

# Liberty Victoria

## 2021-2022 Annual Report



LIBERTY  
VICTORIA

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## About Liberty Victoria


Liberty Victoria has a long and proud history, campaigning for civil liberties and human rights for more than 80 years. Officially known as the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties Inc, its lineage extends back to the Australian Council for Civil Liberties (ACCL). The ACCL was formed in Melbourne in 1936 and was determined to offer “a means of expression to those people in all parties who believe that social progress may be achieved only in an atmosphere of liberty”.

Throughout its history, Liberty Victoria has defended the right of individuals and organisation to free speech, freedom of the press and assembly, and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or political belief. It has operated in accordance with the ACCL's original platform, working not only to defend existing civil liberties and oppose their limitation, but to campaign for the “enlargement of those liberties”.

Liberty Victoria is now one of Australia's leading civil liberties organisations. Through its General Committee, Liberty Victoria influences debate at a State and Federal level. We are frequently asked for comment and guidance by media, politicians, law reformers and policy makers. We have staged a number of public events with a view to providing opportunities for engagement in and furtherance of issues of human rights and civil liberties.

Liberty Victoria actively makes public statements, issues media releases, contacts and negotiates with Federal and State government ministers in relation to a diverse and extensive array of matters of public interest.

# Acknowledgement of Country



Liberty Victoria acknowledges  
the Traditional Owners of this land,  
their ancestors  
and their Elders past and present.  
Liberty Victoria acknowledges that  
sovereignty was never ceded.

Liberty Victoria fully supports  
constitutional recognition of  
First Nations People, in the form set out in  
the Uluru Statement from the Heart:  
a constitutionally enshrined,  
First Nations voice to the Parliament,  
and a Makarrata Commission,  
which will supervise a process of  
agreement-making and truth-telling.

# Leadership Group 2021/22

## Executive Group

**President** : Michael Stanton

**Senior Vice-President** : Michelle Bennett

**Vice-Presidents:**

Thomas Kane  
Jamie Gardiner AM  
Monique Mann

**Secretary** : Hannah Dickinson

**Treasurer** : Sam Norton

**Past President** : Julia Kretzenbacher

**Patron:** The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

## RAP Committee

Rochelle Francis  
Alexander Batsis

## Executive Officer

Executive Officer: Grace Girardi

## General Committee

Emily Arians  
Brigid Arthur AO  
Katharine Brown  
Gregory Buchhorn  
Julian Burnside AO QC  
Gemma Cafarella  
Pamela Curr AM  
James D'Alessandro  
Hannah Figueuroa  
Greg Hanson  
Virajith Hewaarachchi  
Andreea Lachs  
Alina Leikin  
Zubin Menon  
Hugo Moodie  
Julian O'Donnell  
Isabelle Skaburskis  
Jessie Taylor  
Vincent Vuu  
Timothy Warner  
Professor Spencer Zifcak  
**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** Lindy Smith



## President's Report: Michael Stanton

A lot can happen in a year – from the Djokovic Affair to the federal election and a change of government, to revelations of secret ministerial appointments and the Optus mass data breach, we've certainly had our work cut out for us in 2022. And now the state election is pending!

Over the past year Liberty Victoria has continued to respond to the ever-changing legislative and political landscape with over 50 media appearances, 16 submissions to government, and over a dozen press releases.

Building on the vital work undertaken by our Immediate Past-President Julia Kretzenbacher during the COVID-19 pandemic, our media team has ensured that we can respond swiftly to media requests and have our voice in the public arena.

I am also pleased to report that we have increased our collaboration with civil liberties organisations across Australia. That has included publishing a [joint letter](#) to the new Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, noting issues of particular concern at the federal level to the civil liberties and human rights community. In that letter we addressed, amongst other things, the need for a federal anti-corruption commission and the enshrinement of a First Nations voice to Parliament.

Throughout the pages of this annual report you will read about the important work undertaken by our committee members and other volunteers. The following is just a snapshot.

Our Criminal Justice Working Group has continued to make submissions addressing the largely bipartisan embrace of penal populism. Over the past decade in Victoria we have seen the entrenchment of presumptive and mandatory sentencing, and bail and parole reforms that we know have a disproportionate and deleterious

impact on First Nations Peoples and women. To our great shame, many findings and recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, made over 30 years ago, continue to be ignored, including the need for imprisonment to be a last resort. Tragically, we also know that this can have lethal consequences.

