



8 December 2024

Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 5100
Marrickville NSW 2204

Request for urgent responses to national antisemitism crisis

Dear Prime Minister

The firebombing of the Adass Israel Synagogue in Melbourne has brought our nation to a point of crisis. When one group of Australians cannot safely gather in its houses of prayer, the very character of this country as a free, democratic and multicultural society is in peril.

For more than a year, Jewish Australians have lived with fear and anxiety. Many in our community now question their future in this country. They question whether it is still safe to wear Jewish symbols, to attend Jewish institutions, to work and participate in certain industries, to openly profess their faith and celebrate their heritage and to raise proudly Jewish children in today’s Australia.

We ask you, Prime Minister, to reflect on how this has been allowed to occur. We ask you to reflect on how the conditions in which a synagogue can be set alight have been allowed to develop.

Your words swiftly condemning the attack were heard by our community. However, the time for mere words has long passed. We now call for action.

We are calling on you and your government to immediately adopt and to strongly encourage state governments to adopt, the following responses to what is now a national antisemitism crisis:

1. provide emergency security funding to meet the Jewish community’s additional security needs;
2. support mandatory national antisemitism education in Australian schools;
3. direct police to strictly enforce existing laws prohibiting harassment or intimidation by protesters of persons attending schools, places of public worship



- or other communal places, or in jurisdictions where no such laws currently exist, to enact and strictly enforce laws to that effect;
4. urgently convene a meeting of National Cabinet to further address the national antisemitism crisis including through uniform policing guidelines, law reform and public campaigns;
 5. enact new legislation to require Universities to protect the safety and security of students and staff as an over-riding priority; and
 6. review the government’s rhetoric and public statements on antisemitism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, recognising the far greater impact that such statements have on local communities, than on conflict resolution in the Middle-East.

We are ready to meet with you without delay to discuss each of these urgent requests.

**Daniel Aghion KC
President**

**Peter Wertheim AM
Co-Chief Executive**

**Alex Ryvchin
Co-Chief Executive**