigoted and hypocritical work place 🤡

Mighty whities are fair game for immigrants 🤡🤡🤡

1 3

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 **Nonbelievers United** @nonbelievers ...

Hahahaha but but I'm an immigrant and brown!!! That would be racism by a predominant white corporation and that's against the principles of lefty loopy liberals and greens

It would be as big a joke as Mehreen being a "muslim feminist"

7:59 PM · Dec 5, 2019

Rule 29.02(8)

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**Wotyagunnado** @DustynGooch · May 2, 2020



Spot on!  
They were a disorganised rabble of tribes that fought primitively among themselves.  
They try and bullshit us that were a proud nation of warriors.  
I call bullshit!



**Ken Waugh** @KenWaugh7 · May 2, 2020



A proud nation you say?  
Well a proud nation does not hide behind another country's flag and another country's queen, like gutless so called Australians seem happy to do



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**Ken Waugh** @KenWaugh7 · May 2, 2020



The flag is of a foreign company.  
The monarch is foreign.  
And so-called proud Australia's want to hide behind both, are too gutless to back their country, and too stupid to spot the hypocrisy



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**Al pal** @westonnights · May 3, 2020



And tell me this is not hitting the nail squarely on the head ! A great example of the illegal shysters invading Australia 🇦🇺



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**Al pal** @westonnights · May 4, 2020

I think you'll find it was Paul Keating as PM who against the advice of his cabinet opened the borders to Muslim Lebanese migrants/refugees.

5 2 11

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**Maggie Mae** 🇺🇸 🇬🇧 **Born WWII** 🇮🇪 **Proud Celtic** . @MillyMol · May 4, 2020

They were Christians and fitted into our way of life IMO.

4 1 8

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**Maggie Mae** 🇺🇸 🇬🇧 **Born WWII** 🇮🇪 **Proud Celtic** . @MillyMol · May 5, 2020

Agree. Lebanese Muslims have no intention of fitting into our society...ever.

3 3 14



**Manny** @Mannyz6767 · May 5, 2020

JUST TAKE ONE LOOK AT ENGLAND.

1 3 11



**LordHiver** @LordHiver · May 5, 2020

England is finished.  
As a safe place to now live.

They allowed it to happen. They did it to themselves.

It's up to Australia if it replicates.  
The failed pointless experiment.  
The fatal lie.



7 20 39



**Manny** @Mannyz6767 · May 5, 2020

MULTICULTURALISM WORKED WELL IN THE WORLD UNTIL ISLAM WAS INTRODUCED.

2 6 16



**Al pal** @westonnights · May 5, 2020

Sorry 😞 but which Western Country has this evil disruptive ideology ever worked ? Compare it to Integration I know which one I would always prefer.United we stand divided we fall 🇺🇸

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**Manny** @Mannyz6767 · May 5, 2020

IT'S BEEN PROVEN AROUND THE WORLD THAT MULTICULTURALISM WORKS WELL UNTIL YOU INTRODUCE ISLAM.

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26



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**Maggie Mae** 🇺🇸 🇮🇪 **Born WWII** 🇮🇪 **Proud Celtic** . @MillyMol · May 6, 2020

Migrants brought different outlooks, attitudes to schooling, opera,fashion or sewing tailored dresses to sell. Nth Europeans had to get along with Sthn ones & leave the hatreds of WWII behind to slowly bond as Aussies. Italians taught us more re close extended families than food.

5

9

18



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**Maggie Mae** 🇺🇸 🇮🇪 **Born WWII** 🇮🇪 **Proud Celtic** . @MillyMol · May 6, 2020

You're not wrong.Hubby remembers ordering a coffee in a country town early 1960s. When it came, he thought it was hot chocolate, he couldn't drink it. Remember(or not?) we used to have coffee made with just hot milk & a spoonful of chicory syrup (forget if it had coffee in it) 😊

3

3

10



**Al pal** @westonnights · May 7, 2020

Chicory was a cheap substitute for coffee used during the war not coffee at all but it served the purpose 😊. The Yanks introduced instant coffee to Aust during the war Mum used to drink it not many did. The coffee culture kicked off in the late 60's the good old cappuccino 😊

1

7



**Maggie Mae** 🇺🇸 🇮🇪 **Born WWII** 🇮🇪 **Proud Celtic** / @MillyMol · May 7, 2020


Yes I remember Italian cafes having expresso machines.

2

5



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 **Maggie Mae** 🇺🇸🇮🇪 **Born WWII** 🇮🇪 **Proud Celtic** / @MillyMol · May 7, 2020 ...

Agree entirely, but most of us are too frightened of being called racists, to say that. Those in Govt, exactly the same. Has the push for these different cultures come from Business? or PC types within the Public Service/Govt I wonder?

7 4 15

 **Shirley** 🌸 @Shirley56733062 · May 7, 2020 ...


I'm getting over this racist tag, I simply don't care any more, we are letting this Muslim race spoil our country, this is AUSTRALIA. NOT. LEBANON OR PALESTINE. You left that behind, presumably for a better life! Stop trying to live the old life! Ok I'm racist, I DONT CARE ANYM

14 17 38

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 **BFanning** @BBfanning · May 8, 2020 ...

That's one way to vent over marriage problems I guess Jo. Lot of anger there. There is a compromise but the problem with every explosion is you see they don't want it. Even minority Muslim countries have major problems with the ideology. They need to let it go.

3 1 5


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 **Sandy** @Sandy23269960 · May 8, 2020 ...


All Moslems follow the Quoran, that vile book states to kill all Infidels if they do not follow Allah...If a war was to start ask a Moslem who they would fight for,their country or The Quoran teachings?

4 2 8

 **Barry Kelly** @bazakel · May 9, 2020 ...

That's nonsense. Muslims killed other Muslims in the WTC on 9/11. Human beings are tribal. They identify with their group and their causes. Islam isn't the problem. Brainwashing and ignorance is the problem in Muslim countries where children don't have access to basic education.

8 1 3

 **@aussie000050** · May 9, 2020 ...

Their ideology is the problem . They kill others because it's worth the sacrifice that they believe they will be rewarded with for taking out all the kafir that is written in their book of doom. Sick book, Sick cult  
[thereligionofpeace.com/attacks/christ...](http://thereligionofpeace.com/attacks/christ...)

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**@aussie000050** · May 9, 2020



They're absolute pigs and the child brides and fgm that is happening even here with them. They'll never change their filthy ideology.  
[google.com.au/amp/s/amp.news...](http://google.com.au/amp/s/amp.news...)

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20



**colin campbell** @colinca35348104 · May 9, 2020



This can't be true ??

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**colin campbell** @colinca35348104 · May 10, 2020



Reprobate . That's putting it mildly .

1

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3



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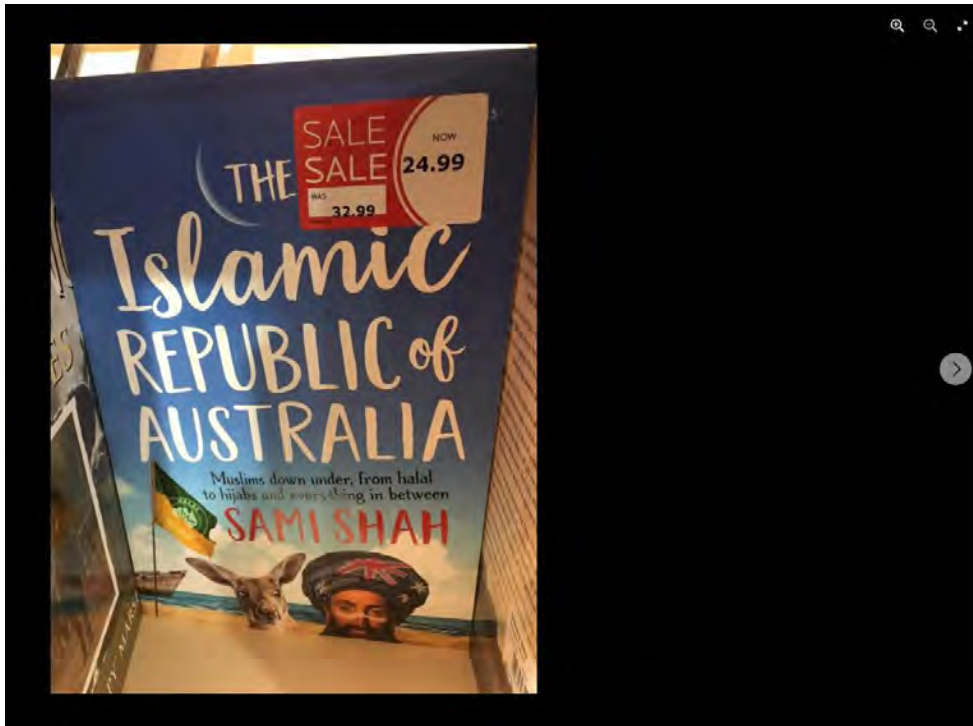
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Pauline Hanson's Please Explain  
July 16, 2017 · 48

How do you feel about Dymocks book range?

#Auspol #OneNation #PaulineHanson  
#Dymocks #Sale #Islam

👍👍👍 2.6K    1.3K    764

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**Zawfr Zard**  
Islamic Jurisprudence by Late Professor Weeramantry (A Catholic by Faith), Former Head judge International Court of Justice(Hague), EMINENT Scholar on law. A person Christian faith has written a detailed book on Islamic Jurisprudence how the western nat... See more

by Like Reply

**Tilly Akhida**  
If it's written in English it's a good thing, it's quite obviously a joke. Anything serious the writer wants to hide will be written in a different language, that's the stuff to crack down on, I'm not one to start screaming about a book if I have no id... See more

by Like Reply

**Matt Broynick**  
Watch the angry idiot parade throw around bigoted and racist jibes while loudly proclaiming they're not racist over a book written by a comedian who isn't a muslim, which these people would know if they turned down the psychopath setting for 2 seconds... See more

by Like Reply

**James Jacob Platter**  
Larissa Waters: Resionino from the

Comment as Andrea Farrugia

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[POLITICS](#) [ISLAM](#) [MUSLIM](#) [ONE NATION](#)

# Comedian Responds To Racist Abuse After Pauline Hanson Criticises His Book

'They literally judged a book by its cover.'

By Josh Butler

Jul 17, 2017, 01:50 AM EDT

Updated Jul 17, 2017



FACEBOOK/FAIRFAX MEDIA

Australian comedian Sami Shah has spent Monday laughing off racist abuse, after One Nation leader Pauline Hanson posted a veiled criticism of his new book and asked her followers to weigh in.

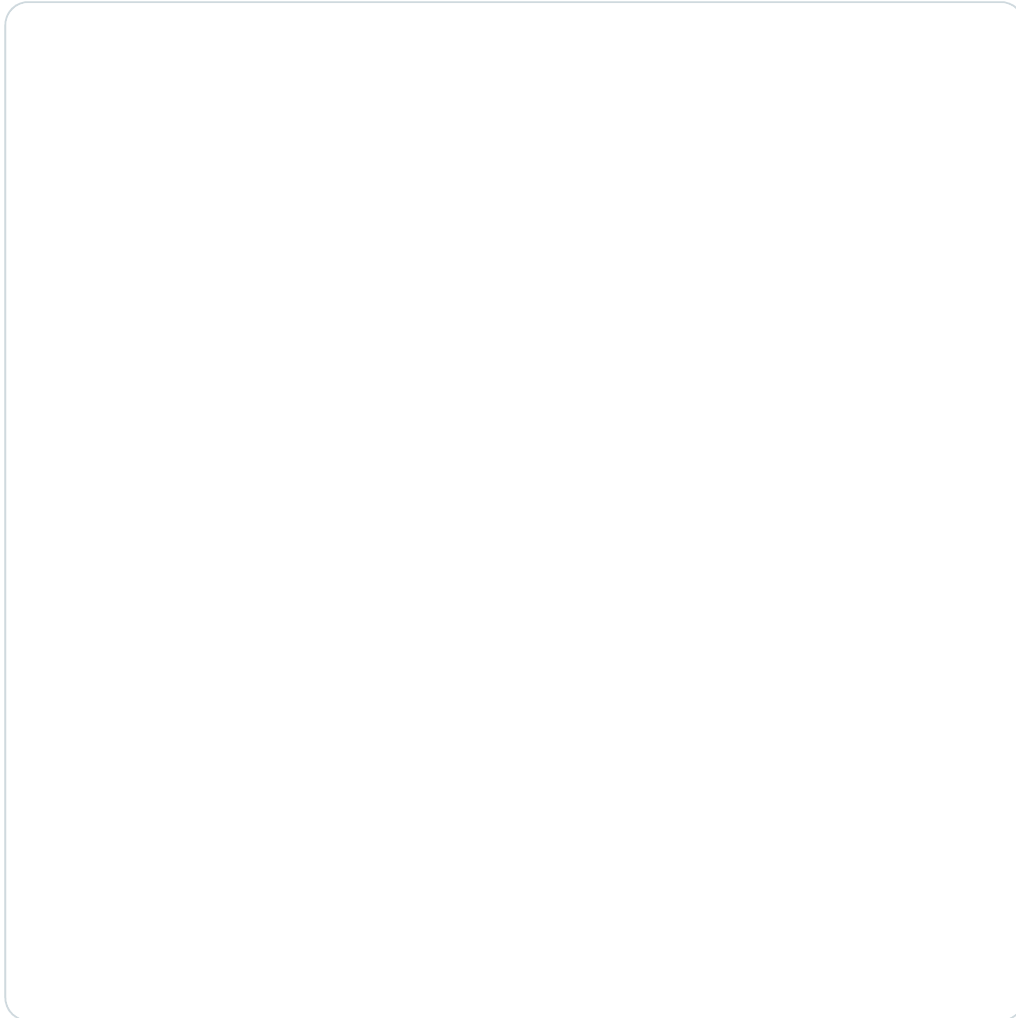


**Sami Shah**

@samishah · [Follow](#)



Trust One Nation supporters to judge a book by its cover



10:38 AM · Jul 17, 2017



44

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Shah, who was born in Pakistan but migrated to Australia and became a citizen last year, recently published his book ['The Islamic Republic of Australia'](#), named after [a successful radio series he created with the ABC](#). The book, Shah told HuffPost Australia, is about Islam's place in modern Australia -- raised as a Muslim, but having later decided he was an atheist, the comedian said he had a unique position from which to analyse Islam.

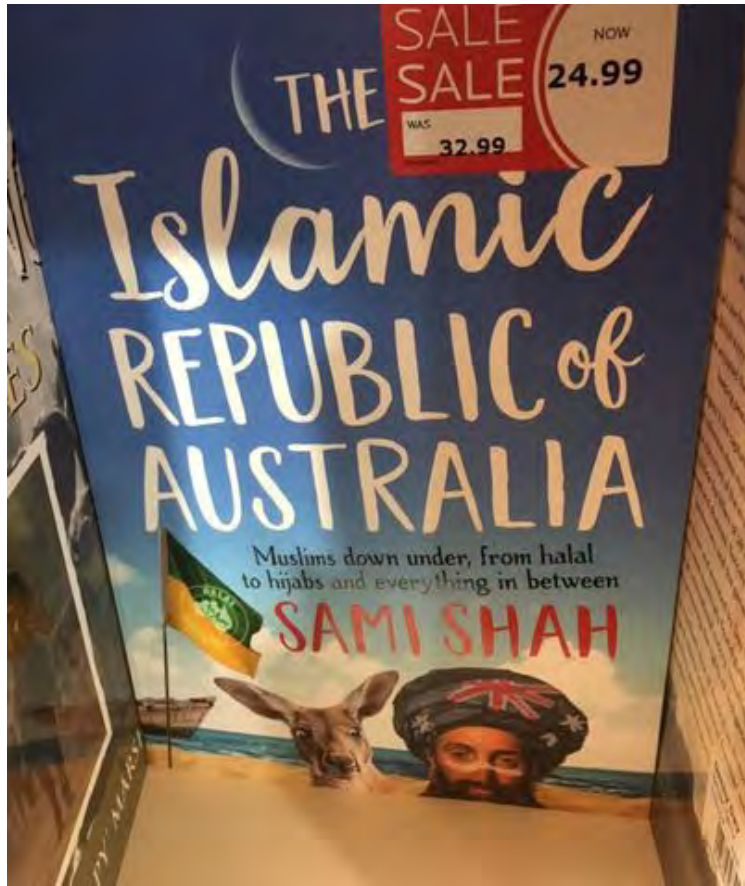
"I was born a Muslim but am no longer a Muslim. When I moved from Pakistan, I didn't think in Australia there would be so much discussion about Islam. I went and interviewed Muslims of all backgrounds, moderates, progressives, people who criticise Islam," Shah said of his book.

