



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## **AFIC to join faith communities in challenging the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020 (Vic)**

**Media Statement**

**5 February 2021**

“Like other faith communities, medical professionals, law and human rights experts, AFIC is appalled that the Victorian parliament had hastily passed the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020 (Vic). This Bill criminalises speech, advice and parental protection.” Said Dr Rateb Jneid, president of AFIC.

“Let me be clear, we all condemn violence against children, children must be raised in an atmosphere of love and compassion. The ‘shock doctrine’ rushing of this abhorrent Bill through the Victorian legislature is an affront to the democratic process and an affront to all conventional means of family and childrearing. We have built a system where Bills are subjected to submissions, discussions and scrutiny, this Bill bypassed all this to be imposed top down by a group of disconnected politicians succumbing to pressure from those who would exploit the confusion of our children.” Said Keysar Trad, CEO, AFIC.

“I am heartbroken that our state representatives are forcing us to ignore the best interest of our children who may become confused by suggestions from those with sinister motives.” Said Victoria-based Imam Dr Bekim Hasani, AFIC’s National Sharia Board.



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## **AFIC to join faith communities in challenging the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020 (Vic) *(Continued)***

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"No person should be forced to submit to laws that give no weight to long established creeds, cultural values and conventions. We should not be forced to put the future of our new generation in the hands of individuals who do not comprehend the gravity of what they are doing. We cannot allow individuals who cannot foresee the medium to long term damage of their ill-advised ideas to toy with our future or the future of our most loved children. We must band together and pursue all legally available means to resolve our concerns and establish a fair and just outcome for our children. We want to feel safe and we want to protect the safety of our children. This is unlikely to be achieved unless we submit to greater wisdom, this wisdom is found in proper broad-based consultation with due respect to the Divine Grace that has been delivered to us from the Almighty God." Said Sheikh Riad El Rifai, AFIC's National Sharia Board.

"As the president of Australia's peak body representing the Muslims of Australia, I pledge to work with other faith groups to mount a legal challenge to this repressive and oppressive law. Watch this space, we are in consultation with our legal professionals and we will immediately establish a legal-fighting-fund to protect religious freedoms, families and children in Australia." Said Dr Rateb Jneid.

**Authorised by:**

Dr. Rateb Jneid

*President*