

Dear Secretary,

I am a NSW Police Officer. I love my job and I love getting up in the morning to do what I do every day. I am honoured and privileged, because I believe in the work that we police do day in and day out.

I am also a practising Muslim. I believe that I have great relations with my work mates, neighbours and mates from all backgrounds and religions.

These new terror laws seem like a massive knee jerk reaction. I accept that we do need to protect ourselves BEFORE something happens, and that is the 'point' behind trying to get this legislation passed. But I also must say, that it does seem like it is democracy for some, and not for others. Muslims being the 'others.'

I do not consider myself to be an outsider. I do NOT consider myself to be an 'other.' I am a proud Australian. I love this country and believe I am on the 'front line' on the streets. This is a part of my religion, to try and protect the civilisation that I live in.

But NOT at the expense of the freedoms and civil liberties of people. This country is such a great country BECAUSE we do NOT have a dictatorship running Parliament, but because we are a democratic nation, that I would like to think, considers all of its options before passing such powerful legislation.

I think this Anti-Terrorism Bill will affect Australia long term, in terms of harming Muslims within the community. God knows it is already hard enough being a Police Officer of Muslim background.

Please do not pass this legislation.

Thanks
Mejed El-Dan