We have made submissions in the criminal justice space on a wide range of issues, including the rights of children affected by parental incarceration, sexual offence reform, criminalising “grossly offensive” public conduct, and expanded police powers. Despite it being clear that higher rates of incarceration only result in higher rates of recidivism, which undermines community safety, both major parties remain under the thrall of short-term political gain over long-term responsible public policy.

Liberty Victoria has also been very concerned about the emergence of far-right extremism in Australia. We made a [submission](#) and gave [evidence](#) to the Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria. We submitted that legislative responses to the real threat of extremism must be careful not to expand censorship and surveillance in a disproportionate manner. Rather, we must take active steps to address the drivers of extremism, including social isolation and economic insecurity, and rebuild faith in our institutions, including government and the media. In that context we were very pleased to be quoted throughout the Committee's [final report](#) and to see Finding 19: “[r]esponses to extremism need to avoid measures that curtail civil liberties in a disproportionate manner”.

As an organisation we have also been deeply troubled by the prosecution of Bernard Collaery, who was the recipient of our Voltaire Empty Chair Human Rights Award in 2020. It is a great relief that the prosecution has now been discontinued. We will continue to advocate for the vital role of whistle-blowers in holding the powerful to account.

Liberty Victoria's Government, Regulation and Equality Working Group continues to advocate for a national Charter of Human Rights. The group was actively involved in reviewing Victoria's pandemic-specific legislation in late 2021 and consulted with the crossbench. The legislation was greatly improved as a result, with better human rights and privacy protections. More recently the Working Group has completed our policy on climate change – noting the disproportionate impact of climate change on younger people and First Nations Peoples. This has been underpinned by the understanding that a clean environment is the foundation for the protection and promotion of civil liberties and other human rights. We also spoke out about the awful treatment of LGBTIQ+ people during the federal election campaign, and in particular how vulnerable young trans and gender-diverse people became political footballs during the religious discrimination debate.

Our Refugees and People Seeking Asylum Working Group was instrumental in advocating against a suite of Bills targeting refugees, people seeking asylum and other migrants who are in immigration detention and/or facing visa cancellation or refusal. Its work included a letter writing campaign which saw some of those Bills being defeated on the eve the federal election, and drafting submissions to parliamentary inquiries.

Our media work on the Djokovic saga saw us reach an international audience, with reports in publications including the Economist and the New York Times. We remain deeply concerned by the Minister for Immigration's unaccountable 'God Powers' – a term that I'm proud to credit to the [Rights Advocacy Project](#) and which demonstrates the impact of that program.

The Refugees and People Seeking Asylum team includes Sister Brigid Arthur who this year was awarded an Order of Australia and the Victorian Civil Justice Award in recognition of her long-standing commitment to social justice and human rights. Congratulations Sister Brigid!

Our Privacy and Private Life Working Group has contributed to a joint submission on the need for reform to Australia's electronic surveillance framework, and has advocated for improvements to the Health Legislation (Information Sharing) Bill 2021 (Vic). We have also been active in the media on privacy issues, including the use by

some retailers of facial recognition technology, and when considering the dangers of DNA collection and retention including on genealogy databases. Recently, we issued a comment on the [Optus mass data breach](#) calling for improved data governance in the digital age.

The Rights Advocacy Project (RAP), which I'm pleased to note is now formally recognised in our Constitution, has continued to make an important impact this year. That includes the launch of its reports "Police Panopticon: Zooming in on the use of body worn cameras by Victoria Police officers" and "A Policy of Equality: Painful Periods as a Workplace Issue". These reports can be found on the [RAP Website](#). Thank you to Rochelle Francis, the RAP Chair, the RAP Steering Committee, those who volunteered to be supervisors, and the RAP advocates who have continued to produce high quality and ground-breaking work.

Over the past two years the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the number of events that we have been able to hold in person. We are very much looking forward to the Voltaire Human Rights Awards dinner which will be held on 18 November 2022. You can read more about the recipients of the 2022 awards in the next section and I encourage you to attend the dinner to celebrate the important work of Brenda Appleton OAM, Sitarah Mohammadi, Sajjad Askary and Mehdi Ali.

