



Hindu Council of Australia

(ACN 082 437 670)

Media Statement

Sub: Queensland Government's intention to bring in a legislation to criminalise Nazi hate symbols

Hindu Council of Australia refers to the Queensland Premier's announcement on social media announcing the intention to introduce legislation to parliament that will make it a criminal offence to display symbols promoting hatred and causing fear.

Hindu Council of Australia stands united with the Queensland Government and the Jewish community to promote the important work of fighting anti-Semitism and other racist and exclusionary ideologies and wholeheartedly supports a prohibition on the Nazi hate symbols. However, Hindu Council of Australia strongly opposes the prohibition or criminalisation of our ancient, auspicious and holy symbol, the Swastika.

We are extremely disappointed that the Queensland Premier has refereed to this symbol as Swastika in her social media post this morning. The correct representation of the symbol is a "**Hakenkreuz**". The intention of bringing this legislation conflates, prohibits, and criminalises the display of the ancient Hindu symbol Swastika.

The prohibition and use of the word 'swastika' prejudice our benevolent practices. The Swastika pre-dates, by millennia, the hateful use of Hakenkreuz by the Nazis.

As such, Hindu Council of Australia seeks Hon Premier's intervention in three ways.

- 1. A clearly stated, public clarification that the Queensland Parliament prohibition is limited to the Nazi hate symbol 'Hakenkreuz' and NOT the holy Swastika.**
- 2. An exemption to the prohibition by the Queensland Parliament for the use of the Swastika as a cultural and religious symbol**
- 3. That the Parliament of Queensland works with us to support a multi-lingual awareness campaign about the original, positive meaning of the (ancient) Swastika and to counter any prejudicial misunderstanding that can lead to discrimination and criminal offence.**

26 May 2022

END