



Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

19 November 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write to provide a submission for the Committee's inquiry and report into legislative exemptions that allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers and staff.

Whilst faith based schools must be allowed to lawfully discriminate on the basis of faith membership for enrolment, since their *raison d'être* is to educate children of a particular faith, as Principal of Bialik College, a Jewish faith-based educational institution, I see no basis for any other discrimination.

I strongly oppose any exemptions that would allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers and staff on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and other attributes covered by the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*.

Sexual identity in particular, and rarely but importantly gender identity as well, is a personal decision and reality for individual citizens that should have no impact whatsoever on their education, or educational admission. We are all created equally and I strongly encourage the law to support this, and prevent discrimination.

The path that the alternative to this sets us on is a dark path. Future generations would look at us with the same incredulity that we hold when we consider those who opposed the emancipation of slaves, universal suffrage or civil rights.

With best wishes for a thoughtful, appropriate and inclusive outcome to your enquiry,

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner

Principal