We held our second online AGM in November 2021, twenty years after the [Tampa affair](#). We were pleased to have Abbas Nazari as our speaker. Abbas was a child seeking refuge on board the Tampa in 2001 and has since settled in New Zealand. After completing a Fulbright Scholarship he wrote 'After the Tampa' about his experiences. He was an inspiring presenter who spoke powerfully about the consequences of Australia's mistreatment of refugees and people seeking asylum.

Despite the challenges of 'COVID normal', Liberty Victoria remains in a sound financial position due to the donations of members and supporters. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the executive team: our Senior Vice-President Michelle Bennett; our Vice-Presidents Thomas Kane, Jamie Gardiner OAM and Dr Monique Mann; our Treasurer Sam Norton; and our Secretary Hannah Dickinson. Thomas has also, yet again, been vital in the preparation and planning for the Voltaire Awards dinner this year.

I would also like to acknowledge our supporters, especially Michael Drapac, who has continued to generously provide office space and other significant assistance to Liberty Victoria. Michael has also been a great supporter of the Liberty Leadership fund which enables our committee members to engage in professional development. This year the Liberty Leadership Fund was used to provide media training to our media team.

With limited funding, Liberty Victoria has been fortunate to have the voluntary support and expertise of people who assist us in many different ways. Maelor Himbury continues his extraordinary service of providing subscribers with our daily media links. We also thank Sally-Anne Raher and Jill Ruchel from Red Letter Fundraising who provide expert direction and assistance in the development of our fundraising activities, including the launch of our bequest program.

Thanks to Lindy Smith, our volunteer coordinator, in identifying and guiding volunteers to assist with different projects. This year new volunteers made

significant contributions to research and submission writing.

Thanks also to Adam Pulford for all his assistance and guidance with our media work (including social media), and to Andrew Rawson for his IT and design support. They have both been vital in improving our communications with members, supporters and the broader community.

To our committee members and RAP members – thank you for continuing to dedicate your time and enthusiasm to our work. I am proud to be part of an organisation that continues to punch well above its weight, and remains a trusted voice on civil liberties and human rights.

And a special thank you to Grace Girardi, our executive officer who somehow holds the whole ship together; we simply could not function without her support.

Finally, thank you to our members and other supporters. We hope that this report demonstrates that, on your behalf, we will continue to campaign to protect and promote civil liberties and human rights in a manner that, true to our values, is independent, vigilant and informed.

**Yours faithfully,**

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'M Stanton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Michael Stanton**

# Voltaire Awards



The 2022 Voltaire Human Rights Awards will be held as a dinner at the Sofitel Hotel on 18 November 2022

The **Voltaire Human Rights Award** honours a person or group who have made outstanding contributions to human rights, free speech or civil liberties, with particular emphasis on progressing freedom, respect, equality, dignity and action

The 2022 Voltaire Human Rights Award recipient is **Brenda Appleton OAM**.



*Brenda Appleton OAM  
2022 Voltaire Human Rights Award Recipient*

Brenda Appleton OAM has been a fearless advocate for trans and gender-diverse people in Victoria and more broadly in Australia. Her life story has been one of incredible resilience and personal empowerment. She has been an outstanding visible role model for the community.

Brenda has been the driving force behind equal opportunities for trans and gender-diverse communities and has played a vital role in establishing peer-based mental health support for individuals. Brenda was heavily involved in working with the Victorian Government,

opposition and crossbenches for the successful introduction of birth certificate legislation which enabled Victorian trans and gender diverse people to access birth certificates which reflected their identity.

As a spokesperson for Transgender Victoria, Brenda has conducted leadership, advocacy and training in trans and gender-diverse and LGBTIQ+ issues. Her effective leadership within the community was recognised when she was appointed Co-Chair of the whole-of-Victorian Government LGBTI Taskforce, making her the first trans person in Australia to be named chair of a ministerial advisory committee.

Brenda has also chaired the trans and gender-diverse subcommittee of the former government's Health and Wellbeing Ministerial Advisory Committee. In this role she formulated the health and wellbeing background paper that was instrumental to the development of the health policy for trans and gender-diverse Victorians. Brenda has also served on the Victorian Mental Health Taskforce and is currently a member of the Senior Victorians Advisory Group. She was chair or co-chair of Transgender Victoria for 17 years.

Brenda was also instrumental in Corrections Victoria adopting a new Commissioner's Requirement for the treatment of trans and gender-diverse people.

