



Victorian Association of WW2 Veterans from the ex-Soviet Union (AVWSU)

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Yuki Simmonds | Committee Manager  
Legal and Social Issues Committee  
Legislative Assembly | Parliament of Victoria

LA LSIC - AVP INQUIRY  
SUBMISSION NO. 54  
RECEIVED 10 FEBRUARY 2020

Mail: Parliament of Victoria | Spring Street | East Melbourne 3002

## Re: **INQUIRY INTO ANTI-VILIFICATION PROTECTIONS - AVWSU - Submission to the Committee**

Dear Yuki,

I'm writing this letter as a submission to the Committee of the Inquiry into Anti-vilification protections.

I truly believe the open display of Nazi Germany Symbols in Vitoria should be banned.

Recently we have witnessed an incident of a Nazi flag flown at a private property in Beulah on 14/01/2020. In my opinion, in modern Australia, such an open act of the residents' association with a very well known symbol of fascism and terror is absolutely unacceptable.

As the president of the Veterans Association (AVWSU) and as a member of the Victorian Jewish community, I feel that we cannot be idle and allow this open expression of racial supremacy to be openly displayed.

According to some sources, World War II, started by Nazi Germany, involved virtually every part of the world during the years 1939–45. The 40,000,000–50,000,000 deaths incurred in World War II make it the bloodiest conflict, as well as the largest war, in history. Incredibly millions of civilians were methodically exterminated using industrial-scale approach under the very Nazi flag we are seeing today. It took decades for those countries directly impacted to rebuild the infrastructure destroyed in the war. We can see that even now, years after the war ended humanity is still impacted by the damages caused by that conflict of gigantic proportions.

In the Nuremberg trials, which finished in 1946 the Internacional Community were successful in unveiling the background of developments leading to the outbreak of World War II, as well as the extent of the atrocities committed in the name of the Hitler regime.

I feel this is our duty to act and make sure the mistakes of the past are not repeated by our generation. The cost of letting these type of behaviours not being opposed and becoming major political and physical force is too high.

I find these incidents particularly offensive for the following reasons:



- As the president of the Victorian Veteran Association, we work with members of our community who fought the Nazis during the WW2. They and their comrades risk the most valuable assets they had to defeat the evil – their lives.
- As a member of the Melbourne Jewish community, I related to many those who went through the horrors of Nazi concentration camps. I have friends whose family lost their close ones in the Holocaust. They have to live with these legacies, they get upset and shocked when these incidents take place.
- As a grandson of an army officer who volunteered to the front to fight the fascists and for his heroic actions was awarded with The Order of the Red Star and was lucky enough to come back to his family after that awful war, I do not want my kids and grandkids to face a similar evil in their lives.

I truly believe that in our time and place open display of Nazi symbols, which is often associated with antisemitism, is absolutely not acceptable.

While many people and community groups have expressed their anxiety and disappointment, it seems that in our current legislative environment there is no mechanism to prevent the offensive displays.

As I understand the public display of this sort of Nazi propoganda is effectively banned in a number of countries. Notably, the list of these includes Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Austria and France.

I think our legislation should be changed to prevent this kind of incidents from happening in the future.

Kind regards.

**Boris Petukhov**

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

10/02/2020

Melbourne, Victoria