Dear Mr O'Donahue,

I have read through the terms of reference for the proposed Charter of Rights and would suggest that while I strongly believe in and endorse the need for protection and safety for all in community, this COR (Charter of Rights) is not in the best interests of society as a whole.

It concerns me when the whole power regime of protection is shifted from elected politicians to unelected judges.

There is considerable risk that contestable agendas not popular at the ballot box will use this COR as lever and force results undesirable for the majority.

We already have democratic mechanisms that deal with human "rights" breaches without compromising the existing balance between the legislature and judiciary. If this was not true, why would so many people want settle in our country instead of staying where they are born?

We enjoy the privilege of being Australian because it has been substantially built on grounds of religious freedom which this charter limits, rather than preserves.

The most dangerous place to live in this country is the womb of a mother and this COR specifically denies protection to the most vulnerable people alive in Victoria.

Furthermore, it fails to protect freedom of conscience, in as much as Victorian doctors opposed to abortion are compelled to refer their patients to doctors in favour of abortion. Our state would be far more advanced if everyone was actively encouraged to believe that we all have privileges and responsibilities. If we fulfill the latter, the former increase; whilst the opposite applies, in that if we renge on our responsibilities then our privileges diminish. Once I declare something to be my "right" it impinges on someone else's, and ultimately we destroy "the goose that lays the golden egg."

Please do not take us any further down this path.

Yours Sincerely
Lawrence Steel