Brenda is also an ambassador for the Pinnacle Foundation and BreastScreen Victoria. Recently, she co-authored a journal article based on original field research on prejudices faced by trans and gender-diverse people in the criminal justice system.

In a political arena where we have seen LGBTIQ+ people become political footballs, and in particular over recent times young and vulnerable transgender people, we are very proud to award the Voltaire Human Rights Award to Brenda.

**The Young Voltaire Human Rights Award** honours a person or group of people who are no older than 30 at the date of their nomination for an outstanding contribution to or action on free speech, human rights and/or civil liberties, with particular emphasis on progressing freedom, respect, equality and dignity. It celebrates those who speak out, write, campaign, whistle-blow, take action, or a stand against authoritarianism.



*Sitarah Mohammadi (left) and Sajjad Askary  
Joint Recipients  
2022 Young Voltaire Human Rights Award Recipients*

**Sitarah Mohammadi and Sajjad Askary** are joint recipients of the Young Voltaire Human Rights Award. Sitarah and Sajjad arrived in Australia as Hazara refugees from Afghanistan. They have received the award due to their incredible advocacy for the human rights of Hazaras, and other highly vulnerable and marginalised people in Afghanistan. Over the last year, they have published articles in major newspapers in Australia and globally, as well as advocating for increased action by Australia to support people from Afghanistan as members of the Action for Afghanistan campaign.

**Sitarah Mohammadi** was eight years old when she first learnt to read and write. Born in Afghanistan during the previous Taliban regime, she was told that women and girls were second-class, that her people, the Hazaras, had no rights, and they didn't need an education.

It was only when Sitarah escaped to Australia that she was given the chance to go to school. This ultimately led to a wide range of academic achievements including spending 2019 as a Provost Scholar at the University of Oxford. She also has a bachelor's degree in International Relations and Human Rights and is currently undertaking her Juris Doctor (Law) at Monash University.

**Sajjad Askary** is a former Hazara refugee from Afghanistan. In 2012, he arrived in Australia by boat seeking asylum. Sajjad has a BA in International Relations and is a Juris Doctor student at Monash University, and an Op-ed contributor for Guardian Australia, Al Jazeera English, and other news outlets. Sajjad writes on refugees, human rights, Hazara people, Afghanistan, and Australia.

Both Sitarah and Sajjad use their insights and experiences as refugees, their professional work skills and knowledge to share their perceptions and thoughts through writing and have become exceptional advocates for the people of Afghanistan.

They are worthy recipients of the Young Voltaire Human Rights Award.

Established in 2016, the **Voltaire Empty Chair Award** is presented to a person who is worthy to receive the Voltaire or Young Voltaire Award but cannot be present to receive the award due to the consequences of their exercise of or advocacy for human rights, free speech or civil liberties.

Liberty Victoria is awarding the 2022 Voltaire Empty Chair Award to **Mehdi Ali**, a refugee from Ahvaz, Iran who had been held in detention by Australia since 2013 including at the Park Hotel in Melbourne.

Mehdi has been a powerful and tireless advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum in detention, including onshore detention.

A member of Iran's persecuted Ahwazi Arab minority, Mehdi was a passenger on a boat intercepted by Australian authorities in 2013. He was sent to Australia's detention centres on Christmas Island and then Nauru, an experience that he has described as "a complete trauma".



*Mehdi Ali  
2022 Voltaire Empty Chair Human Rights Award Recipient*

Late in 2014 Mehdi's claim for refugee protection was accepted.

Mehdi was brought to Australia under the short-lived Medevac laws in 2019 and then spent more than two years in detention.

Mehdi fought for and won the right to run a twitter account whilst detained at the Park Hotel. Through his tireless activism he brought attention to the Australian detention system from within with dignity, kindness, and optimism, an issue which received international attention during the Djokovic case.

He has used his social media presence to highlight the injustices and trauma faced by refugees and people seeking asylum placed in immigration detention in Australia.

We are honoured that Mehdi has accepted the 2022 Liberty Victoria Empty Chair award.

# Treasurer's Report: Sam Norton

In the current year, as anticipated in last year's report, Liberty Victoria has drawn down on our reserves with a deficit of \$20,139 compared to a surplus of \$8,939 in the previous financial year.