"I have some valid criticisms against Islam, which makes a fairly neutral party. This is me saying here are the problems the Muslim community is facing, and some they are creating. I hope people find it informative."



Pauline Hanson's Please Explain

about 7 years ago



How do you feel about Dymocks book range?

[#Auspol](#) [#OneNation](#) [#PaulineHanson](#) [#Dymocks](#) [#Sale](#) [#Islam](#)

468

849

764

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However, on Sunday, One Nation leader Hanson came across a copy of his book. Seemingly upset at its cover and title, she posted an image of the book on her [Facebook](#) page, asking her followers "How



do you feel about Dymocks book range?" and adding the hashtag #Islam. The response has ranged from one woman saying "The title is a bit concerning" to " Throw them in a fire, rubbish and should not be for sale on our shelves" and "I was looking to buy some toilet paper that could double as a fire lighter".

"There will be a lot of bloodshed before that ever happens and nearly all of it will not be ours," wrote one man.

"Even if they were giving it away free I would only get one to burn it," said one woman.

Shah said he had received nasty emails from "right-wing, conservative" critics in recent weeks, but was surprised that Hanson herself would bother with criticising his book -- indeed, he thought the Facebook page "Pauline Hanson's Please Explain" was an unofficial Hanson fan page, not her official political page.

"I didn't expect it to be that controversial, it was just a funny title to me. In the last few weeks, I've got a few messages like that. It's interesting what offends people," he said.

"The book is about an atheist ex-Muslim, to show his point of view, and show the Muslim community in Australia is quite diverse and not something to fear."


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He then laughed at the irony of what Hanson had literally done.

"Why would you judge a book by its cover? One thing you can say, is [One Nation supporters] are prone to judging books by their cover, metaphorically. Now they literally judged a book by its cover."

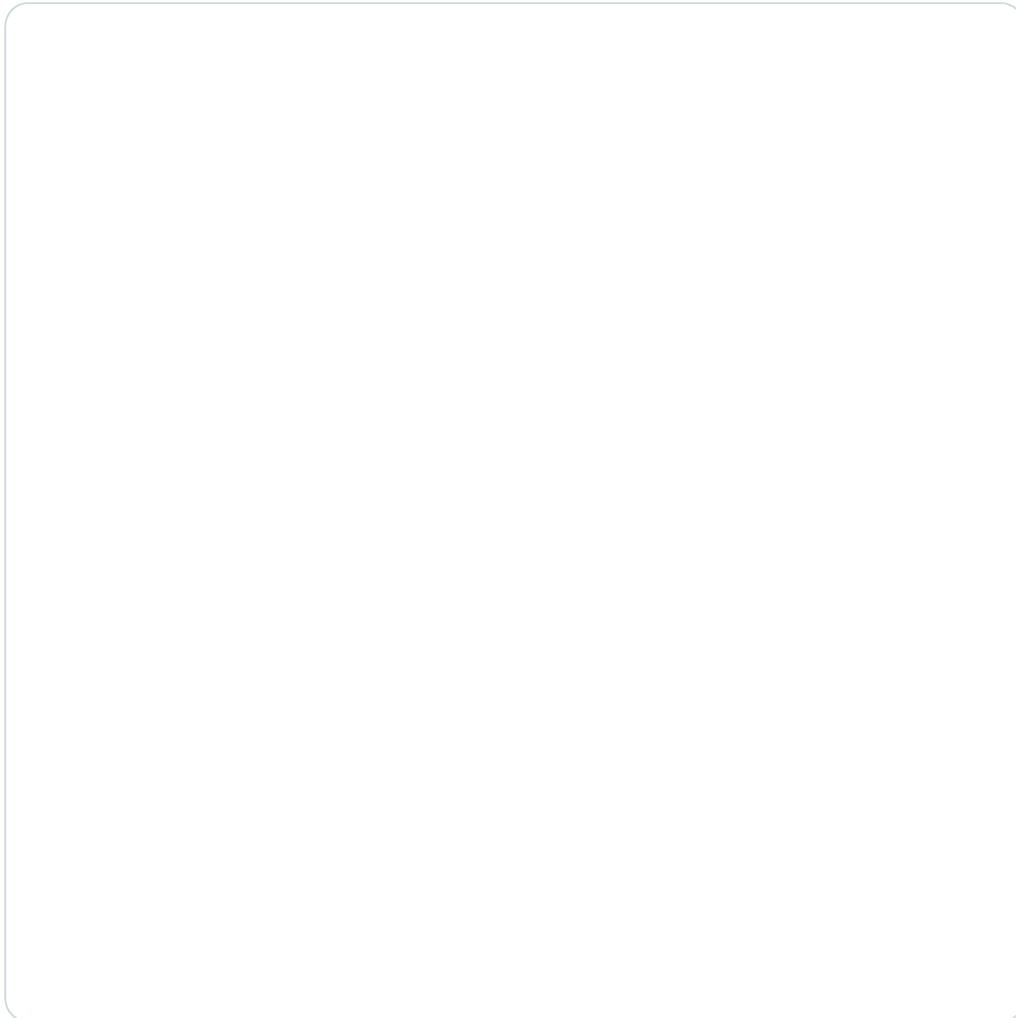
Shah also said he was buoyed by the support he had received in the wake of Hanson's criticism. Both Dymocks bookstores and the Avid Reader bookshop had come to his defence on Twitter. Dymocks even suggested selling Shah's book and a book titled 'Please Explain: the rise, fall and rise again of Pauline Hanson' in "a sweet, sweet bind-up of the two books".



**Angle**   
@\_AngIle\_ · [Follow](#)



Oh Pauline... you really want to take on bookshops? We can tell you it won't end well.



9:31 AM · Jul 17, 2017






 167

 Reply











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[Read 16 replies](#)

 **Angle**  · Jul 17, 2017 


@\_Anglle\_ · [Follow](#)

Replying to @\_Anglle\_ @Dymocksbooks and @samishah




We are furious about Dymocks stocking this book!!! Their price is a LOT better than ours          

 **Angle**    
@\_Anglle\_ · [Follow](#)

Just wait till she sees the event we're hosting on August 30... [avidreader.com.au/events/anna-br...](https://avidreader.com.au/events/anna-br...)

9:41 AM · Jul 17, 2017 

---

 20  Reply  Share

[Read 1 reply](#)

On Hanson's Facebook post, too, was support for Shah.

"Thanks for the advertisement! Am now heading to Dymocks website to grab a copy for myself, and one for a friend too," wrote one

woman.

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"Who cares? Are you seriously having a sook because a book store happen to be selling a book with the word Islam in the title that was written by a Muslim?" said another.

Shah said he was surprised by those comments, alongside many others.

"Its been interesting to see how many people on her page aren't One Nation supporters. Lots of people saying 'he's a comedian, he's an atheist'. I don't understand why so many people are on her page to repeatedly comment and take apart her arguments," he laughed.

"I understand going outside your bubble, your echo chamber, but I found it fascinating that so many people disagree with her."

More info on 'The Islamic Republic of Australia' is available [on Shah's website](#). The book is also available to buy at Dymocks and other book shops.

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**Garry McDougall**

Fake News Alert: This book was written by an Aussie comedian of Pakistani heritage. It covers the history of Muslims in Australia in a clear, rational way. The last two chapters are the author explaining all the reasons he rejects Islam.

6 y Like Reply

5  



**Suzan Marriott**

Sami Shah is a comedian and the book is based on his stand up show. He is a atheist who grew up as a muslim in Pakistan, he is now an Australian citizen.  
People need to do their research before commenting instead of flying off the handle after just viewing the photo of the book cover.

6 y Like Reply

11 

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## Opinion

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# The abuse and hate I get when I speak out hurts – but shutting up isn't an option

*Mehreen Faruqi*

I'm not usually afraid to say what is right, though sometimes I've wanted to crawl into bed and not get up

Fri 8 Feb 2019 09.58 AEDT



Do all Australians have the same right to express a public opinion without being harassed, abused and defamed? Unfortunately, I've learned the hard way that the answer to this question is no.

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Practically every day, I receive directly targeted messages on social media and through abusive phone calls, letters and emails that attempt to push me out of the political conversation simply for being who I am - a brown, migrant, Muslim woman from a Pakistani background.

As soon as I speak out publicly, it's met with relentless abuse and hate. It's immaterial what the topic is - cruelty to animals, public education, women's rights - the criticism isn't about policy, it always boils down to my race, gender, culture and religion. At the core of it is a belief that I don't have the same right to voice my views on matters of concern as white people do.

This situation is not new to me. I've copped the lies about swearing in to parliament on the Qur'an, or supporting despicable practices like female genital mutilation and forced marriages. None of them true.

I've had my face photoshopped onto Isis flags. I'm now used to the tabloid media amplifying lies about me and other Muslims for clickbait. But the barrage of abuse is reaching fever pitch as the loud voices of hate want to drown out our voices. They want to silence me and others that look like me.

**■ ■ *There are actual people behind every offensive comment. And I am only human***

Over the years I've tried many different ways to deal with the vitriol, from ignoring it to reporting it and highlighting some of the worst examples, sometimes with a touch of humour. But when you dare publish the vile messages, there are always a few typical responses. Sometimes the rationale is laughable. One man sent me a sexually explicit abusive message with a signature from his church. When I brought it to his church's attention, he sent me an apology saying he was upset because Turkey had invaded Greece - 400 years ago. But more often than not there is no remorse from the haters, just more abuse. The denial that their hostility has anything to do with racism is as immediate and unequivocal as it is obviously wrong.

There is an inexplicable assumption that I speak out on issues not because I believe in them, but to attract loathing so I can then play the victim. People have called my office to tell my staff I'm a drama queen. People accuse me of always making it about gender, race and colour - as if that's not the constant subject of the abuse.

But most of all they want to grind me down. And sometimes it works.

The cries of "it's just social media" and "ignore the trolls" just don't ring true to me any more, even when they come from well-meaning allies. Social media is as real as the "real world".

There are actual people behind every offensive comment. And I am only human. Their name calling, vicious insults and threats do hurt. It also hurts to hear good people unwittingly perpetuate the idea that I should stay silent because "responding

only emboldens them”. The idea that people like me, who in some people’s eyes can’t be “real” Aussies, should just continue their work stoically and feign indifference to the volleys of abuse that come our way, denies us our agency to feel just like anyone else does.

But doing nothing causes harm. Exposing the messages and the messengers lays bare what so many of us experience more and more. It helps others to speak out. It helps build a community of supporters who make it harder for bullying behaviour to continue.

I’m not usually afraid to say what is right, but sometimes I’ve wanted to crawl into bed and not get up. I’ve thought of doing exactly what the haters want – shutting up. For the first time, I’ve seriously considered the question: Is it really worth it?

But when I meet people in the community, particularly young women of colour, who tell me they couldn’t consider a career in public life because they see the abuse that this would open them up to, I know shutting up isn’t an option. Our parliaments already lack the gender and cultural diversity of our streets and suburbs. Giving in to the abusers will only make it worse.

Creating a more civil discourse is incumbent on everyone. Don’t turn a blind eye to racist and sexist abuse on social media; use your privilege to intervene. Join calls for social media platforms to take a far more active role in policing their platforms.

Ultimately, we need to dismantle the perception that the relative anonymity of the internet entitles people to get away with violent and abusive hate speech without consequences. Keeping an artificial divide between the virtual and the real only emboldens bad behaviour. We on the receiving end live in the real world, same as you.

● Mehreen Faruqi is Australian Greens senator for NSW



News • Posted on 26 Mar 2019

# Here's How Muslim Women In Australia Have Been Targeted By The Far Right

"It's not only sexism and it's not only racism, and it's not only Islamophobia, but it's an amplification of all those phenomena."



by **Gina Rushton**  
BuzzFeed News Reporter, Australia



by **Mark Di Stefano**  
BuzzFeed News Reporter

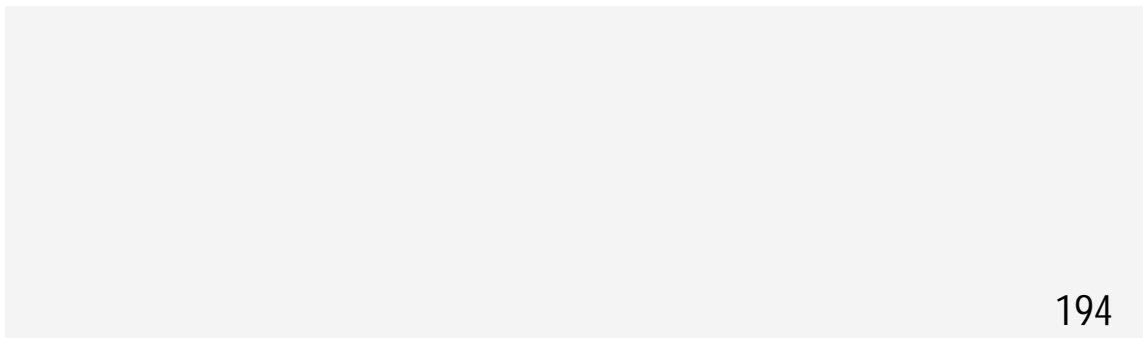


Anti-Islamic Reclaim Australia protesters wave flags and placards as they leave a rally against plans for a mosque being build in Melton, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015.

Tracey Nearmy / AAP

Australia's far right nationalist movement is a fractured network of rabidly racist and obsessively Islamophobic white men who use Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and message forums to connect with those who share their unrelenting disgust for multiculturalism, immigration and feminism.

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BuzzFeed News spoke to high profile Muslim women in Australia who have been targeted by these groups, including the nation's first ever Muslim senator Mehreen Faruqi, who says these men spread an “absolutely inter-related” mix of misogyny and racism.

“Very often racism and sexism come together because they're both part of a worldview that believes in white male supremacy,” she says.

The Australian man accused of mass shootings in Christchurch on March 15 live streamed part of the terror attacks on two mosques on Facebook hours after his manifesto was published on 8chan, a troll forum best known for its prominent role in #GamerGate, a targeted harassment campaign against female game developers.

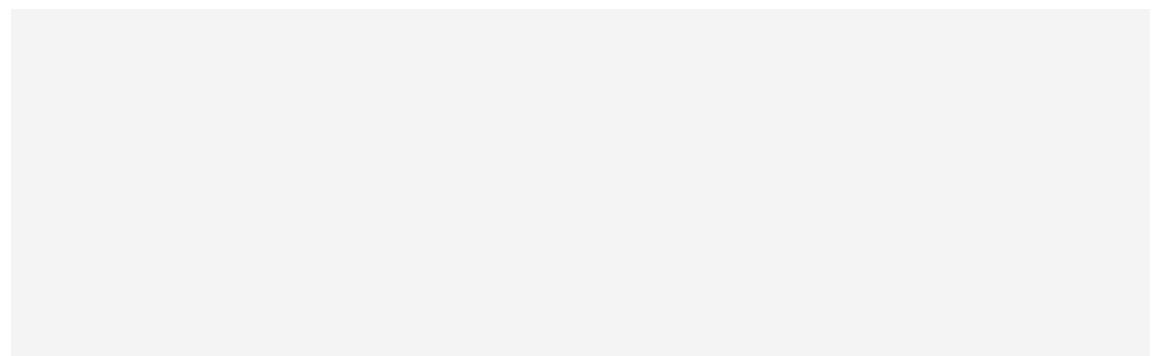


Kai Schwoerer / Getty Images

“Well lads it's time to stop shitposting and time to make a real effort post,” the post read, praising other men in the forum as “top blokes” and the “best bunch of coppers a man could ask for”.

