



Human Rights (Incitement on Ground of Religious Belief) Amendment Bill

209—1

Report of the Justice Committee

February 2023

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Human Rights (Incitement on Ground of Religious Belief) Amendment Bill

Recommendation

The Justice Committee has examined the Human Rights (Incitement on Ground of Religious Belief) Amendment Bill and recommends that this bill not be passed.

About the Human Rights (Incitement on Ground of Religious Belief) Amendment Bill

This bill is a Government bill that would amend the Human Rights Act 1993. Sections 61 and 131 of the Act contain provisions which make it unlawful to use speech that is likely to excite hostility against any group of persons on the ground of colour, race, or ethnic or national origins. The bill would extend the coverage of these provisions by adding the ground of religious belief.

Reason for recommending that the bill not be passed

We received a letter from the Minister in charge of the bill dated 9 February 2023, informing us of her intention to withdraw the bill. The Minister requested that the committee report the bill back to the House so that it can be discharged. She told us that the Government intends that the matters contained in the bill be considered by the Law Commission as part of its review of the legal responses to hate-motivated offending and incitement. In accordance with the Minister's wishes, we therefore recommend that the bill not proceed.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The Human Rights (Incitement on Ground of Religious Belief) Amendment Bill was referred to the committee on 13 December 2022. The closing date for submissions was 2 February 2023. We received submissions from 1,909 submitters, comprising 1,873 individuals and 36 organisations. This included 137 form submissions (where a submitter made a submission which was a copy of some or all of another submission). We did not hear oral evidence.

Committee members

Vanushi Walters (Chairperson)
Hon Ginny Andersen (Chairperson until 1 February 2023, member until 8 February 2023)
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Dr Emily Henderson
Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki (from 8 February 2023)
Marja Lubeck (from 8 February 2023)
Nicole McKee
Hon Mark Mitchell
Simon O'Connor
Hon Willow-Jean Prime (until 8 February 2023)
Arena Williams

Evidence received

The submissions that we received on the bill are available to view [on the Parliament website](#).