This was primarily planned expenditure, with the majority of the funds coming from the RAP Reserve fund. This fund holds the fundraisings of the RAP team, which reduced by \$15,198 over the year. This enabled the Rights Advocacy Project to hire a temporary officer and develop a number of projects. In addition, the Liberty Leadership fund was drawn upon and \$3,253 was used to provide media and other leadership training to our committee members.

This year, our revenue reduced in comparison to the previous year, primarily because federal government Job Keeper payments ceased in the previous financial year. Memberships and donations also decreased slightly, but this was offset by increased income from online events and investment income.

Our reserves are still able to support us in the next year and this should be supplemented by more fundraising activity and events now that the majority of COVID-19 restrictions have been removed.

Members funds totalled \$105,927 as at 30 June 2022 (\$125,995 as at 30 June 2021)

Thanks to the generosity of members and supporters, we have been able to maintain a financial position that enables Liberty Victoria to sustain its activities into the next financial year.

**Sam Norton**  
Treasurer

## Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for the Twelve Months Ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Memberships	15,373	16,925
Donations	37,756	36,828
Events	4,142	374
Investment Income	1,193	46
Other Income	0	24,604
<b>Total income</b>	<b>58,464</b>	<b>78,777</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Events	2,213	992
Bank Charges	864	1,414
Office Costs	3,488	3,883
Salaries and Contractors	64,195	50,980
RAP Expenses	2,358	3,689
Software/ Website	3,358	4,480
Other Costs	2,127	4,400
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>78,603</b>	<b>69,838</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>(20,139)</b>	<b>8,939</b>

current members,

Our thanks to Michael Drapac for his

continued generosity in providing

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
Westpac general account	6,935	8,643
Petty cash	277	673
Westpac high interest account	40,967	116,886
Latrobe Financial Investment Account	50,000	0
Prepayments- Voltaire dinner deposit	7,500	0
Cash box	22	22
Paypal	226	2,617
Trybooking	0	258
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>105,927</b>	<b>129,099</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accrued Expenses	0	3,104
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,104</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>105,927</b>	<b>125,995</b>
<b>Represented by Member Funds</b>		
Liberty Leadership Fund Reserve	12,347	15,600
RAP Reserve	1,852	17,050
Retained Earnings	111,867	84,406
Current years surplus / deficit	(20,139)	8,939
<b>Total Member Funds</b>	<b>105,927</b>	<b>125,995</b>

# Rights Advocacy Project - RAP

The past year has been one of the busiest for the Rights Advocacy Project (RAP).

RAP is a program of Liberty Victoria to train and empower the next generation of human rights advocates with the skills to use law to create social and systemic change.

At Liberty Victoria's Annual General Meeting in 2021, RAP became a sub-committee of Liberty Victoria through Constitutional amendment. This is a significant milestone for RAP. We thank the members of Liberty Victoria for their continued support, particularly former President Julia Kretzenbacher, current President Michael Stanton and Vice President Thomas Kane especially, for facilitating this Constitutional amendment and for the commitment to RAP's vision and work.

The past year saw our 2020 teams launch their projects and lead the discussion on fairer leave systems for people who menstruate and regulating police use of body-worn cameras in Victoria.

In March 2022, we launched our report [A Policy for Equality: Painful Periods as a Workplace Issue](#) with a webinar discussion featuring Kate Marshall, Gemma Cafarella and Mary Crooks. Our report shines a spotlight on the discriminatory and non-inclusive treatment of people who menstruate at work, and the legal, social, psychological, and economic benefits that introducing flexible working arrangements in the workplace can bring - for both employees and employers.

In July 2022, we published our report [Police Panopticon: Zooming in on the Use of Body Worn Cameras by Victoria Police Officers](#) calling for urgent reform in Victoria to the way body-worn cameras are operated and monitored to ensure greater police accountability. Our report was launched at a sell-out event at Loop Bar with an important [discussion](#) between Nerita Waight, Sarah Schwartz, Jeremy King, Mahnoor Sikandar and Gregor Husper and chaired by Nevena Spirovska, on the state of police accountability in Victoria.