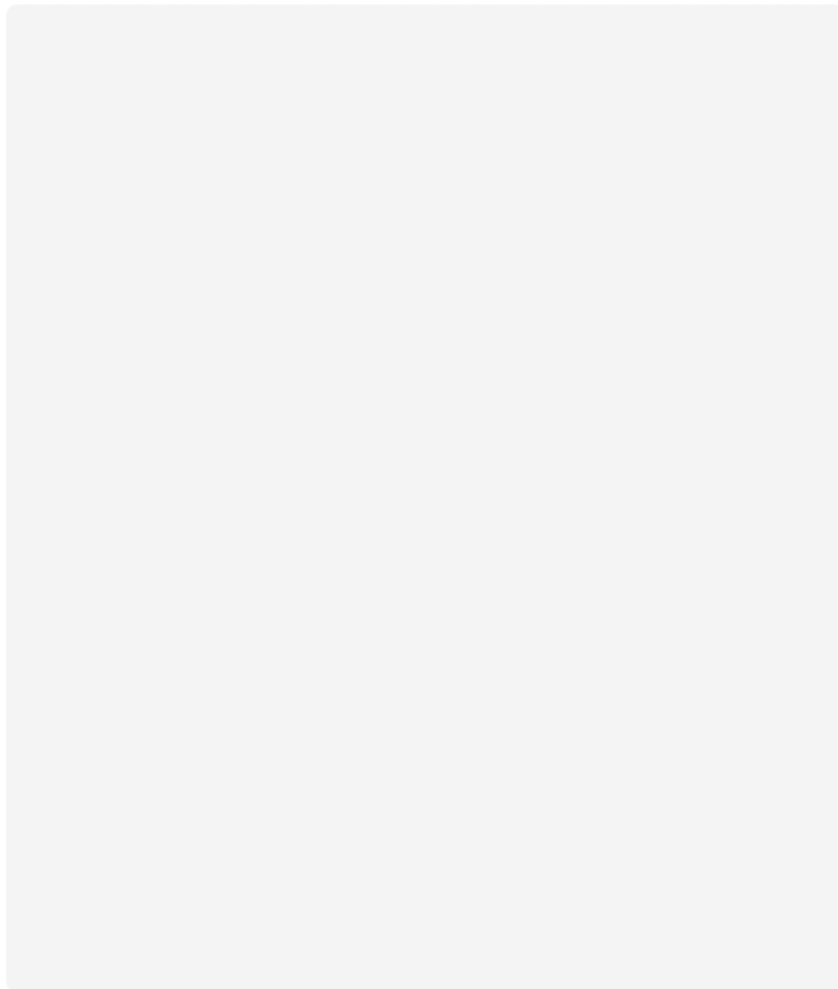
[The ABC revealed on Saturday](#) the 28-year-old alleged Christchurch shooter had posted on the now deleted Facebook pages of Australian far-right nationalist groups the United Patriots Front (UPF) and the True Blue Crew (TBC).

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In the posts, the accused murderer referred to UPF's former leader and one of Australia's most high-profile far right nationalists Blair Cottrell as “emperor”.

[Cottrell was convicted in 2017 of inciting serious contempt of Muslims](#) over a staged mock beheading and has condoned domestic violence.



Facebook

"Women have manipulated me using sex and emotion; demoralization ... and I have manipulated them using violence and terror," he once wrote in a comment on a YouTube video.

"We use what we have got to get what we want."

[Cottrell was sentenced to four months in prison in May 2012](#) after being convicted of 13 charges, including seven counts of intentionally damaging property after he chased his ex-girlfriend's new partner with a tomahawk and torched his garage.

He has written that women are "attracted to strength", and to keep them faithful men should "care less about them and even crack them around the ear every once in a while".

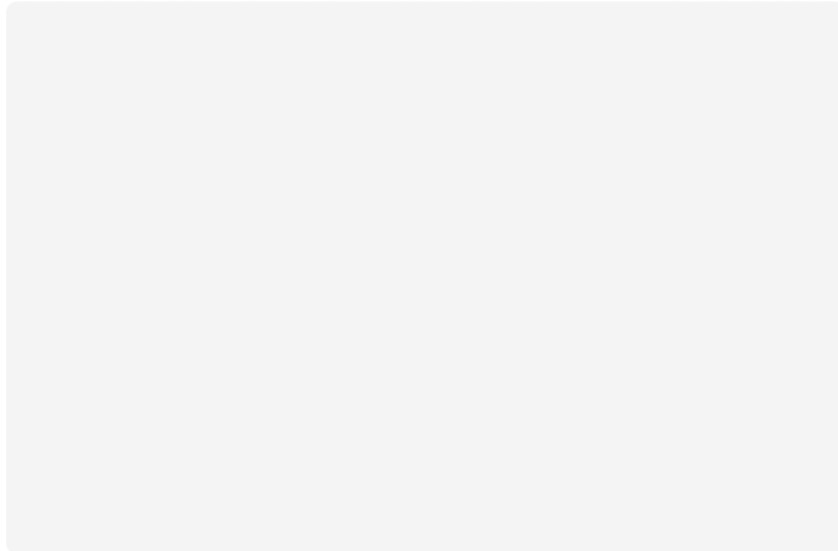
"But beware the modern 'careerist' woman who doesn't want kids and thinks she is equal to men, these women are delusional and extremely hard to handle," Cottrell, [who believes Jewish people "fund feminism"](#), wrote.

Last year Cottrell was invited on [Sky News for an interview](#).

A number of [Sky News journalists condemned Cottrell's appearance](#) on their station, but Cottrell targeted host Laura Jayes, tweeting that he "might as well have raped" her on air because "not only would she have been happier with that but the reaction would've been the same".

While the victims' bodies were still being counted in Christchurch, an Australian senator blamed Muslim immigration for the terror attack.

A bevy of far-right nationalists gathered to show support for the senator at a [now infamous press conference on March 16, during which the senator was egged by a teenage boy](#).



Neil Erikson (right) helps with the microphone for Senator Fraser Anning of the Conservative National Party before addressing a political meeting in Moorabbin, Melbourne, Saturday, March 16, 2019.

*David Crosling / AAP*

Neil Erikson, who was convicted alongside Cottrell of inciting serious contempt against Muslims, [held down the 17-year-old who threw the egg](#).

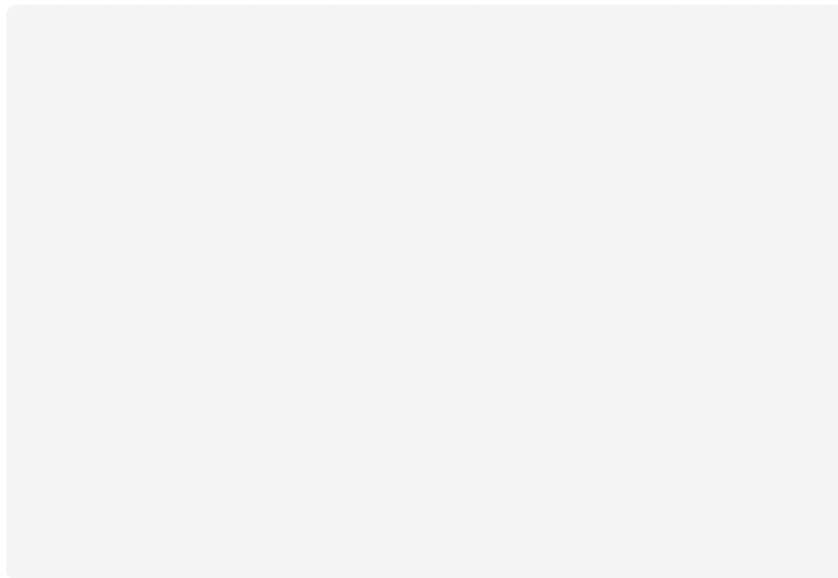
Erikson, a founding member of the UPF, has [said he didn't condone what happened in Christchurch but that it was "karma"](#).

He was arrested in 2018 for filming women at SlutWalk, a global movement calling for an end to rape culture and victim blaming, in which women walk down the street wearing whatever they want to.

Next to Erikson at the senator's press conference stood Andrew Nolch, [the man convicted of defacing a mural for raped and murdered Melbourne comedian Eurydice Dixon](#).

Nolch, 29, has said his decision to graffiti a 25-metre-long lewd image on the grass in the park where her body was found was an "an attack on feminism".

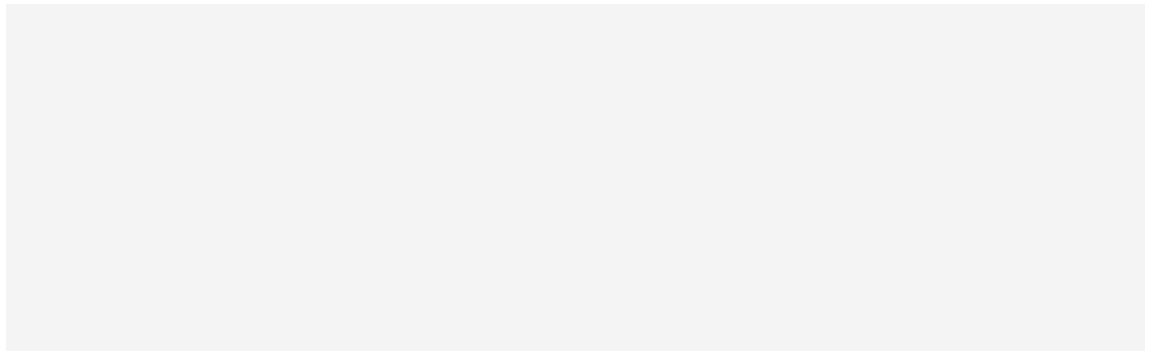
In a YouTube video posted to the account Australian Meditations, Erikson explained why he defends Nolch, who he said defaced the murdered woman's memorial "because of the feminists" who "hijack" murders to "punish men as a collective".



Andrew Nolch leaves the Melbourne Magistrate court in Melbourne, Thursday, September 6, 2018.

*David Crosling / AAPIMAGE*

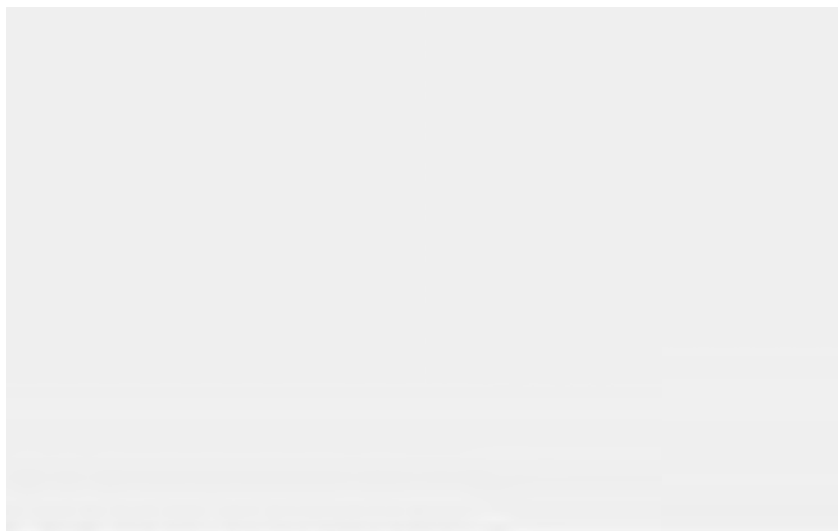
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"I feel sorry for Andrew Nolch being treated so badly," Erikson says of Nolch's 18-month community service sentence and \$19,500 in fines.

Nolch's Facebook page, on which he has claimed the January murder of international student Aiiia Maasarwe was faked, has been shared by Erikson's Facebook page Cooks Convicts, which he runs with another ultra-nationalist, Ricky Turner (who held the egg teen around the neck).

"The sexism is racialised and the racism is sexualised," Sudanese-Australian writer, engineer and broadcaster Yassmin Abdel-Magied tells BuzzFeed News.

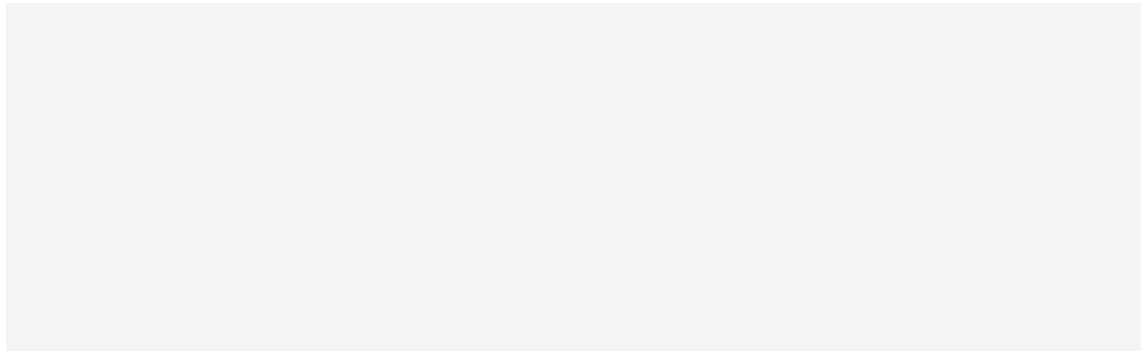




*Yassmin Abdel-Magied/Instagram*

When Abdel-Magied [was denied entry to the United States](#) — where she was travelling to speak about the difficulties of being a young Muslim woman in the West — for having the wrong visa, Erikson's other Facebook page, Nationalist Uprising, celebrated: "Suck it Yassmin... Trumped!!!"

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Abdel-Magied says when she explains the contents of her inbox to people they say: "It can't be that bad".

"When you're sent on a regular basis, videos of violent beheadings, female genital mutilation, shootings and other physical violence and told that is what you deserve, is that really just 'bad'?" she asks.

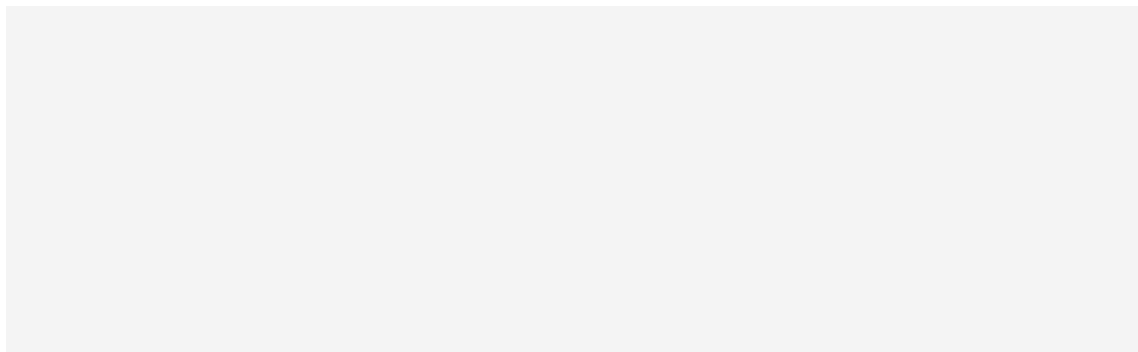
"When people detail how they'd like to rape you, how they'd like you to slice your wrists and bleed to death, how they'd like to violate your vagina, lynch you, run you over, gang rape you ... how you and people like you deserve every awful possible thing under the sun, perhaps it isn't just bad.

"Perhaps it's downright inconceivable."

The teeming mess of Australia's online far right gave rise to a group of men who gathered on Twitter, Facebook and 4chan under the banner of The Dingoes. The memes shared by them, including variations of crude, racist caricatures of Australian men drinking Victoria Bitter, became their hallmark.

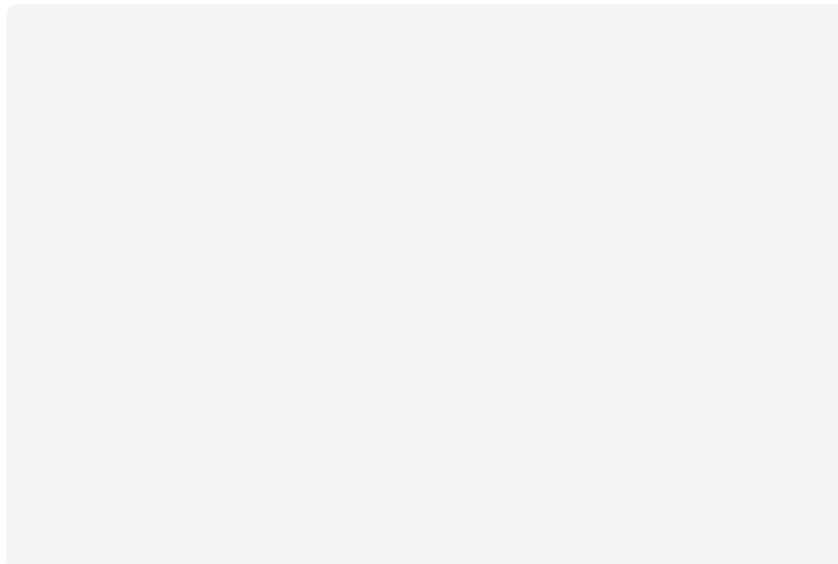
As first reported by the [Sydney Morning Herald](#), the alleged Christchurch terrorist Brenton Tarrant posted in 8chan before the attack using an account with the profile picture of a meme used by the Dingoes – an Aussie man, with a wide brimmed hat, holding a VB bottle with the words “Hold still while I glass you”. The same meme was used on Tarrant’s now-deleted Twitter account @brentontarrant, and previously shared by The Dingoes.

