



MEDIA RELEASE

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The Government's response to concerns is welcome

*Statement by Bishop Philip Huggins, Chair of the
Melbourne Anglican Social Responsibilities Committee*

It is good to learn today that members of the Federal Government are seeking to moderate the draft of proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act.

The nuances of legal terms and their interpretation by the Courts is one matter of concern whilst we seek to maximise freedom of speech but without hateful abuse of this precious freedom.

However, in the public domain, what matters is how the debate is perceived. Our Jewish friends, with their poignant memories, along with others who experience abuse do not need even the appearance that restraints are being lifted.

This is a time when perceptions count, whatever the detail.

As the great Mahatma Ghandi once conveyed, we should look at any proposed amendments through the eyes of those most vulnerable and least powerful.

The Government's call for further submissions is much appreciated.

-Ends-

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