

Dear Colleagues,

I humbly write to ask that you vote down the motion to expel me from the Liberal Party Parliamentary team because I love the Liberal Party and I want to stay part of our Parliamentary team. Regardless of how the vote goes on Monday, I want you all to know that I have learned many painful lessons from this experience, and that I deeply regret the trouble this has caused my state and federal colleagues and the wider party membership. And also, that my offer to publicly back the current leadership team if the vote to expel me fails, still stands.

Although the vote to expel an MP should be based on guilt or innocence, I do understand and lament the fact that as a Party we seem to be wedged between two very unpleasant media narratives.

The first narrative is that I or the Liberal Party are in any way, shape, or form, directly or indirectly somehow 'pro-Nazi', due to my affiliation with the "Let Women Speak" Australia campaign. As the attached evidence brief will show, this accusation is demonstrably false. It has been damaging in the extreme to my reputation and to the Liberal Party brand.

The second narrative is that the Victorian Liberal Party Parliamentary team is anti-women and anti-free speech for punishing my advocacy and involvement with a legal and mainstream 'women's rights' campaign event, previously attended and supported by other senior female Liberal MPs like Jacinta Price and Claire Chandler.

But I hope that we can take control of this situation and create for ourselves, a third media narrative- one where we avoid both catastrophes and emerge united as a team around the current leadership. The truth is that the information provided to our Leadership was poorly researched and the allegations made based on that information have been demonstrated to be false. But that is good news for us all, because I am innocent, and the Leadership have legitimate grounds to retract the expulsion motion.

To that end, I would like to clarify for all my colleagues, the sentiments I expressed on Sunday night to the Leadership team and Nick Johnson.

1. I condemn Nazism unreservedly, and my offer to make another public statement to that effect, workshopped with the media department and signed off on by Leadership- still stands.
2. I condemn bigotry towards the LGBTQI+ community, and especially any inferences or claims that being a part of that community implies any kind of paedophilia- and my offer to make another public statement to that effect, workshopped with the media department and signed off on by Leadership- still stands.
3. Until the meeting on Sunday night, I had never before heard of 'Standing For Women' or Kelly-Jay Keen being in any degree whatsoever, a Nazi or a Nazi sympathiser. The quotes read to me by Nick Johnson in that meeting were a total shock. I accept that an experienced person such as Nick was able to find those accusations in "under ten minutes". But I had only ever known of Kelly-Jay Keen through the lens of mainstream interviews about the "Standing For Women" organisation, with mainstream interviewers in the UK, Canada and NZ, and via association with prominent female Liberal Party MPs like Jacinta Price and Clair Chandler, ex candidates like Kath Deves, via association with mainstream organisations like CPAC and Women's Forum, and in the context of the specific goals of "Standing For Women" and the Australia "Let Women Speak" tour.

*I maintain that I had no reasonable ability to foresee a public relations risk to do with Nazism over this event.*

And my offer made on Sunday night, to have my attendance at events vetted by Party Leadership, still stands.

4. I acknowledge that I was unwilling on Sunday night, to accept a characterisation of my video clip with Katherine Deves, Angela Jones and Kellie-Jay Keen (where we lamented the presence of those Nazi's anywhere near our group) as "having drinks with Nazis". It is true that I was unwilling to denounce these four women- and by extension, all others who had associated with them- as Nazis, without seeing incontrovertible evidence. As I said that night, I believed (and am only more convinced since having investigated those claims), that the accusations against the three women are unfounded. I also believe that my caution has been vindicated, as I have now received legal advice that

any condemnation of any of these women based on their having any meaningful connections with Nazism would likely be highly defamatory.

*Therefore, I stand by my decision not to denounce these women and those who associate with them-including myself- as having by implication, somehow affirmed Nazism.*

But my offer to accept regular guidance on all things political, still stands.

5. I acknowledge that I was unwilling to accept a characterisation of my decision to escort Kelly-Jay Keen and her attendants through the Parliament carpark in order to enter and exit their event more safely, as “taking Nazis through parliament”. I remain unwilling to do so for reasons stated above. But my offer to accept close regular guidance on all things political, still stands.
6. I acknowledge that I am a new and inexperienced MP, and that I do not adequately understand the ‘unspoken’ or nuanced expectations that seem to be obvious to others- even to other new MPs. My offer to take close guidance from wiser heads on all aspects of politics into the future, still stands.
7. I acknowledge that I did not follow up on my requests at the initial Coalition conference for specific help with how to manage my pursuit of fairer sex-based protections. My offer to take close guidance from ‘wiser heads’ on these issues into the future, still stands.
8. I acknowledge that I did not follow up on my requests, made in an Upper House Parliamentary team meeting, for written guidelines for New MPs. My offer to take close guidance from ‘wiser heads’ on these issues into the future, still stands.
9. I acknowledge that I didn’t directly ask Leadership for permission to go to the “Let Women Speak” rally. I had been unaware of the Leadership’s desire for me to do so. My offer to take close guidance from ‘wiser heads’ on these issues into the future, still stands.
10. I acknowledge that I did not realise how strongly some Liberal MPs object to my advocacy for sex-based rights, parents rights and free speech as they relate to transgender laws and that they consider my views on this topic to be so politically toxic and out of step with a modern-day Liberal Party, that they thought I needed to become an independent MP in order to pursue them. I had been under the impression that so long as I spoke respectfully and didn’t announce policies, I was welcome to advocate

on these topics. I had no idea that this was a non-negotiable issue or that the number of times that I spoke about it were being counted as 'strikes' against me (my maiden speech, IWD speech and attendance at the LWS event). If I do survive this expulsion motion, I hope that we can discuss these issues together in private so that we all have clarity and unity going forward.

11. I acknowledge that I was given the option to resign from the Parliamentary team or be put through a motion of expulsion, and that I did not give an answer that night. I was under the impression that I had until Tuesday to speak with others and try to negotiate a solution. I was further advised to not to speak with media or make any statements until such negotiations had prevailed. Then I saw the expulsion motion announcement in the media. I tried to negotiate further under media silence, but eventually concluded that whatever else happened, I surely had the right and the responsibility to make a statement on social media condemning Nazism and explaining what really happened. I acknowledge that this move angered some of my colleagues. However, in my defence, I have never been through anything like this before, I don't know the rules, and I was unable to get help from our media department. I am truly shocked and saddened at how this situation has unfolded, not only for myself, but for the whole parliamentary team.

If you have any questions or would like any assurances, please don't hesitate to ask.