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The group’s Twitter account @TheDingoes also appears to have been shut down.

As [BuzzFeed News](#) has reported previously, The Dingoes recorded many hours of podcasts called The Convict Report.



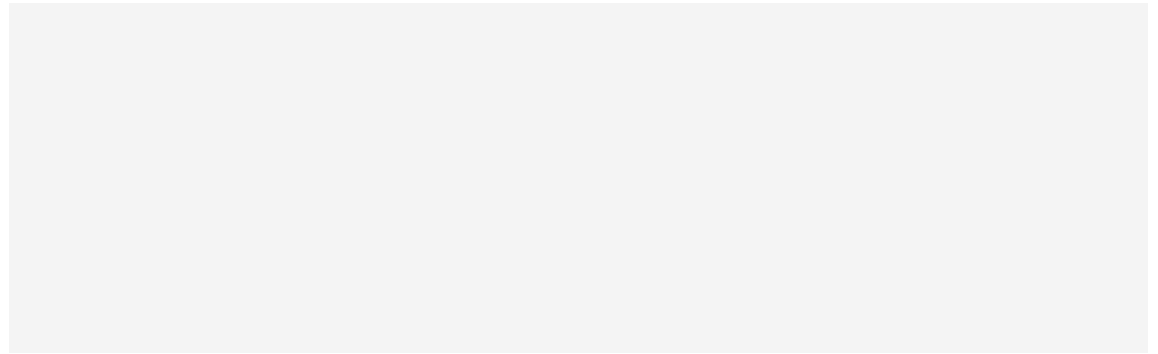
Far right wing activists Neil Erikson (yellow shirt) and Blair Cottrell (3rd right) are seen on St Kilda foreshore in Melbourne, Saturday, January 5, 2019.

*David Crosling / AAP*

The full archive of the podcast, which was previously hosted on Soundcloud, has been deleted. BuzzFeed News kept notes and transcripts of several episodes.

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It featured the men adopting online personas to spout virulently racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic statements, all coming under an umbrella term they referred to as “Dingo bants”.

Central to the podcasts were degrading comments about women. They talked about “taking out the women” so they could focus on “political discussion”. They wanted to get the phone number of Greens leader Richard Di Natale’s wife so they could “empower” her by making her “independent”. They repeatedly called former senator Jacqui Lambie a “meth Mum”. They put on accents to mock Abdel-Magied. There were often “bants” about the Stolen Generation and men raping vulnerable Aboriginal women.

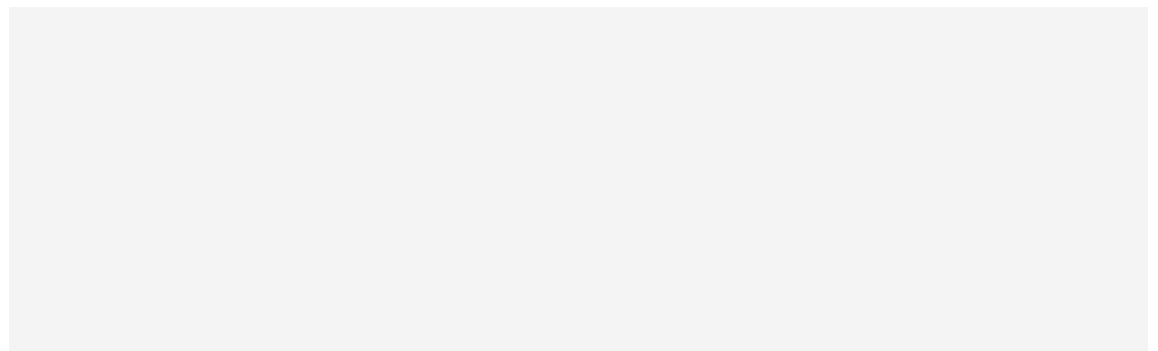
In one episode they say “being a male feminist is a really bad way to get laid”, and that “women seem to have this obsession with their own carnality”.

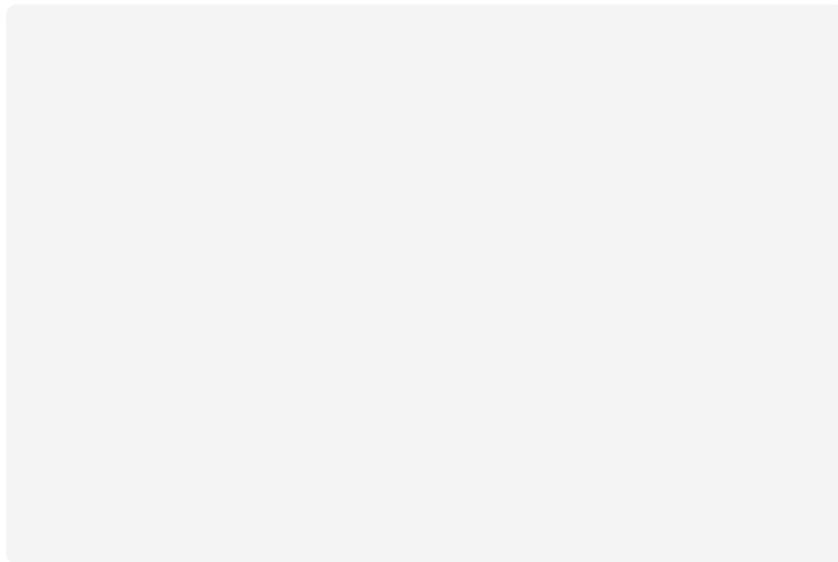
Another added: “Just remember boys, fash [meaning fascism] wins”.

Despite all this, establishment right-wing politicians gave the podcast some type of legitimacy by allowing themselves to be interviewed by the group. On episode 51 former Labor leader and now One Nation politician Mark Latham appeared on the podcast. On episode 63 government MP George Christensen went on, proudly advertising the interview on his Facebook [page by writing](#), “They asked me to join them for an interview into my background and beliefs and what I think of the new conservative populist movement sweeping the world. The interview goes for a while but here it is... enjoy!”

Newer episodes of the podcast are hosted on YouTube under the Australian Meditations account. Despite a YouTube warning that the content is “inappropriate or offensive”, users are able to click through to listen.

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Mehreen Faruqi.

*Erik Anderson / AAP*

Mehreen Faruqi says she has received a “pretty much non-stop and ever-increasing torrent of racist and sexist abuse” via online comments, emails, handwritten letters and phone calls to her office since she entered politics in 2013.

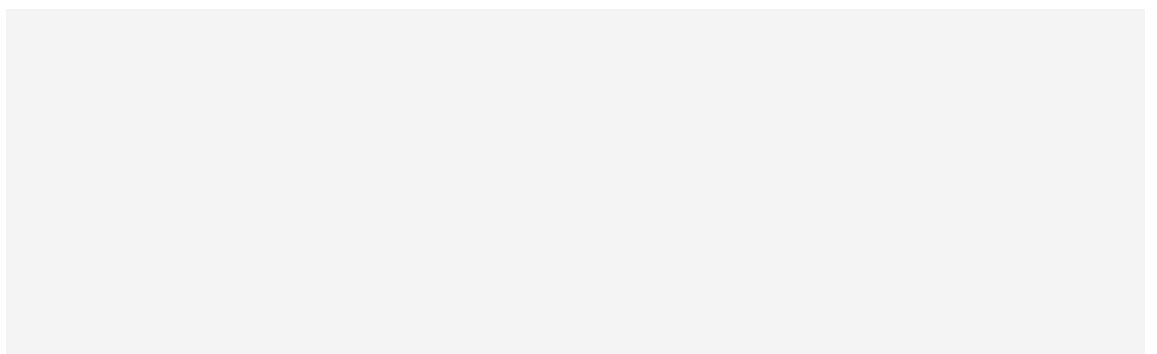
“It is relentless and grinding,” Faruqi says. “The very clear message I get is that as a brown migrant Muslim woman, I have no right to exist, let alone participate in public debate in Australia.”

“The abuse ranges from racial and Islamophobic comments right through to death threats and threats of violence.”

Faruqi says Australia’s far-right nationalists and the politicians who support them are “merchants of hate”.

“What is really scary is that while racist and neo-Nazi groups have existed for a long time in Australia, they have often been on the fringes,” she says. “Now they have found a home in the Australian parliament.”

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These groups and politicians use “hateful and divisive” rhetoric to “prey on the anxieties of Australians”.

“This is creating a dangerous environment for us all,” she says. “In my experience, when Muslim Australians have received threats of death and violence over the years, they simply haven’t been taken seriously.”

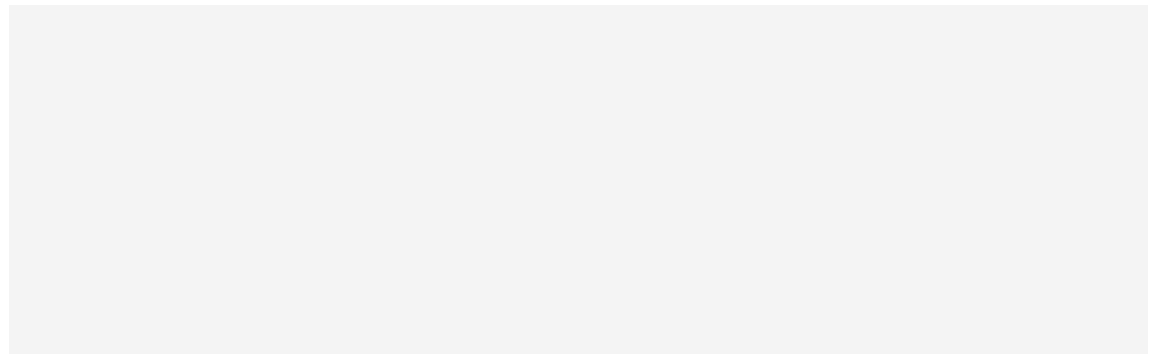
Melbourne anti-fascism researcher Andy Fleming says while not all elements of Australia’s far right “embrace the full range of misogynistic views embodied in and expressed by the more militant or radical”, it is “very common”.

“Misogyny is one of the enduring themes which animates fascism and the far right in Australia [and] obviously elsewhere,” Fleming, who documents the country’s far-right nationalists on his blog [Slackbastard](#), tells BuzzFeed News. “When these men discuss Muslim women in particular, given that these persons occupy two positions or identities which are especially despised, the hate directed at them tends to be even more vicious than that directed at non-Muslim women.”

Fleming says just as the role of white women in the reproduction of the white “race” was esteemed by far-right nationalists, the role of Muslim woman in the assumed reproduction of Muslim faith and culture was considered “especially threatening” to their worldview.

“Much of their ire is directed at Muslim women who dress in a 'modest' and recognisable fashion; a kind of mirror-image of the hostility they express towards so-called 'THOT's [That Ho Over There].”

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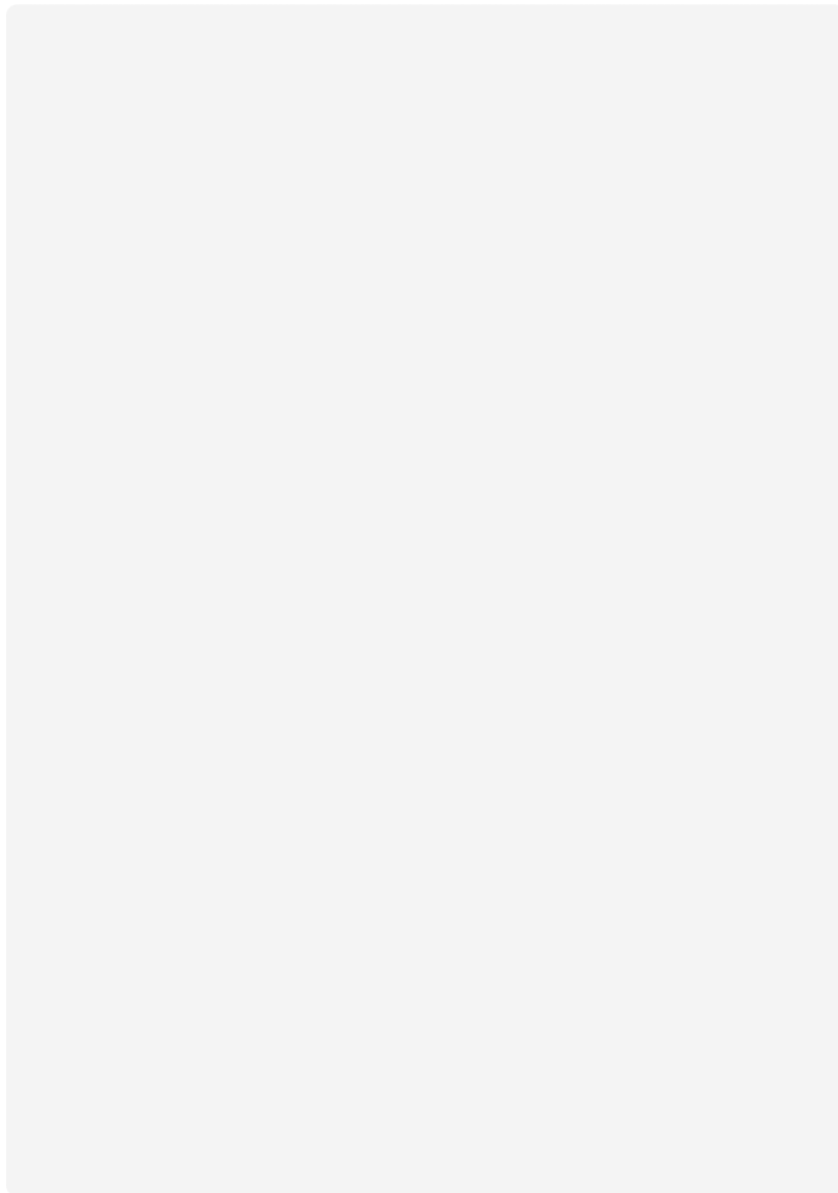


Fleming says the “just” social order these men — “and they’re overwhelmingly men”— advocate and agitate for is “not only a racialised but a gendered one” in which people of colour are understood to be “subordinate to Whites” and women are understood to be “subordinate to men”.

He says challenges to this “order” are understood by these groups to be a “sign of political and cultural degeneracy” and that “nefarious, principally Jewish forces” were assigned responsibility for the emergence of various forms of feminist and/or queer politics.

Fleming says white women were “principally esteemed for their role in biological reproduction” and that these groups understood the role of women in society to be “mothers and homemakers”.

“Various misogynistic US propagandists” had found an audience in Australia, Fleming says.



*Facebook*

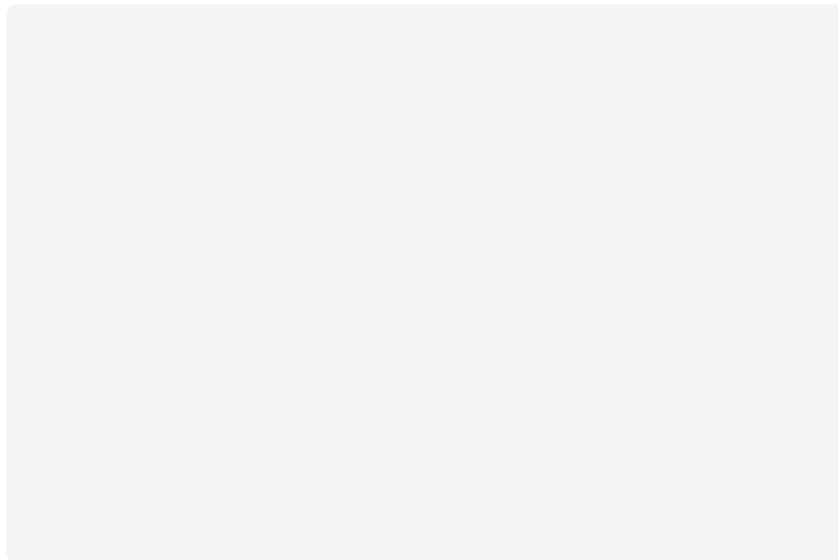
“When Milo ‘Feminism is Cancer’ Yiannopoulos toured, Australian audiences thrilled to his message at a time when his audience in the US had shrunk remarkably from the highs he enjoyed when the billionaire Mercers were bankrolling his propaganda campaign,” Fleming says.

