

Submission on the review of counter-terrorism legislation amendment (Prohibition Hate symbols and other measures)

Dear sir,

My name is Matthew Robinson of Robinson Ordinance a small business in New South Wales who specializes in historical items,

I buy and sell many vintage and historical items that otherwise would be lost or discarded to history. I have always been a militaria dealer specializing in ww2 militaria from all nations regardless of the circumstances that each nation found themselves in.

Over the years I have developed a specific clientele for war relic material, most of which are avid collectors of this history and are members of the war relics forums on the internet. My clients are deeply knowledgeable and discerning when it comes to historical military items. Not a single client of mine has ever revealed or discusses a fascination for Nazism or neo- Nazism that is suggested by the current bill to ban hate symbols. While all would agree that the swastika and ss runes and symbols like that are abhorrent surely, we must acknowledge that they are a genuine part of history and that as collectors and dealers of these items we do not perpetrate a hate crime nor mistreat the premise of a ban on these symbols. Banning symbolism is the very mentality of those who adhered to the ideologies that it seems are being sought to ban.

I implore you to consider the bill with those who in mind who seek to continue to explore these historical items passionately within an intellectual historical context.

Throughout history humanity has resorted to the most disturbing actions and it seems will continue to, I suggest that in the future we will look back at this period of forever war that we are in now and discuss, analyze, dissect and collect the stories, memoires and items that are being used today to propagate the ongoing conflicts as well as social events of our day. Any group who seeks to ban or remove from history items, displays or memoires would seemingly be acting in ways that are exactly like previous groups who did this with the idea that it is only their ideology that is acceptable. It scares me that we could live in a society who would follow this method as part of the "greater good" without realizing the historical context of them actions.

Please consider the ongoing trade, display and discussion of these items by perhaps allowing us to continue our businesses and groups but with an eye to cover, sanitize or make displays more agreeable to those who are offended by these symbols. In this light I request that you allow us to continue to follow our passion and collect, trade, and display in a museum type facility our fabulous historical items.

Regards

Matthew Robinson

Robinson Ordinance

NSW