Both campaigns are immense achievements for RAP. Our deepest gratitude to our volunteers Shannen Bethune, Tim Cronin, Abbey Dalton, Sophie Lloyd and Sophia McNamara for championing the [discussion](#) on more inclusive workplaces for people who menstruate, and to Samantha Varghese, Ovi Rajasinghe, Mahnoor Sikandar, Kiara Wagner, and Katherine Schofield who led the [campaign](#) calling for reform to police use of body-worn cameras in Victoria. Their intellect, commitment to the issues and grit over the last 24 months has been inspiring to say the least, particularly in the challenging and changing environment brought on by the pandemic. You can keep updated about our latest work on our website [rightsadvocacyproject.org](https://rightsadvocacyproject.org).

In May 2022, we launched our 2022-2023 program and welcomed a new cohort of volunteers. Every 18 months, we recruit law students, early career lawyers, advocates and campaigners and provide them with [targeted training](#) to engage in practical and strategic law reform. For the 2022-2023 program, our volunteers are working in teams across criminal justice reform focusing on police stop and search powers, climate justice and refugees and people seeking asylum. With the launch of our 2022-2023 program, our volunteers have received training on how to develop a law reform campaign, stakeholder engagement, political engagement, public policy strategy, understanding privilege, allyship and intersectionality and what it means to be a social justice advocate. Our enormous thanks to our guest speakers Michael Stanton, Dula Hettiarachchi and Monique Hurley, our alumni Mahnoor Sikandar, Lauren Bull and Anya Saravanan and our Steering Committee for generously sharing their expertise and learnings and giving of their time to our volunteers. A note of thanks to outgoing Deputy Chair Alex Batsis under whose leadership the 2022-2023 program saw significant growth and delivery at an exceptional standard.

The last year has brought seasons of change to the Steering Committee. Early in the year we said farewell to RAP officer Anna Kingston. With Anna's support, RAP was able to explore various options to diversify our income stream and Anna's legacy remains in terms of the processes and projects she set up to elevate RAP. Our deepest thanks to Anna for her work for RAP over 12 challenging months with the peaks and troughs of the pandemic. In the last year, we also said farewell to Steering Committee members Jackson McLeod, Elizabeth Colliver, Danny Zajd, Abbey Dalton, and Ruby Haynes. Thank you to each of them for their contributions to RAP. Finally, my sincere thanks to each member of the current Steering Committee. I would particularly like to acknowledge the formidable Alex Batsis whose steadfast support, commitment to excellence and problem-solving has been critical to RAP's leadership and vision and the formidable Jackson McLeod for many years of service to RAP, particularly building RAP's infrastructure and internal processes in that time.



Illustrations by Sophie Louchart

# Rights Advocacy Project - RAP Teams

## Refugees & People Seeking Asylum

Sherine Al Shallah      Dannielle McKinnon  
Imogen Hines              Shruti Patil  
Hamed Mahdavi          Holly Woodlock

**Supervisors:** Arti Chetty, Maria O'Sullivan, Hannah Dickinson & Sanmati Verma (consulting from the Visa Cancellations Working Group)

## Criminal Justice Reform

Britney Aguirre              Hayden O'Halloran  
Joseph Cook                Denham Sadler  
Alexandra Donato

**Supervisors:** Tamar Hopkins & Gabriel Chipkin

## Climate Justice

Rose Barnsley              Mitch Ryan  
Brianna Delahunty        Imogen Timms  
Sri Kumar

**Supervisors:** Katharine Brown & Brad Jessup



*Left: Steering Committee members at welcome retreat,  
Top right: 2022-2023 RAP program volunteers  
Bottom right: Michael Stanton addressing program volunteers at welcome retreat*

## Steering Committee 2021 - 2022

**Chair:** Rochelle Francis

**Deputy Chair & Program Manager:** Alexander Batsis

**Treasurer:** Jackson McLeod  
(until June 2022)

**Secretary:** Chris Chosich

**Project Coordinator (Refugees & People Seeking Asylum):** Isabella Farrell-Hallegraef

**Ongoing Advocacy Coordinator (Criminal Justice Reform):** Arabella Close

**Ongoing Advocacy Coordinator (Criminal Justice Reform):**

Caitlin Schiavone

**Ongoing Advocacy Coordinator (Equality & Government Accountability):**

Charlotte Inge

**Ongoing Advocacy Coordinator (Equality & Government Accountability):**

Shauna Stanley

# Liberty Victoria

## Submissions and Policy Work

### [Comment on the Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria](#)

**5 September 2022**

**Submitted to:** Public

The Victorian Parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee has published its report on the Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria.