Fleming says a “men’s rights” rally in Melbourne last year, March for Men, was organised by Sydney-based “AltLight personality Sydney Watson”.

“Her march attracted both [men’s rights activists] as well as members of the neo-Nazi group The Lads Society, who helped provide security for the march and intervened when some feminist activists attempted to disrupt it,” Fleming said.

[As Fleming has documented](#), The Lads Society, which holds weekly boxing and training nights in Sydney and Melbourne, was borne out of the now-defunct UPF.

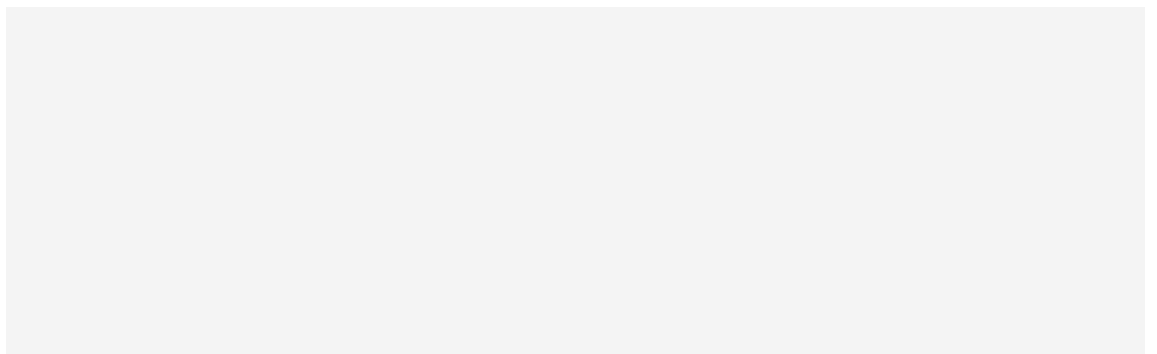
Most of the abuse lawyer Mariam Veiszadeh receives is online, “But I’ve had abusive phone calls and text messages, I’ve had my former residential address published online when I was doxxed, which resulted in bacon being sent to my address and the bomb squad being called in to open this highly anticipated suspicious package which was addressed to me. I’ve seen it all.”



Mariam Veiszadeh.

*Tracey Nearmy / AAPIMAGE*

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Trolls have photoshopped Veiszadeh's head onto pictures of women in bikinis.

"There is a sexualised nature to the abuse," Veiszadeh, who founded the Islamophobia Register Australia, tells BuzzFeed News. "I've had quite vile remarks made about me of a sexual nature and threats of rape."

Veiszadeh has been targeted by Joshua Goldberg, a Florida man who pretended to be an Australian jihadist online. He [tried to smear Veiszadeh as an ISIS sympathiser](#).

[Goldberg was arrested in 2015 after a joint FBI and Australian Federal Police investigation](#) and has pleaded guilty to one charge of attempting to maliciously damage and destroy a building by means of an explosion, after he encouraged an individual — who was an undercover agent — to place a pressure cooker bomb at a 9/11 memorial event.

[He was also behind a blog](#) called "Philosophy of Rape" on which he wrote that "whores and feminazis need to be put in their place through rape".

"[Goldberg] used my name as his password," Veiszadeh said, adding that [she only found this out via an online article](#).

**Mariam Veiszadeh**

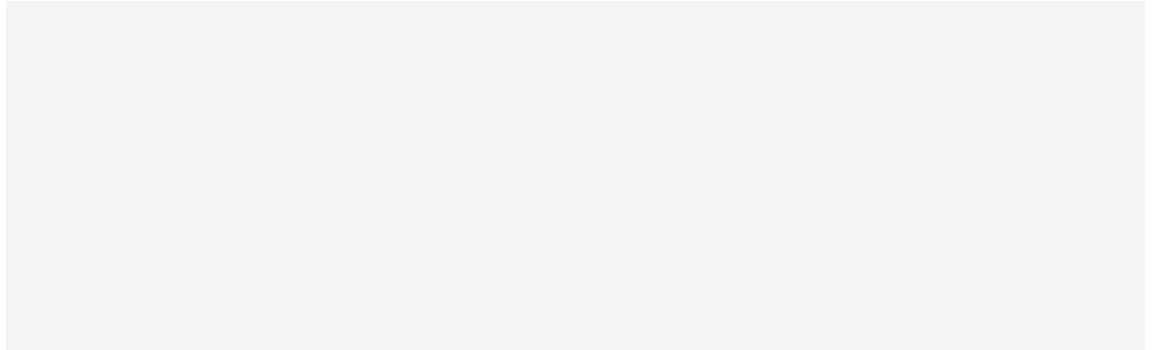
@MariamVeiszadeh

I've just learnt that one of the men who trolled me quite extensively has been jailed in US and that he had a "bizarre vendetta against" me and FBI evidence found that he even used my name as a password to one of his accounts. 🤔 <https://t.co/D43SzeDTL4>

10:01 PM - 18 Jul 2018

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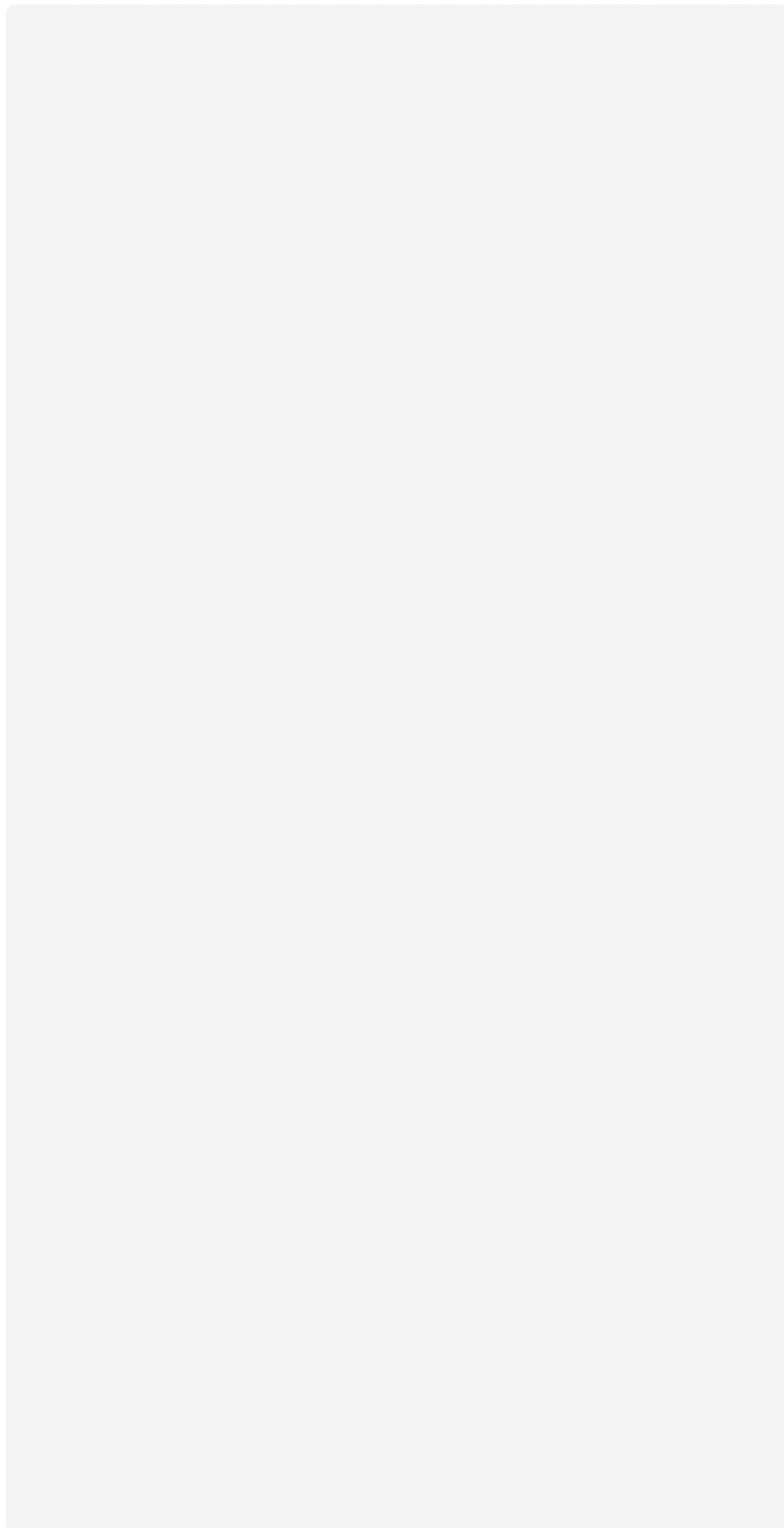
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Veiszadeh says she's been targeted by other "high profile white supremacist neo-Nazi extremists" including Australian Nathan Sykes.

[Nine media reported on Friday that Sykes was arrested](#) at his Sydney home and charged with at least eight offences, including using a carriage service to menace, and threats to harm, over allegations he made repeated and explicit violent threats to Melbourne journalist Luke McMahon.





*Nationalist Uprising/Facebook*

[McMahon wrote in a 2017 article](#) that Sykes published a story on the neo-Nazi website the Daily Stormer encouraging readers to abuse Veiszadeh to “drive her over the edge”.

“These people are quite high profile and some have had criminal convictions laid against them,” Veiszadeh says. “When there are discussions about threats from the far right not being serious, it hits me in a very personal way... in light of the hours and hours and tireless efforts that people like me and others have put in trying to foster an inclusive environment.”

Reclaim Australia is arguably the biggest far-right anti-Islamic protest movement in Australia. In 2015, during one of its first street rallies in Melbourne against Islam, [a Reclaim Australia protester harassed Sky News reporter Jayde Cotic during a live cross](#). He pushed Cotic and then yelled “fuck her right in the pussy!” into the camera.

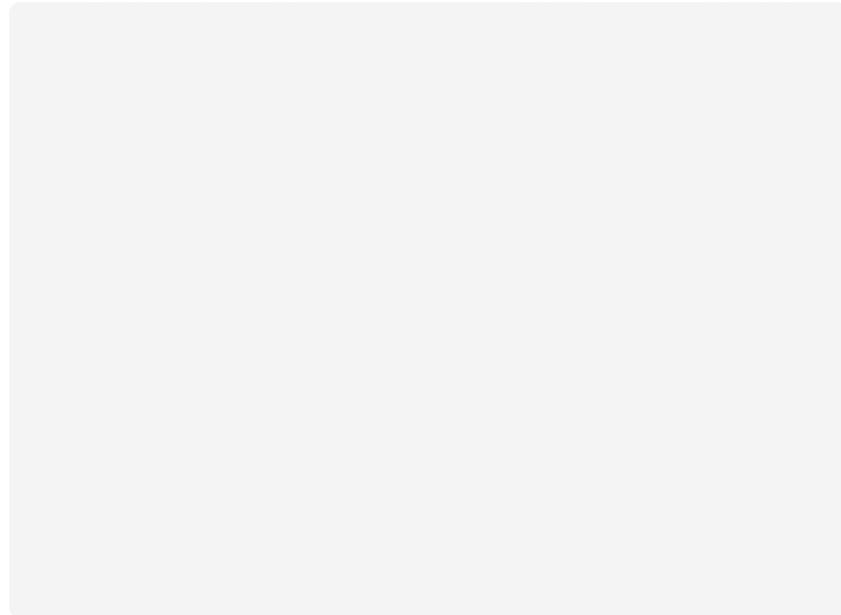
The main Reclaim Australia Facebook page has more than 100,000 likes, while the half a dozen offshoot pages have tens of thousands each, all posting a daily mix of racism and Islamophobia.

The page is staunchly anti-feminist — one meme encourages Australian writers and feminists Clementine Ford and Van Badham to open a Subway franchise so they can “make men sandwiches all day long”.

The page often posts content about how white Australian women are under threat from Sharia law, under which they would be forced to wear a burqa. “Stand up for our girls!” the page implores, alongside anti-Islamic memes.

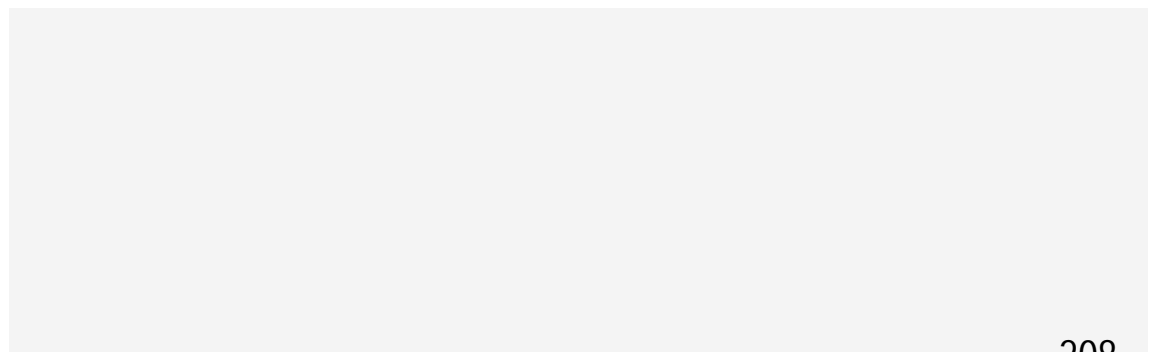
The page regularly shares news stories of sexual assault perpetrated by immigrants or refugees. The content considers the welfare of women usually only when those women are white and when they are at a perceived risk from men who don't look like the administrators of these pages.

One of Reclaim Australia's organisers Shermon Burgess, who calls himself the “Great Aussie Patriot”, recently posted a video on YouTube in support of the Men Go Their Own Way (MGTOW) movement, an online community of men who think feminism and gender equality has ruined relationships and choose not to have romantic (or any) involvement with women.



*Shermon Burgess/YouTube*

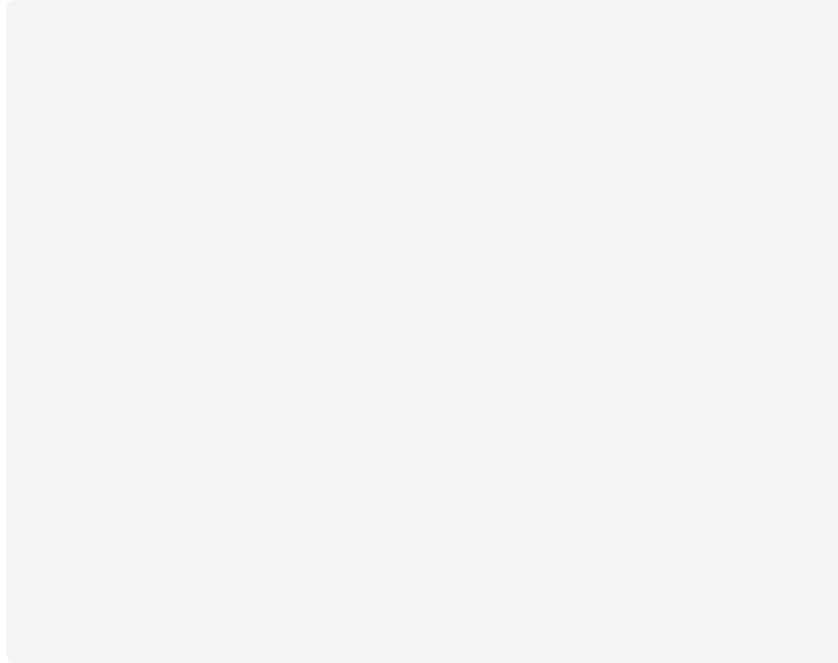
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MGTOWs inhabit the same online space as incels (involuntary celibate) men who are upset women refuse to have sex with them.

Burgess says he understands why Australian men are migrating overseas, to places where women have “respect for their man” because “Western women” are “not focused on the family unit”.

“When they get home they can relax, they can sit down and wind down without nagging and yelling and demanding,” he says in one video. “These men have gone to an Asian country where the women aren’t infected with this third wave feminism, this hatred of men.”



