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**From:** Moira Deeming  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** [ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au](mailto:ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au)  
**Subject:** Complaint

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to officially complain about a false and damaging statement made by the ABC Ombudsman's office, in an email response to a complaint over coverage of the Let Women Speak (I've pasted the text of the email, by Andrew Arthur, below).

The section I am referring to is "The newsworthy focus of the 'Let Women Speak' event in Melbourne was that a group of masked men were conducting the Nazi salute outside of Victoria's Parliament House and that this event was attended by a sitting Member of the Victorian Parliament, rather than the 'Let Women Speak' event alone."

I am in absolute shock and horror that the ABC Ombudsman's office has published such a heinous and baseless statement. I did not "attend" nor participate in any manner, with the disgusting behaviour of those Nazi's (as multiple live streams of the days events have proven).

A screenshot of this ABC Ombudsman claim has now been published on twitter for the world at large to see and is unfairly damaging my reputation.

I have two requests.

1. Please disclose the evidentiary basis that this extraordinarily damaging claim was based upon.
2. Please email a retraction/correction to any and all people that it was sent to, including me, because I want a copy of the retraction for my own records.

**Email to Let Women Speak Complainant:**

*Dear (name deleted)*

*I am from the ABC Ombudsman's Office, an office which is separate to and independent of content making areas within the ABC. Our role is to review and, where appropriate, investigate complaints alleging that ABC content has breached the ABC's editorial standards.*

*We have received your request to review a complaint you made about the 'Let Women Speak' related story you heard in the midday news bulletin on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>.*

*I have examined the content and the reply you received.*

*We note broadly that the ABC is required to provide a comprehensive news service based on the news and information of the day. What happened at the 'Let Women Speak' event in Melbourne on 18 March 2023 was highly newsworthy and many publications in Australia and globally reported on what occurred. The focus and style of coverage is guided by news values. Whether or not a story is considered worthy to cover is an independent editorial decision based on the requirement to service the overall needs of the ABC audience.*

*Taking that into account, editorial decisions are made in relation to which stories will or will not make a particular news program.*

*The newsworthy focus of the 'Let Women Speak' event in Melbourne was that a group of masked men were conducting the Nazi salute outside of Victoria's Parliament House and that this event was attended by a sitting Member of the Victorian Parliament, rather than the 'Let Women Speak' event alone. This attracted significant media attention, criticism, public and political outrage. The other 'Let Women Speak' events around the country did not capture the same media attention. The newsworthy focus was not specifically an examination of the merits of the various issues that all people who spoke or attended the 'Let Women Speak' event hold.*

*It is also noted that Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull (also known as Posie Parker) was the organiser of the 'Let Women Speak' event. Ms Keen-Minshull is well-known and widely characterised as an anti-trans rights campaigner and activist. The 'Let Women Speak'*

*campaign is a world tour organised by Ms Keen-Minshull. Ms Keen-Minshull refers to herself as a 'trans-exclusionary radical feminist' and hosts a weekly YouTube program entitled 'TERF Talk Tuesday'. Many publications around the world refer to Ms Keen-Minshull as anti-trans. Ms Keen-Minshull has expressed in interviews that she does not believe in non-binary gender, will not use people's preferred pronouns, does not acknowledge that trans women exist, considers trans genderism as a men's sexual rights movement, calls being transgender a fetish, and does not consider that being transgender is true. Ms Keen-Minshull was using this tour to make a film which promotes her views and cause. In Australia, gender identity is a protected ground of discrimination. It was clear that the Nazi group actioning a Nazi salute carrying a sign that said "destroy paedo freaks" were in attendance to support the event.*

*This is not to say there weren't, as you note, "ordinary women talking .. about being scared and feeling helpless" in attendance at the event. The ABC does understand and acknowledge that not everyone who attended the rally, or who supports women's rights, is anti-trans or should be characterised in that way. However, the ABC labelled the tour and the protest in the fashion it did, given the context of the organiser and some of the views espoused.*

*With consideration to the above, the ABC Ombudsman's Office will not review your complaint further, as while the response could have contained more information to give context associated with our reporting, the content met the ABC's standards.*

*Thank you again for giving the ABC the opportunity to respond.*

*If you are dissatisfied by this response, you may be able to pursue your complaint with the Australian Communications and Media Authority ([www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)).*

*Many thanks,*

*Andrew Arthur*

*Andrew Arthur*

*Manager, ABC Ombudsman's Office*



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.