



Australian politics

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Mehreen Faruqi considering human rights commission complaint over Pauline Hanson tweet

Exclusive: Greens senator says One Nation leader created hostile and unsafe workplace and she has since been subjected to racist hate speech by others

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Josh Butler

Thu 15 Sep 2022 03.30 AEST

Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi has accused [Senator Pauline Hanson](#) of creating a hostile and unsafe workplace, and is considering a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission, after the One Nation leader told her to “piss off back to Pakistan” on social media.

Faruqi said she had been subjected to racist hate speech from others on social media after a tweet from Hanson, who last week took offence over her comments about the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The standoff between the two senators began on 9 September, the day of the Queen’s death, Faruqi, deputy leader of the Greens, tweeted: “I cannot mourn the leader of a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples.”

Mehreen Faruqi  
@MehreenFaruqi · [Follow](#)

Condolences to those who knew the Queen.

I cannot mourn the leader of a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples.

We are reminded of the urgency of Treaty with First Nations, justice & reparations for British colonies & becoming a republic.

11:51 AM · Sep 9, 2022 

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Hanson quote-tweeted that post to her own followers, replying: “Your attitude appalls and disgusts me. When you immigrated to Australia you took every advantage of this country. You took citizenship, bought multiple homes, and a job in a parliament. It’s clear you’re not happy, so pack your bags and piss off back to Pakistan.”

Pauline Hanson  
@PaulineHansonOz · [Follow](#)

Your attitude appalls and disgusts me. When you immigrated to Australia you took every advantage of this country. You took citizenship, bought multiple homes, and a job in a parliament. It’s clear you’re not happy, so pack your bags and piss off back to Pakistan. -PH

Mehreen Faruqi  @MehreenFaruqi

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4:05 PM · Sep 9, 2022 

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That tweet was signed “PH”, indicating Hanson had personally written the post.

Senator Jacqui Lambie **became embroiled after initially tweeting** that Hanson was “right on the mark” with her response, before later clarifying that she didn’t “agree with all of Pauline’s tweet, or the language she used”.


Not found

Pauline right on the mark!!!

– Jacqui Lambie (@JacquiLambie) [September 10, 2022](#)

Faruqi on Wednesday fired back at the **One Nation** leader and said the Greens would look to move a censure motion when parliament resumes for normal business on 26 September.

Faruqi said she believed parliament and politics should be a “safe workplace” free from such hostility.

“The kind of racist hate fuelled by these comments cannot go unaddressed. The community, particularly migrants of colour, need to see parliament strongly condemn Senator Hanson without delay,” Faruqi told Guardian Australia.

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It is understood Faruqi is considering a complaint to the human rights commission, or the parliamentary workplace support system, over Hanson’s tweet.

“People who look like me have all been told to go back to where they come from at one point or another. I’ve copped it more times than I can count, but the hurt and sorrow it causes never lessens,” Faruqi said.

“Of course there’s going to be disagreement about the Queen’s legacy in the wake of her passing, but there’s never an excuse for attacking someone for who they are. I won’t be silenced and neither will the millions of others around the world affected by the brutal reality of colonisation.”

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Parliament will reconvene late next week for several days of condolence motions for the Queen, before a newly announced extra sitting week from 26 September. Guardian Australia understands the Greens’ motion will focus criticism on Hanson’s call for Faruqi to “piss off back to Pakistan”.

Faruqi challenged Labor, and Lambie, to support the censure.

“No decent workplace would tolerate such brazen discrimination against a colleague. The [Jenkins review](#) showed us how toxic and unsafe parliament can be. If parliament is to be a safe workplace, we need to send a clear message that this hostility to migrants and people of colour will not be tolerated,” she said.

Faruqi’s office said she had received emails from critics over her comments including “go kill yourself” and “fuck off to where you came from while you still can”.

Hanson did not resile from her comments when contacted by Guardian Australia on Wednesday and informed of the potential censure motion.

“Mehreen Faruqi showed extremely poor judgment with her insensitive and highly offensive statement about the Queen and as is so typical of pants-wetting Greens, now that she’s been called out she’s pretending to be a victim. It’s classic ‘Karen’ behaviour: all entitlement and no responsibility,” Hanson said.

“Mehreen Faruqi is not a victim of anything. Faruqi is just another rich, privileged, out-of-touch Greenie faithfully executing her dear leader’s strategy to disrespect and insult the institutions which have helped make Australia one of the most socially inclusive and diverse nations in the world, including the very institutions which allowed her to come to Australia and make it her home.”

Hanson maintained she did not personally attack Faruqi or subject her to discrimination and said the incident did not physically occur in parliament.

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