Liberty Victoria's submission has been quoted throughout the report. Whilst acknowledging that the threat of far-right extremism is real, the Committee makes the important finding that "responses to extremism need to avoid measures that curtail civil liberties in a disproportionate manner" (finding 15). Liberty Victoria has submitted that great care needs to be taken before expanding executive power, surveillance and censorship.

The submission is [available here](#).

### [Health Legislation \(Conscientious Objection\) Bill 2022](#)

**16 August 2022**

**Submitted to:** Public

Liberty Victoria welcomes the Reason Party's Health Legislation (Conscientious Objection) Bill 2022 (Vic) (the Bill) and congratulates Fiona Patten MLC on its introduction. It should be passed.

The Bill is short and sweet. It significantly enhances the enjoyment of human rights, and reduces unjust restrictions on them. It makes welcome and important substantive changes to laws in the health field.

### [The Justice Legislation Amendment \(Sexual Offences and Other Matters\) Bill 2022 \(Vic\)](#)

**15 August 2022**

**Submitted to:** Public

Liberty Victoria supports some aspects of the Bill. However, in our view many other aspects of the Bill are unnecessary and add complexity to an already difficult area of the law. As we said in [our submission to the VLRC](#), the focus of the Government should be on introducing a restorative justice model for appropriate sexual offence cases.

A restorative justice model has the potential to have a long-lasting and wide-reaching impact on criminal justice in Victoria, and improving outcomes for victim-survivors.

### [Criminalising Grossly Offensive Public Conduct](#)

**2 August 2022**

**Submitted to:** Public

Liberty Victoria is opposed to the proposed new offence of engaging in grossly offensive conduct in public. It should not become law.

The Bill seeks to respond to particular conduct by Mr Richard Pusey that understandably outraged the community, and in particular his recording of dying police officers.

There is no demonstrated need for this new offence. Mr Pusey was dealt with by the law as it stands and was successfully prosecuted and imprisoned for his conduct. We should be slow to expand the power of the executive to regulate morality in relation to what some may regard as grossly offensive conduct.

The offence is unnecessary, highly ambiguous, and may well be misused and result in the executive and courts dealing with highly politicised matters which the criminal law is, in general, ill-equipped to deal with.

### [Letter to the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP - Call for Federal Charter of Human Rights included](#)

**8 June 2022**

**Submitted to:** Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP

We write on behalf of peak civil liberties organisations across Australia.

We hope that, in what will no doubt be a very busy time for the Government, you prioritise the following matters.

**The need for a Federal Charter of Human Rights:** As civil liberties organisations we remain committed to freedom of expression and preventing the danger of Government overreach and censorship. In our view, the best way to protect the human rights of all Australians, including religious rights, is to enact a Federal Charter of Human Rights that would enable the careful balancing of rights when they inevitably come into conflict. Such legislation is now part of the landscape in the ACT, Victoria and Queensland, and, contrary to some of the warnings of those opposed to such models, the sky has not fallen in. Indeed such legislation has been vital in protecting and promoting civil liberties and human rights in some cases, and it seems extraordinary that Australia remains without a national human rights instrument, unlike England, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa.

### [Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria](#)

**15 June 2022**

**Submitted To:** Victorian Legal and Social Issues Committee

Two dominant issues have contributed to a recent increase in right-wing extremism: shared grievances and crises of identity. The underlying social and structural issues that are fuelling systemic inequality, injustice, racism as well as a declining trust in institutions, government authority and the media all contribute to an understanding of why there has been growth in far-right extremist views within Victoria, Australia and globally.

As a community we must be careful that responses to extremism, however well-intentioned, do not become excuses to expand executive power, surveillance and censorship in a disproportionate manner.

### [Inquiry into the Application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Australia](#)

**7 June 2022**

**Submitted To:** Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

The Federal Government should develop a national program to implement the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and schedule it to the definition of human rights in the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011 (Cth), so that all new legislation is assessed for compatibility with it along with other foundational international human rights instruments.

The articles of UNDRIP, such as the right to self-determination, free, prior and informed consent, and the right to economic empowerment, must guide the process that is taken to implement UNDRIP in Australia. This can be effectively realised through the Federal Government, amongst other things:

- a. establishing a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the form outlined in the Uluru Statement from the Heart (Uluru Statement);
- b. observing and respecting existing decision-making representative organisations in Australia, such as the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria; and
- c. establishing a mechanism that affords First Peoples free economic independence and autonomy to ensure First Peoples bodies can negotiate with the State on UNDRIP implementation on a level playing field.