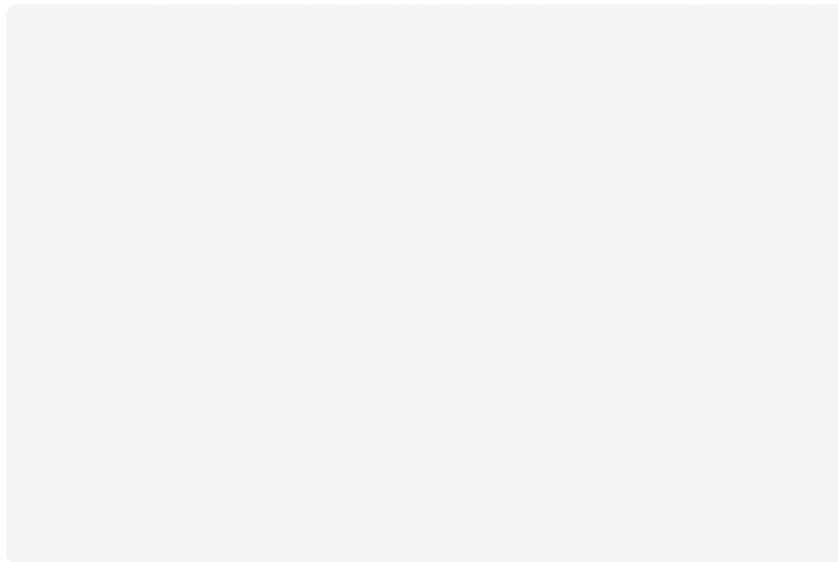
YouTube

Burgess, a founding member of the UPF, posted a video stating that “once inside the brain” feminism can turn a formerly happy and friendly woman “into an aggressive, self important bully bitch”.

In another, “3 Aussie Nationalists” discuss what “pisses them off in society” and one says men aren’t allowed to be masculine anymore.

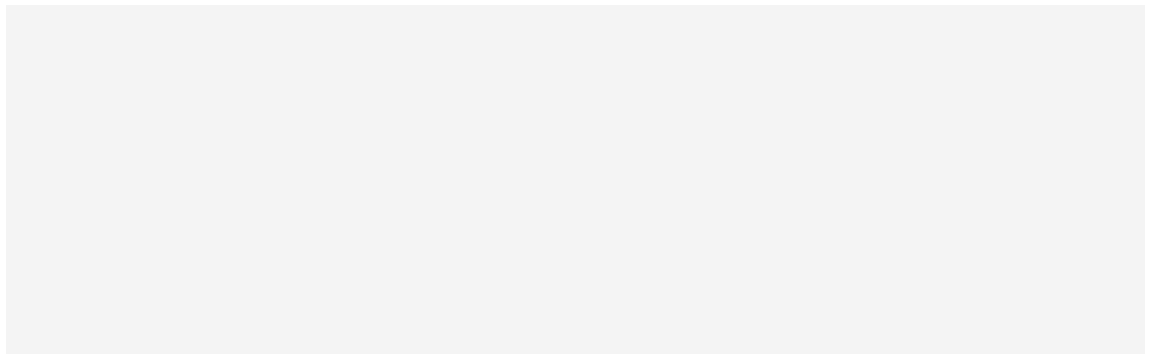
“It is a society that is trying to make everyone ‘nicer’ but ultimately they’re just feminising the men and letting the women be women,” says a man named James.

On the YouTube account for the now defunct Party for Freedom, a video published in 2017 films two women wearing Grandmothers against Detention of Refugee Children t-shirts. “How much do you value your clitoris?” the man asks the pair, before telling them that female genital mutilation is part of Sharia law.



Party for Freedom Nicholas Folkes arrives at the Supreme Court in Sydney, Friday, Dec. 4, 2015.  
*Joel Carrett / AAP*

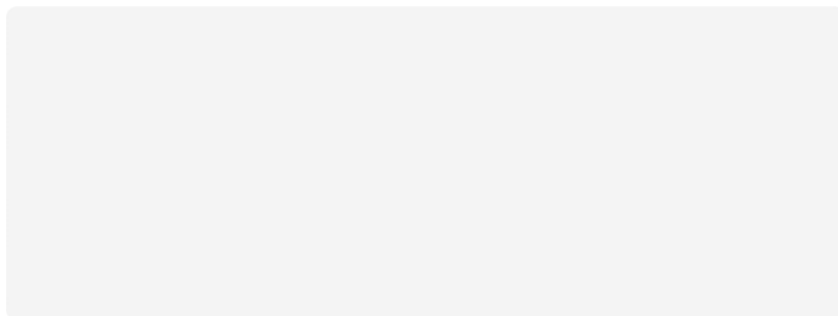
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The party's leader Nick Folkes, who celebrates the Cronulla Riots and stormed Gosford Anglican Church in 2016 dressed as a Muslim extremist, features in most of the account's videos.

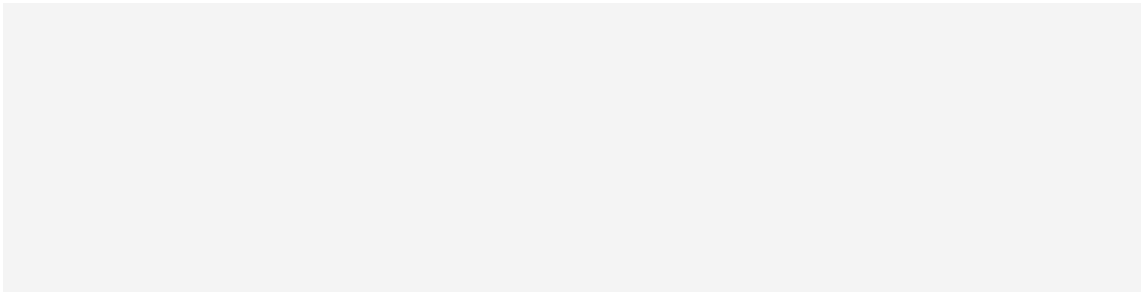
Before the party's collapse Folkes handed over leadership to Toby Cook, who tweeted a picture of mass murderer Anders Breivik performing a Nazi salute in court with the caption "Not all heroes wear capes". His cover photo was an Australian flag alongside a Swastika.

Cook has been banned from Twitter. [Cottrell and Erikson were also banned from Twitter but the pair have just started using Gab](#), a social network widely seen as a haven for the far right on the internet.



*Gab*

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The Cooks Convicts, Nationalist Uprising, Lads Society and the multiple Reclaim Australia Rally Facebook pages meanwhile remain functioning.

In the wake of the Christchurch attack, the chief censor in New Zealand said [it was illegal](#) to share the 17-minute video of the attacks live streamed by the Christchurch gunman, and the nation's [prime minister Jacinda Ardern called on social media platforms to take responsibility](#) for what is published on them.

"They are the publisher, not just the postman," she said. "There cannot be a case of all profit, no responsibility."

[Australia's home affairs secretary Mike Pezzullo said on Friday](#) that his department had "re-dedicated itself to standing resolutely against the extremist ideology of white supremacy and its adherence" in the wake of the Christchurch terror attack.

"You are on our radar and you will not be able to incite the racial strife that you seek," he said.

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But Faruqi says there are still "really serious questions" over whether Australian governments at all levels are "taking right-wing extremism seriously".

"We must act now to protect the community from white supremacist and far-right extremism whether it's online, in the media or in politics," she says.

Abdel-Magied says Australians need to be "courageous" in the face of far-right extremism.

"We need you to stick up for a better society," she says. "We need to you see us as equals and use the gift of your privilege to help us build a better country.

"For someone like me, who sits at the intersection of various marginalised groups in society, what happens is that our experience is 'intersectional' — it's not only sexism and it's not only racism, and it's not only Islamophobia, but it's an amplification of all those phenomena."

# THE BIG SMOKE

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## Vilification nation? Senator Mehreen Faruqi on racism in our society

Paul Gregoire · June 12, 2020



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APPROXIMATE READING TIME UNDER TWO MINUTES OR 2 STOPS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

~~In her maiden speech in federal parliament, Australian Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi warned against the growing "culture of online harassment", which she explained specifically targets "people of colour and women".~~

~~Senator Fraser Anning gave his infamous maiden speech in parliament just days prior to Dr Faruqi's. During his speech, the Katter's Australian Party member went as far as to call for a ban on Muslim immigration and a return to the White Australia policy.~~

~~In referencing Anning's speech in hers, Senator Faruqi warned against the "legitimation, normalisation and encouragement" of racism in politics. She described this trend as having morphed from the "old habit of racist dog-whistling" to "fanning the flames of racial conflict".~~

~~Firstly, Dr Faruqi, in your maiden speech in the Senate you addressed the growing culture of online harassment. What sort of impact would you say this culture is having on those who are targeted by it?~~

It seems that one of the main objectives of online hate speech is to silence people, especially women. We receive a highly toxic mix of sexist and racist communication. I experience this day in and day out.

No doubt, receiving such vile messages does take a toll on me, my family and my staff. One of the reasons I started talking about it openly was to let other people out there experiencing similar abuse know that they aren't alone and that they shouldn't have to just put up with online hate.

It is important to expose such harassment and intimidation as many in our community who are unaware of its existence will extend a hand of support once they know.

It concerns me that there still seems to be a reluctance for people in authority to treat online threats and harassment in the virtual world as seriously as the same thing happening in the real world.

These so-called trolls are not mythical creatures, but real people sending vile messages and there are

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real people being hurt and harmed at the receiving end.

Recently a man wrote on your Facebook page: "Someone might do us a favour one day and put a bullet in your head." And in response to a complaint you made about the comment, Facebook stated the message didn't go against its "specific community standards".

Facebook's bullying policy doesn't cover public figures, as it doesn't want to stand in the way of public discourse. What do you think about a company in the position of Facebook responding to a complaint about a message of this nature in such a dismissive manner?

I think Facebook and other big social media companies absolutely have an obligation to tackle online hate and abuse.

I recently reported another comment of a man threatening to come and bash me and Facebook had a similar response, that it didn't breach community standards.

This isn't public discourse or debate, it is threats and intimidation.

**Do you see a similarity between Facebook's reasoning behind its bullying policy not applying to public figures and some of the political discourse that is being bandied about by politicians that's perhaps just thinly veiled racism?**

~~As I warned in my first speech to the Senate, the culture of bullying, racism, sexism and even violent online threats needs to be taken more seriously.~~

We have a situation where politicians instead of showing leadership for all Australians are amplifying and even encouraging hate speech. It may be a convenient political strategy, but it has real world consequences for people.

The vilification of South Sudanese Australians by the Liberal Party for political advantage is a recent particularly toxic example.

~~Your speech in the Senate closely followed Fraser Anning's, in which he called for a ban on Muslim immigration. Over recent years, there's been a rise in Islamophobia in this country. How much of this increasing anti-Muslim sentiment can be laid at the feet of politicians of Anning's ilk?~~

~~Senator Anning's speech is the most obvious form of spouting hate, bigotry and division, but let's not pretend that it has come out of nowhere.~~

~~It wasn't too long ago that we had a prime minister who proposed that women wearing burqas should sit in a glass box if they visited parliament.~~

Our current prime minister Scott Morrison has been reported as suggesting in 2011 that the Liberals should capitalise on anti-Muslim sentiment.

And both the Labor and Liberal parties continue to preside over the cruel offshore detention system and dehumanise asylum seekers in public debate.

~~During your maiden speech, you also pointed out that the solidarity some politicians showed in condemning Anning's speech was somewhat hypocritical while they allow structural racism to continue.~~

**Can you elaborate on some of the institutions in Australia where racism is still prevalent?**

Politicians can't give themselves a slap on the back about combating the most obvious forms of racism when there are still so many more and more complex issues of racism in Australia.

Resume racism, Aboriginal deaths in custody, young African-Australian people being targeted by police all point to systemic issues of racism.

We need to honestly look at all our structures – from health to education to justice – and ask ourselves, does everyone really have equal access and do we provide it free from discrimination?

**And lastly, Dr Faruqi, you're Australia's first female Muslim Senator, which you've stated "is an affront for some".**

I really hope my presence in the Senate also comes here to speak of colour – and particularly women

I really hope my presence in the Senate gives some hope to people of colour – and particularly women of colour – that things can change and politics is something that they can be involved in.

Our parliament doesn't look remotely like the suburbs and towns of our country, and governments are not taking action on issues that people care about.

I want to help build a future for all of us. I want to tackle political corruption, close the gap on economic inequality, promote protection and compassion for animals, put in place effective climate policy and ensure that everyone has the right to a decent and good life.

We are a wealthy country and we can do this. With collective action, we can make sure that we turn things around.

**Tags:** Auspol Fraser Anning Mehreen Faruqi racism



**Paul Gregoire**

Paul Gregoire is a Sydney-based journalist and writer. He has a focus on social justice issues and encroachments upon civil liberties. Prior to Sydney Criminal Lawyers®, he wrote for VICE and was the news editor at Sydney's City Hub. Paul is the winner of the 2021 NSW Council of Civil Liberties Award For Excellence In Civil Liberties Journalism.

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## 'Hold the line': Women of colour on the fight for gender equality

By [Sally Brooks](#)

Posted Tue 23 Mar 2021 at 6:17am, updated Tue 23 Mar 2021 at 9:34am



Australian women of colour like Kittu Randhawa, Nyadol Nyuon and Mehreen Faruqi are fighting for gender and racial equality. *(Supplied)*

Nyadol Nyuon is a resilient woman.

Despite being abused and a target of hate speech on social media, she recently started to tweet again.

"I've already had the usual treatment," she said, shaking her head.

"The racist commentary."

But it is this resilience that is key in the fight for equality, said the chair of Harmony Alliance — an organisation representing migrant and refugee women.

"The concept of change is fighting ... even when you can't see when you will win," Ms Nyuon said.

"Because the cost itself is so important. And the alternative of doing nothing is not an option."





Brittany Higgins, who alleges she was raped in a minister's office at Parliament House, spoke at the March 4 Justice rally. (ABC News: Luke Stephenson)

Her comments come after allegations of mistreatment of women in Federal Parliament, fuelling a debate on gender equality in Australia.

The discussions prompted thousands of people to attend March4Justice rallies across Australia last week.

Like Brittany Higgins, who in February spoke publicly about an alleged rape at Parliament House, and then spoke again at the Canberra March4Justice gathering, you must keep "turning up", Ms Nyuon said.

**"You have to find a way of swallowing that fear and turning up again, and again, and again, and again.**

"Whether we're white or brown women ... any person who wants change in this world, you make the choice of the narrative of the world that you want to support."

"[Then] you hold the line."

Being in the fight takes a toll though, and for this Melbourne mother and lawyer, the gender equality battle is not separate to the fight for racial equality.

The two struggles are inextricably linked for Australia's women from culturally diverse backgrounds.

"You are talking about being safe in Parliament, which is an important thing," she said.

"For women of colour, the conversation is about having the opportunity to get to Parliament.

"I think for women of colour, you think if this can happen to a woman [in Parliament], I probably have no chance of ever being heard.

"This level of powerlessness and pain and anger will always be there, but it is how women utilise it to move forward."

After posting several tweets on race and gender over the weekend, Nyadol Nyuon is again taking a break from Twitter so it doesn't distract her from things she'd prefer to do.

But she'll be back again some time in future.

## **The word 'Senate' comes from a Latin word which means 'old man'**

As the first Muslim woman in the Australian Senate, Mehreen Faruqi has first-hand experience of what she describes as a "boys club".

"Parliament is a patriarchal institution. It really does drip in white male power and privilege," the Senator said.

"The chamber that I work in, the Senate, its name actually comes from a Latin word which means 'old man'.

"That tells you everything you need to know about this workplace."



Nyadol Nyuon says the struggles for racial and gender equality are intertwined. (Supplied: Harmony Alliance)





nator Mehreen Faruqi attended the March 4 Justice rally in Canberra earlier this month. *(Supplied: The Greens)*

Federal Parliament also lacks culturally and linguistically diverse representatives.

Data on the cultural diversity of the 46th parliament is scarce, but a 2018 report from the Australian Human Rights Commission found just 4.1 per cent of parliamentarians had a non-European background.

"It looks nothing like the world that most people live in in Australia. And I can tell you it's a lonely place for me," Senator Faruqi said.

"I want to change the system, not prop up the boys club. But that is an uphill task, especially for a brown migrant Muslim woman."

While there's no quick fix to changing the make-up of Federal Parliament, Senator Faruqi thinks it's time to consider a quota system.

"Political parties need to make sure when they pre-select candidates in winnable seats, and that's critical —



Senator Mehreen Faruqi at Parliament House. *(Supplied: The Greens)*



in winnable seats — that that's w

Despite arguments against quota systems — that appointments should be based on merit — Senator Faruqi argues it's time for change.

"Men and people who are not diverse need to step aside and actually make room for people of colour or other marginalised groups to be able to make sure that they have the room to do the work of representation."

