Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights

Equality without exception

Statement on the Albanese Government's Decision to Welcome Isaac Herzog

9 February, 2026

Today is an incredibly dark day for our community. Many of us are experiencing deep outrage and grief in response to our government's failure to uphold justice and humanity.

The Albanese Government has rolled out the red carpet for Israeli President Isaac Herzog, despite a UN Commission of Inquiry identifying statements made by Herzog, as constituting incitement to genocide.

This decision is a profound betrayal of human rights.

This complicity is not isolated. Political leaders across Australia have also supported or facilitated this visit, reinforcing a national failure to take a principled stand.

Today, our government imposes harsher laws on those protesting a genocide than on a man actively carrying one out. In parts of Australia, including New South Wales and Queensland, the criminalisation of protests and slogans now outweigh any meaningful consequences for state violence abroad.

We encourage our community to show solidarity by attending protests taking place this week. Solidarity can also take many forms, including speaking out publicly, supporting Palestinian-led organisations, and caring for one another in our workplaces and communities.

Our organisation will fully support staff who choose to participate in protests this week.

If you do attend a protest, please take care and stay safe. We will continue to share resources and information to help you protect yourself and others.

In moments like this, silence is not neutral.

We stand in solidarity with everyone protesting and speaking out against genocide, and we call on our communities and allies to do the same.