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Date: 25 August 2009 9:29:41 PM

To: letters@jewishnews.net.au

Cc: naomi@jewishnews.net.au

Subject: Orthodox Judaism fails to be Tolerant on homosexuality.

Dear Editor,

The Australian Jewish Community needs to fully support the putting out of policies around tolerance for homosexuals in conjunction with policies on Anti-Semitism and any other forms of intolerance.

The clash of extreme orthodox jewry within the Jewish Community impinges upon its members who are homosexual a right to live in their community supportive of this tolerance entitled to each and everyone of us as Australians.

There is a perception by some in the Jewish Community orthodox judaism has a manifested intolerance toward homosexuals and publicly relays this intolerance via the letters pages of the Australian Jewish News via some rabbis and other extremist individuals with the full support and knowledge of its editorial.

This is a public act and as a public act is capable of breaching the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act (AD Act 1977) and its Anti-Vilification provisions.

Homosexual Vilification unlawful, states under 49ZT (1) (public act).

It is unlawful for a person, by a public act, to incite hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of, a person or group of persons on the ground of the homosexuality of the person or members of the group.

The difficulty with freedom of expression is it must not incite ridicule, contempt or hatred against homosexuals.

Racial provisions of the act are similar.

Orthodox extremism may be inciting hate against homosexuals by way of its words and oral expression.

The orthodox Jewry could rightly dismiss me and my call for tolerance and understanding for homosexuals as the ranting of a goyim but I say to them if we are ever going to dismantle hate and intolerance we must firstly show some tolerance toward our own community members of difference.

As a Anti-Discrimination Campaigner I work with the Judiciary in the public interest via its terms reflective in defending minority's rights to freedom from discrimination and vilification.

It is very important for me to ensure the war on intolerance and prejudice is overcome. It is only when good people sit on their cross stitching and do nothing that people get hurt.

My advocacy for a tolerant and peaceful society will only be won if others are prepared to join me in voice for this tolerance.

We must not let people hurt and suffer pain as some choose to echo God's word as a reasoning to shun homosexuals as perverted and sick community outcasts.

We are all part of the Australian family regardless of who we sleep with.

My dinner table has many settings because I embrace multiculturalism and diversity with open arms.

I don't make any judgements on my fellow humanity's right to live their lives in freedom

and in peace.

I ask the Jewish folk to please consider this message and show tolerance to homosexual members of your community.

Gary Burns,

Anti-Discrimination Campaigner.

Woollahra NSW 2025.

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