## Law reform offers 'glimmers of hope'

In Australia, it's hard for migrant women to have their voices heard or to lodge formal complaints over sexual assault or harassment, said Kittu Randhawa, head of the Indian (Sub-Continent) Crisis and Support Agency (ICSA), a non-government organisation for the South Asian community in Australia.

"Good on Brittany Higgins for coming into the open and [alleging] what happened in Parliament. But it also does demonstrate how hard it's been for her," she said.

"Multiply that 100 times for migrant women reporting assault."

Ms Randhawa said new migrants don't know how the system works, and in many cases don't have the tools to start the process of making a complaint.

This is compounded by other cultural and power structures.



Kittu Randhawa says newly arrived migrant women have no idea how Australia's systems work. (Supplied)

"I think we've just had a massive hit towards trying to help some of the most vulnerable women in the country," she said.

The debate has not only caused a sense of hopelessness for migrant women — Ms Randhawa has also noticed a sense of despondency and fatigue among domestic and family violence workers.

"We've come into a new year where we're really not dealing just with clients, but overall, a system whereby women are not as empowered, and don't have the access to natural justice, or the rule of law, in the same degree that we thought," she said.

"That hits you hard, as in, why are we bothering?"

"Having said that, most people who work in the sector are so resilient. You get knocked down, and then you pick yourself back up."

The ICOSA office is based in New South Wales, where a parliamentary inquiry is examining if coercive control should be criminalised.

The inquiry is due to report to the state's Parliament mid-year.

"And there are those little glimmers of hope that if we get laws, like the coercive control laws that are being discussed in NSW, if we get across the line on that, that that will actually offer some hope."



## Recipes for Ramadan

🕒 This article is more than 3 years old

# Recipes for Ramadan: Mehreen Faruqi's nostalgic pakoras

**Most people in Lahore have their own twist on pakoras - Faruqi's favourites are made with baby spinach, onion rings and a thinnish batter spiked with chilli**

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*Mehreen Faruqi for Recipes for Ramadan*

Sat 24 Apr 2021 06.00 AEST



Ramadan is the time I most yearn for Lahore and my ammi's (mum's) home where almost every iftar was a party. At sunset friends, relatives and neighbours would gather around our dinner table laden with deep-fried goodies, dates and drinks to replenish our bodies after a day of fasting to nourish the soul.

Pakoras were a staple at my ammi's place and in most homes in Pakistan during Ramadan.

Recipes for Ramadan has their own twist on the recipe. The spices can vary from simple salt and chilli to cumin, coriander and garam masala, and the chickpea flour batter can be really dense or runny. Everyone has their most loved vegetables too, from the humble potato sliced or shredded to the more exotic okra and whole green chillies dipped in the batter and fried until lovely and golden.

Then there's the abundance of chutneys to choose from - garlic and fresh coriander smashed together in a mortar and pestle with chilli and Himalayan salt, or you can go for some mint and yogurt raita. Chilli garlic sauce straight out of a bottle will do, too. There are so many delicious variations.

My favourite pakoras are a mix of baby spinach, onions rings and thinly sliced potatoes in a thinnish batter made with salt, chilli, water and yoghurt.



📷 Mehreen Faruqi with her ammi, making pakoras.

For me, iftar without pakoras is no iftar at all. Just the smell of them frying transports me back to my childhood home where two or three karahis (saucepans) with pakoras and samosas are on the go, dates are deseeded and filled with almonds and fresh cream, and ice is added to jugs of lassi (sweet or savoury yoghurt beverage) and rooh afza (rose water syrup mixed with water).



Guests arrive just before the melodious sound of Azaan from the neighbourhood mosque heralds the anticipated iftar time. The joy of sharing home-cooked food with loved ones is even more meaningful during this time, when Muslims all over the world come together to reflect and contemplate.

It's hard to replicate the hustle and bustle of Lahore in Sydney, but I do bring back small slices of memory, the sounds and smells, into my home every day during Ramadan.

Here's how I do it.



📷 Mehreen Faruqi's iftar pakoras. Photograph: Kate Waldegrave/The Guardian

**2 cups chickpea flour (besan)**

**1 tsp salt**

**2 tsp of red chilli** (or to taste!)

**3 tbsp yoghurt**

**1 cup of baby spinach**

**½ red onion**

**1 potato**, thinly sliced

**¾ cup of water**

**Vegetable oil for deep frying**

In a medium bowl, mix the salt and chilli into the chickpea flour. Add the yoghurt and water into the dry mix to make a batter, and whisk thoroughly until smooth. It should be about the consistency of a loose cake batter, but you can adjust to your preference by adding more water.

Put aside the batter to rest for half an hour.

Fold the baby spinach, red onion, and thinly sliced potato into the chickpea flour mix until the vegetables have been coated in the batter.

Over medium high heat in a deep pan, heat the oil to 190°C.

Using a tablespoon, scoop out the pakora mix and slowly put it into the oil. Make sure to keep turning the pakoras around every 30 seconds or so for about three to four minutes until they are golden brown.

Drain excess oil on a paper towel before serving.

- Mehreen Faruqi is a Greens senator for NSW. The feminist and former civil and environmental engineer was the first Muslim woman to sit in an Australian parliament and Australia's first Muslim senator. She emigrated from Pakistan in 1992 to complete her doctorate at UNSW.
- Guardian Australia will publish a recipe from Recipes for Ramadan every Saturday until Eid. Next week we move on to main courses, but for more starters and snack recipes look to [Selima's Waraq Enab](#) (stuffed vine leaves), [Mehtar's samosas](#) or [Lina's hummus](#).
- You can find more recipes on the [Recipes for Ramadan](#) website, and follow the project on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).



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JULY 13, 2021 RACISM

# Pushback

By Mehreen Faruqi



Senator Mehreen Faruqi. Image via Facebook

## A senator's fight against Australia's racism and sexism

In my years of public life, I have been a witness to and a target of hate's exponential growth in Australia. The year after I became the first Muslim woman politician in Australia, ~~we reached a new and disgraceful low when the federal parliament's presiding officers enacted new rules. Muslim women wearing a burqa or niqab would be forced to sit in glass enclosures segregated from the public gallery if they visit the "people's house" in Canberra. While that proposal didn't get very far in the end,~~ the notion of policing Muslim women is still very much alive, whether it's putting us in boxes, shutting us up or curbing our thoughts.

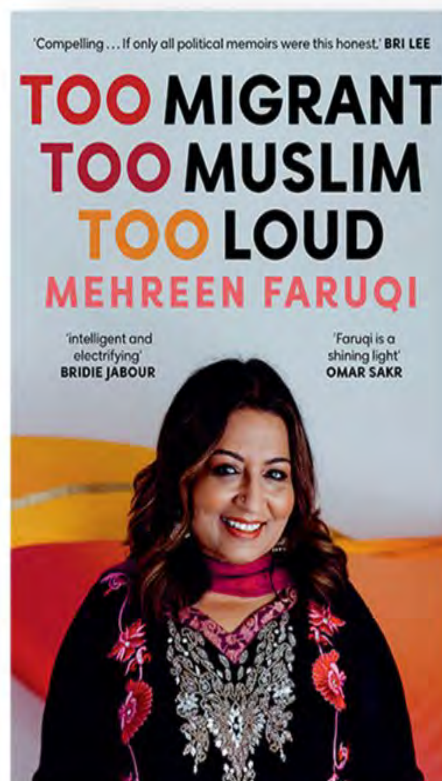
Not a day goes by when I don't receive a hateful, abusive message on Twitter or Facebook. Others make phone calls; still others send emails. Some even write letters. A man once sent me an extremely sexually explicit and abusive letter with a signature from his church. When I brought this to the church's attention, he sent me an apology explaining that he was upset because Turkey had invaded Greece. As I saw it, he wasn't sorry for writing the letter; he was sorry he got caught. What

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Turkey invading Greece some 400 years ago have to do with me? Well, I am a Muslim, and Turkey is a Muslim state. So obviously I must be responsible for the actions of all Muslims throughout time. How bloody ridiculous!

If you are a Muslim migrant, where you come from will haunt you forever. Public demands to “get out of my country” and “go back where you came from” are familiar to all of us. If you are a woman, it gets worse. One contributor to the ever-growing pile of hate mail told me that “Muslims are complete scum”, before clarifying that “Muslim women are even worse than the men”.

The more you speak up about these slurs, the more you get attacked. Accompanying the now predictable hatred are the haters’ assumptions about why I speak out. It’s to attract more loathing, they say, so that I can play the victim. Someone called my office to tell my staff I was a drama queen. Others accuse me of playing identity politics, using my gender, race and religion as weapons – as if these are not the constant subject of the abuse I receive. I admit, I don’t shy away from saying things that others find controversial. But surely we can provoke conversations on controversial issues without descending into racism or sexism.



Accusations of “playing identity politics” in order to cause division are designed to shut us down. Identity politics itself has become a maligned negative concept, as if people of a certain gender, race or religion use it to gain advantage in society. As if it’s not the pervading racism and sexism that are the problems but the people railing against them. This completely ignores the lived reality of those who face systemic disadvantage because of these very attributes. Those claiming we play the “race card” or the “gender card” to get ahead, and even using the catchcries of “cancel culture gone too far” or “political correctness gone mad”, have probably never felt the corrosive effects of discrimination, racism and insults that are meant to diminish, silence and control us.

If anything, those who use the term “identity politics” as a weapon are the very ones most guilty of it. If anyone has benefited from their identity and played it to their advantage, it is the old white men who run this country, its companies and its institutions. It is ironic, too, that the people accusing me of playing identity politics are also the ones who cannot see beyond my race, gender and religion. No matter what the subject I might be speaking about, they will reduce it to my race and religion.

A racialised stereotype of Muslims is rife in society. In 1978, Edward W. Said eloquently laid out the concept of “Orientalism”, by which was meant the cultural characterisation of Muslims and Arabs as inferior (and the elevation of European culture as superior) in order to justify the colonialisation and subjugation perpetrated by Europeans.

“In newsreels or news-photos,” Said wrote, “the Arab is always shown in large numbers. No individuality, no personal characteristics or experiences. Most of the pictures represent mass rage and misery, or irrational (hence hopelessly eccentric) gestures. Lurking behind all of these images is the menace of jihad. Consequence: a fear that the Muslims (or Arabs) will take over the world.”

Not much has changed. We are viewed as conservative. Muslim men are portrayed as Middle Eastern, with beards and turbans, or as gun-toting terrorists. The caricature of a Muslim woman is one wearing a hijab or a burqa, which are taken as signs of oppression. Muslim women are presented as passive victims of male power, not free to make up their own minds.

At one end of the spectrum, this submissive depiction of Muslim women “others” them in Western societies, and is seen as threatening and undermining Western values and cultural identity. At the other end, Muslim women, along with women of colour, are exoticised and fetishised. We are reduced to mere objects of desire in some kind of warped colonial fantasy. White women have told me how beautiful my tanned dark brown skin is. In state parliament I was once told that a white MP used to call me “butter chicken” because he liked my voice and accent. These are not compliments. This is cringeworthy, condescending infantilisation. Both stereotypes subjectify us in extreme ways. They rob us of our agency and individuality.

Muslim women are not a homogenous, identical set of people, but these narrow depictions wipe out the complexities, pluralities and histories of the different families, cultures and ethnicities we come from. Like other people of faith, Muslims come in all shapes and sizes. We have a variety of political views and values. We too deserve the benefit of individuality naturally afforded to others – but the reality, for millions, is a life muted by these negative (mis)representations.

While we are rendered invisible by this racialised stereotyping, the visibility of veiled Muslim women makes them easy targets of Islamophobic attacks, which usually spike in the wake of a terrorist incident. Women are targeted in shopping centres, in open public spaces and on public transport. The Islamophobia Register lists alarming details of the harassment Muslim women face. A woman wearing a head scarf was tripped over by a man as she was walking with a toddler. A mother and daughter were rammed by a car in another alleged incident. A high-school student reported being attacked by a classmate. Some Muslim women said they removed their head scarves in public for fear of being attacked.

Despite the abuse they received, Muslim women remain in the background of political responses. Politicians meet prominent men within ethnic and religious communities, round tables are held with these “community leaders” and photoshoots are organised – but all too often women are glaringly missing. There is no shortage of Muslim women within the community who are well positioned to provide advice, yet very few are invited to become part of the national conversation.

For me as a Muslim woman, this abuse, subjectification, stereotyping and exclusion is personal. Of course, politics and identity are inextricably entwined. The personal is political. Why shouldn't it be? I didn't suddenly appear on the Australian political scene from a vacuum. It wasn't that someone waved a magic wand and there I was, a replica of Western perceptions. Our past makes us who we are in the present.

Our identities are multilayered, dynamic and evolving. Our experiences are rooted in the socio-political contexts we've lived in. But these too easily get erased for a clickbait headline like this one, which I read in the *Daily Mail* in May 2017 following hearings of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Human Trafficking: “EXCLUSIVE: ‘Feminist’ Muslim Greens MP defends arranged marriages and is ‘happy’ hers was organised by her PARENTS – and says it’s different from being ‘forced’ to wed a man”.

My sin? Clarifying with a witness that a “forced marriage” is not the same as an “arranged marriage”, and that millions of people are introduced to their partners through family connections before deciding themselves if they wanted to get married. Omar and I had fallen in love the day we met. Quite possibly, though, we wouldn't have met or got married without our families' involvement.

I think it's very unlikely that the *Daily Mail* journalists listened to the audio of hours of Legislative Council committee hearings. It still brings a wry smile to my lips when I think about who went running to the media when they heard me say it. Their world must be small and meaningless if a headline in the *Daily Mail* is a win for them.

It wasn't the first time the *Daily Mail* tried to pin me down with a dog-whistle headline. When they asked my views on halal slaughter, they were told I supported mandatory stunning of animals – something that was happening already in almost all halal slaughterhouses in Australia anyway. They decided to run some incredibly deceptive headlines, presumably in an attempt to drive a wedge between me and the Muslim community. They didn't, of course, mention in the article that I'm a vegetarian, and personally I don't think any animal should be slaughtered.

Some don't want me in Australia because I'm a Muslim. For them, my way of life is incompatible with modern Australia. Others tell me to stick to my religion and not to meddle in “our way of life”. They don't want me to campaign for decriminalising abortion or legalising drugs. Either way, I'm accused of being divisive.

Honestly, I don't think I'll ever be Australian enough for some. Not even, as I wrote in August 2018, if I stood on Bondi Beach serving sausage sangers in an Akubra, draped in an Australian flag with a Southern Cross tattoo on my arm.

I just don't fit the mould they have made for me. I am Muslim but I don't wear hijab. I'm from Pakistan yet I am progressive, and assertive. I wear shalwar kameez and I wear a hardhat too. I don't drink but I can swear like a drunk. These oddities, it seems, make me a sinister paradox.

That's when the shit really hits the fan. I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.

*This is an extract from **Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud** by Mehreen Faruqi (Allen & Unwin), out now.*

## MEHREEN FARUQI

Mehreen Faruqi is a Greens senator. Her forthcoming memoir and manifesto, *Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud*, explores her time in parliament and our current moment of reckoning.

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**By Mehreen Faruqi**

**July 13, 2021**



# New Australian Greens deputy leader Mehreen Faruqi vows to fight racism, Islamophobia

The Pakistani-born new deputy leader of the Greens says she will be using her role to "speak up against racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination in our society".



Mehreen Faruqi is the first Muslim Australian to join the ranks of senior leadership of a large political party. Source: AAP / Russell Freeman

Greens deputy leader Mehreen Faruqi says it is the honour of her life to be elected to the role, pledging to take a stand on discrimination.

The NSW senator who migrated from Pakistan in 1992 will be the first Muslim Australian in the senior leadership of a large political party.

"In a diverse society, it is appropriate and frankly, necessary, that our parties and their leadership are reflective of our highly multicultural country," Senator Faruqi said after the first post-election partyroom meeting in Melbourne.

The partyroom re-elected Melbourne MP Adam Bandt to the leadership at Friday's meeting, ahead of this weekend's national conference in the Victorian capital.

## READ MORE



Australia's first two Muslim federal ministers say symbolism matters, but their responsibility is to deliver

Senator Faruqi - who came to Australia with her husband, one-year-old son and two suitcases - said she would use her position to "continue to speak up against racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination in our society".

"This is something I have never shied away from, and a fight I will take up until everyone in our community is treated with respect and dignity," she said.

The senator noted the Greens and its grassroots movement had an immense task ahead of it.

"To ensure the new parliament takes decisive, meaningful action on the many complex problems facing our country and our world: not least, the climate crisis and the inequality crisis," she said.

