



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

QTON No.	Asked by	Question for	In relation to: Human Rights Commission - Pro-Palestine protests	Question Lodgement Date
16	Mr Andrew Braddock MLA	Human Rights Commission	We've been seeing a lot of protest activity around Australia, including here in Canberra, relating to the Israeli activities in Gaza. Based on what you're seeing, would you agree that the right to freedom of expression, including through peaceful protest, is being respected and fully upheld in Canberra? Does the protest activity of the last six weeks present any Human Rights concerns in the view of the Commission	24/11/2023

**ACT Human Rights Commission:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Under the *Human Rights Act 2004* (ACT), everyone has the right to freedom of expression (s16) and peaceful assembly (s15). The right to freedom of expression is not unlimited, and vilification of persons or groups of people on the basis of race or religious conviction is unlawful under s67A of the *Discrimination Act 1991* (ACT). No concerns about the conduct of the organised protests in Canberra or the content of speech at the protests have brought to the attention of the Commission.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date: 30 November 2023

By the Human Rights Commission, Dr Penelope Mathew (President and Human Rights Commissioner)