READ MORE



Asian representation in parliament has now doubled. But some advocates say it's not enough

Prior to the election, the Greens had co-deputy leaders in senators Larissa Waters and Nick McKim.

Mr Bandt is unable to attend the national conference in person as he is isolating with COVID-19.

The conference is expected to include sessions on progressive economics, peace, sustainable food, international development, campaigning and multicultural affairs.

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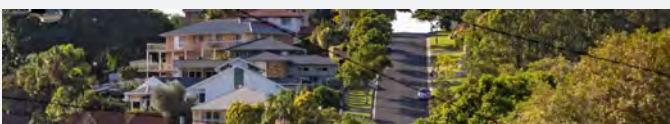
Nariman was forced to give up her career dream because of this 'discriminatory' requirement

STUDENT FINANCES



Refugee who died defending others among six victims of Bondi stabbing attack

STABBINGS





Rule 29.02(8)

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Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-27"**

This is the annexure marked "LG-27" to the affidavit of Lauren Rae Gasparini affirmed before me on 8 May 2024.

*A Farrugia*  
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National [Good Weekend](#)

This was published 2 years ago

## Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi: ‘Since moving here I’ve started swearing a lot’



**Benjamin Law**

Updated June 25, 2021 – 4.14pm, first published at 1.58pm

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Each week, Benjamin Law asks public figures to discuss the subjects we’re told to keep private by getting them to roll a die. The numbers they land on are the topics they’re given. This week, he talks to Mehreen Faruqi. The Greens senator, 57, immigrated from Pakistan in 1992, became the first Muslim woman in the NSW Parliament in 2013 and Australia’s first Muslim senator in 2018. Her upcoming memoir is *Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud*.



Mehreen Faruqi: “I apologised to Mum when I started swearing publicly, but sometimes I have no better other words to portray what goes on in politics.” DOMINIC LORRIMER

## SEX

**After you migrated here from Pakistan, what were the big differences you noticed regarding attitudes towards sex, romance and relationships?** When you grow up in a country like Pakistan – a developing country that had been colonised for a couple of hundred years by the British – you do think the Western world is better and superior. So my expectations of Australia were that it was a place where equality had been reached: in law, in society, in culture. But when I got here, I found that sexism and misogyny have no borders. I came here on a Saturday, started my master’s degree in engineering science on the Monday, and found out there was only one female academic in the University of NSW’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

**What attracted you to your husband, Omar?** It was love at first sight. We met at work, at a consultancy firm in Pakistan, and fell in love, but our families knew each other. That’s how the wedding was arranged. We’ve been married now for 31 years and I really can’t imagine life without him.

**In south Asian cultures, there are love marriages and arranged marriages. Is it right to say yours was a combination, then?** It is. Even when two people fall in love, it’s important that their families be involved in arranging the marriage and the preparation of the wedding. Sometimes people here find it very hard to understand, because “arranged marriages” are often couched as “forced marriages”. Forced marriages are a terrible tradition that should be condemned. But

arranged marriages can involve people falling in love, or can be arranged through families when couples meet via arrangements and decide – or not – to get married.

**How do you maintain a healthy relationship with the hours you keep as a federal senator?** It's hard. When I come home, Omar wants to ask me what happened in Parliament. I'm like, "I'm sorry, I'm talked out, I can't." But you have to work at relationships. When I travel around Sydney, Omar is my driver. That's when we catch up. You've got to find ways to be with each other.

**Name one thing better than sex.** Food. I love food!

## RELIGION

**You were the NSW parliament's only Muslim woman, then Australia's first female Muslim senator. Is being the "first and only" an honour or a drag?** It's a privilege and an honour. I get a lot of support from the subcontinental community and Muslim community. But often people use my religion to berate me. Muslims are seen through a very different lens to other people of faith. The first question I was asked by the media when I became an MP was how I would reconcile my religion and the Greens' positions on LGBTQI equality. Those sorts of questions are not asked of Christian MPs.

**Tell me about the rhythms of Islam in your life.** I don't drink alcohol. I fast during Ramadan. I celebrate Eid. I pray sometimes. The one way I have changed since moving here is that I've started swearing a lot.

**I think that's called assimilation.** [*Laughs*] I resisted for a long time! I apologised to Mum when I started swearing publicly, but sometimes I have no better other words to portray what goes on in politics.

**You need so much self-belief to be a politician. Do you ever doubt yourself?** I didn't used to doubt myself, but the constant racism, sexism and questioning of my belonging to Australia has made me do so. It's a hard thing, because this is my home. I've been here almost 30 years. For me, the way of dealing with [racists and sexists] is to fall back on the integrity and ethics instilled in me by my elders. Especially one aunt, who had a huge influence on me. A fabulous feminist, she taught me to have the spirit to speak up when I saw injustice happening around me.

## DEATH

**You've received death threats. One you mention in your book – someone threatening to "put a bullet in your head" – is particularly shocking.** My staff are distressed by this hate, abuse and vilification. So many other women of colour and Muslim women who are in the public eye go through similar threats of violence. Over time – and especially after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the US – things have gotten worse. Politicians have used fear to dog-whistle, to divide society, to harvest votes. ~~There's been open racism in Parliament, but people have been standing on the sidelines, not calling it out.~~ The right-wing media has got much worse. And we know far-right extremism is increasing in Australia.

**Tell me about someone you have lost who defined your life for the better.** Once you migrate, you become even more afraid of relatives dying. You dread that late-night phone call because you're so far away. And in Islam, people are buried within 24 hours. My father is one of those people I miss desperately, even now. He died in 2004. He was an engineer and me and my siblings, all four of us, followed in his footsteps and became civil engineers. He was so black and white about integrity. For him, either you had it or you didn't. I really do miss him.

**You inevitably make enemies in politics. Is there anyone you wish was dead?** Oh, my God, no, I would never wish death on anyone. That's not part of who I am. I do wish some of them would leave politics and disappear, though.

**How do you want to be remembered?** As someone who was kind, caring, loving and compassionate, which was my mother's mantra. And as a brilliant cook!

[diceytopics@goodweekend.com.au](mailto:diceytopics@goodweekend.com.au)

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**Benjamin Law** is a writer and author of *The Family Law and Gaysia*. Connect via [Twitter](#) or [email](#).

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Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

**Annexure "LG-28"**

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*A Farrugia*  
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Books

● This article is more than **2 years old**

For eight years I've served Australia. The racist hate and disgusting abuse still crushes me

*Mehreen Faruqi*

---

I gave up my birthright to run for office. I've been called a maggot, a cockroach, a whore and a cow - but I'm not going anywhere

*This is an edited extract from *Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud* by Mehreen Faruqi*

Wed 30 Jun 2021 12.00 AEST



📷 'Sorry, not sorry. This is my home': Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi. Photograph: Bree Bain

“You are not really Australian, Mehreen. Why don’t you fuck off to the cesspit you came from?”

“Piss off back to your shithole of Pakistan, ya maggot.”

This is not something I expected to hear - ever, let alone in Australia. Yet from day one of my public life, I have felt pummelled and beaten almost every day by this unrelenting demand to go back to where I came from. I feel the heavy weight of this hate physically bearing down on me, crushing me, squeezing the air out of my lungs until I feel suffocated. This has only got worse with time. For the first time, I have started to question my belonging in this place I call home. For the first time since arriving in Sydney in 1992, I’ve started to doubt my decision to migrate from Lahore.

No matter what I say, my motives are constantly questioned. Whether I’m advocating for stronger animal welfare laws, for abolishing fees for university and Tafe education or for more funding for public schools or women’s rights, or speaking out against racism, the disgusting abuse thrown at me by my detractors is always the same. It’s echoed on my social media accounts, in emails and in phone calls to my office. I can provoke this reaction by simply opening my mouth.

*Why are you even here? they ask.*

*You weren’t born here. What right do you have to tell us what to do?*

*Your country is shit. Why are you bringing that filth here to our country?*

*You don’t belong here. You should be deported. Go back.*

*Go back.*

*Go back.*

Being born a person of colour outside Australia is a permanent mark that is used to render me, and people like me, irrelevant and voiceless in white-colonised countries. This rule doesn’t apply to white politicians who were born overseas and migrated here, like Julia Gillard or Tony Abbott.

Perhaps I should feel powerful in my ability to poke the proverbial bear without even trying. I don't.

Plenty of people have extended a hand of support, and I am grateful for this. The reality, though, is that however well-meaning they are, they cannot understand the personal toll that such abuse takes - on me, on my family and on my staff.

My daughter, Aisha, was 16 when I came into the public eye. Just a couple of years after that, on a Saturday night, we were walking along the bridge on the beautiful Brisbane River, enjoying the view and an increasingly rare moment of catching up. I casually tweeted some photos of this lovely scene with my daughter. A short time later an anonymous Twitter user responded:

*@MehreenFaruqi @GreensNSW Before your husband blows it up?*

*-alabs-snackbar (@wesi12) July 25, 2015*

Up until then, I had chosen to ignore the xenophobic messages sent my way, but this one really ate away at me. It felt so malicious and full of hate. I decided to expose it on my Facebook page. What followed was a seemingly endless stream of racist and offensive communications.

I was told that white Australia was the real victim, not a “whingeing” Muslim. People called my office to harass my staff, demanding to know how many Anzac Day dawn service ceremonies I had attended. An image of my face was photoshopped on to a flag-waving Islamic State militant and then spread online. One person even created an online petition calling for evidence that I had renounced my Pakistani citizenship.

My daughter was so burned by the experience that for years afterwards she did not want to discuss politics or my work at all.



📷 'The relentless demands for me to prove my Australianness, while ridiculous, do hurt.'  
Photograph: Julian Meehan

Vicious insults and abuse hurt. So does advice to stay silent in the face of such vitriol. “Helpful” advice like “they’re just trolls” or “just ignore them” rings hollow when it comes from people who haven’t had to worry about their own safety or that of their family. “Trolls” are real people sending hate-

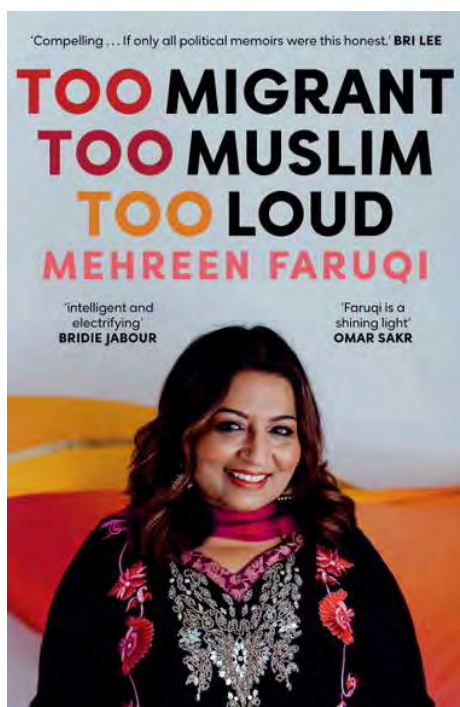
filled messages to other real people, who then have to live with the consequences. I've had days when I've wanted to crawl under the doona and never get out. Ever.

It took me a while to understand that the horrid, hateful backlash pitched at me is about who I am, and not necessarily what I stand for. The loathing always boils down to my identity as a migrant Muslim woman.

I did not expect this of Australia.

The relentless demands for me to prove my Australianness, while ridiculous, do hurt. I've dedicated the last eight years of my life to serving the people of [New South Wales](#). I've given up my birthright to do this. I'm no longer a citizen of the country where generations of my family have lived, a country for whose independence they had fought. This was not easy. After filling out the forms to renounce my Pakistani citizenship, the papers sat in my desk drawer for many days. I could not bring myself to sign on the dotted line. I know it was only a piece of paper. But signing it had symbolic as well as actual implications.

I can see why so many would not do it. Why should we have to? Why should we be forced to extinguish ties with our roots, to deny who we are just to satisfy a misplaced sense of loyalty? This makes no sense in a country where almost one-third of us were born overseas and almost half of us have a parent born overseas. This only alienates people from engaging with democracy. How does forcing someone to renounce their citizenship of their country of birth guarantee their loyalty to their adopted country anyway? Surely it's their track record, their integrity, their work that should be up for scrutiny and judgment. I know people who would make great representatives but don't want to give up their ancestry. For me, sadly, even giving up my birthright isn't enough. I'm still harassed constantly to prove my Australianness.



To those who question my Australianness: when you abuse me, that reflects on me, my family, my community, my heritage and migrants as a whole. We are not here to be insulted or marginalised if we don't fall into the narrow conception of what you think it means to be "Australian", or tolerated if you deem us to be Australian enough. You can't whitewash a country with Black foundations.

I am made in Pakistan. I am proud of my roots. I'm even prouder of my heritage. Now Australia is my home. Yes, Australia did give me the opportunity to be changed and now to fight for change. That's great, but don't expect me to be eternally grateful and stay in the corner

you've created for migrants, where you pat us on the head if we fit your notion of what an Australian is - but vilify us, silence us and try to hound us

out of our homes if we don't. My husband and I have worked hard to be where we are now. We are proud and upstanding citizens of this country and we make Australia a better place.

You can call me names. You can call me a maggot, a whore, a cockroach, a cow. You can demand I fuck off back to where I came from. Sorry, not sorry. This is my home. I'm not going anywhere. You will not grind me down. You will not shut me up. I'm not a maggot, a cockroach, a whore or a cow. I am a migrant. I am a Muslim. I am a woman. I am an engineer. I am here to stay.

*This is an edited extract from Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud by Mehreen Faruqi, out 2 July through Allen & Unwin*

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Respondent

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**Pauline Hanson's Please Explain**

August 14, 2017

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Today I asked the Government what guarantees they could give the Australian people that the definition of marriage would not be altered by future Governments to include polygamy and child marriages without a referendum.

The Government could give you NO guarantees!

The former president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Keyser Trad, has recently called for Muslims to campaign for multiple marriage equality.

As long as there is no definition of marriage enshrined in the Australian Constitution there is nothing to stop future governments pandering to minorities and helping Keyser Trad's dream become a reality.

#PaulineHanson #OneNation #KeysarTrad #GeorgeBrandis #Polygamy #ChildBrides #ChildMarriages #Referendum  
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I will be voting yes for LGBT. Its really nothing to do with us all, what they are fighting is protection from each other also. Making that promise and being protected by marriage laws is something really needed in those community's. People have no ide...



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Alex Malmstrom

Muslims cannot be elected to Govern Australians

Bendigo, Law and Constitution, On Australia, The Muslim Issue October 27, 2014

Muslims cannot be elected to Govern Australians

Section 44 of the Australian Constitution may prevent Muslims from taking political office — on a matter of allegiance.

Greens Muslim candidate Mehreen **Faruqi**, Picture; Nikki Short Source: The Australian

The practice of every Muslim requires the reverent bowing five times a day to a location point outside of Australia to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. The practice of being a Muslim also requires an unswerving allegiance to the "Ummah".

The Ummah is the nation of Islam to which every Muslim belongs. According to the Koran each individual is commissioned to protect and support the "Ummah" with their life, money and possessions. The Ummah is without land boundaries, supersedes blood ties and the host nation in which any Muslim resides. Instead Mecca has become the quintessential religious monument of the "Ummah" for Muslims across the globe

Recently the Australian National Islamic Council and Hizb-ut Tahrir (HUT) urged the Australian Government to consult with the Muslim community before embarking on a Middle East offensive and joining our allies against ISIS. Both of these bodies were acutely aware that the Sunni Muslims in Australia would consider an attack by our Government on a Sunni Muslim in another part of the world as an attack on their "brother or sister".

Here is the issue—ISIS is comprised of Sunni Muslims and considered by many in Australia's Muslim community as waging a holy jihad on behalf of Islam against the Alowite (Shiite) Muslim government of Syria. An attack on ISIS would be considered by some, as an attack on the Sunni Muslim community in Australia and would give cause for a reprisal action against the attackers—namely the Australian public and the Australian government.

Rule 29.02(8)

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Pauline Hanson's Please Explain

August 23, 2018



REMINDER - Do everyone a favour and share this friendly reminder.

#Auspol #OneNation #PaulineHanson #MalcolmTurnbull #PeterDutton #ScottMorrison #SmokeAlarm



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Greg Conly

LNP have shot themselves in the foot..BUT Please Explain Pauline Hanson's Please Explain how a muslim Mehreen Faruq has made it into the senate when section 44 states it cannot happen.. <http://concit.org/why-muslims-cannot-hold-office-in.../>

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