### [Inquiry into Children Affected by Parental Incarceration](#)

**31 May 2022**

**Submitted To:** Victorian Legislative Council, Legal and Social Issues Committee

Sentencing a parent or caregiver has a direct impact on a child, in particular where the caregiver is incarcerated and separated from their children. The imprisonment of a parent can have socio-economic impacts, compound pre-existing disadvantage and significantly affect their mental and physical health. Parental imprisonment can inflict different harms on children, including unemployment, substance misuse, low academic attainment and anti-social behaviour.

### [Civil Society Submission to Surveillance Law Reform](#)

**8 February 2022**

**Submitted To:** Reform of Australia's electronic surveillance framework discussion paper

The Australian Privacy Foundation, Queensland Council of Civil Liberties and Liberty Victoria have made a detailed submission to the Reform of Australia's electronic surveillance framework discussion paper.

We recognise the importance of ensuring security of Australians' and their freedoms. The rationale for national security law comes from the importance of ensuring that freedoms are protected. We are concerned to ensure that the 'forest isn't lost for the trees' in this reform process and that the guiding and predominant principle in this reform is that our national security framework serves to protect the freedoms that ought to be enjoyed by all Australians.

### [Religious Discrimination Bill 2021](#)

**1 February 2022**

**Submitted To:** Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Liberty Victoria is opposed to discrimination on the basis of the attributes of religious belief and religious activity, just as on the basis of the other attributes protected under our laws, including the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) (EOA). The Commonwealth Parliament would do well to follow the example of State and Territory laws in this field.

The Bill should not be passed in its current form.

### [Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System](#)

**21 December 2021**

**Submitted To:** Expert Panel Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System

This submission focuses on stream 2 relating to people in custody as outlined in the terms of reference published in October 2021. It makes recommendations in relation to limiting the expansion of prisoner numbers, rehabilitation in prison, reintegration programs, controlled access to internet, prisoner's rights, health care, and ensuring adequate oversight of prisons.

From the outset, we note it has been thirty years since the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody were published, and yet First Nations people are imprisoned and die in prison at a grossly disproportionate rate.

### [Strengthening the Character Test Bill](#)

**21 December 2021**

**Submitted To:** Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Liberty Victoria strongly opposes the Bill and calls for an inquiry into the character visa cancellation and refusal framework.

Our principal concerns with the Bill can be summarised as follows:

- (1) No compelling case has been put forward by the Government to justify the amendments. They do not achieve their intended purpose;
- (2) The amendments set an arbitrary and inconsistent standard of 'character';
- (3) The amendments, far from creating an objective standard, create considerable uncertainty;

### [Liberty Victoria Comment on the Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment \(Pandemic Management\) Bill 2021](#)

**3 November 2021**

**Submitted To:** Department of Health and the Expert Reference Group

This documents comments on the Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Pandemic Management) Bill 2021 and includes consideration of aspects of the Bill that are positive, as well as areas where the Bill can be improved.

### [Comment on the Terrorism \(Community Protection\) Amendment Bill 2021](#)

**26 October 2021**

**Submitted To:** Public

While the objectives of the Bill in seeking to increase engagement in the community and to enhance community safety are laudable, the manner in which they are sought to be achieved is inept and the proposals go well beyond what is required to meet those objectives.

We hold concerns that this scheme will lead to an increase in mistrust among certain sectors of the community and that it is open to significant abuses of power.

We will focus our concerns on two key areas:

- (1) Eligibility for the scheme and manner of persons being entered into the scheme; and
- (2) Intrusion of freedom of association, privacy and information sharing.

### [Inquiry into Victoria's Criminal Justice System](#)

**3 November 2021**

**Submitted To:** Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

One of the great challenges of the criminal justice system is determining how to balance competing rights in a manner that will improve community safety.

The focus of this submission is on the ways in which the criminal justice system impacts accused persons and people who offend. By improving their chances of rehabilitation, and by reducing risks of reoffending, each of our proposed reforms directly benefit the wider community.

### [Surveillance Legislation Amendment \(Identify and Disrupt\) Bill 2020 \(Joint Submission\)](#)

**8 September 2021**

**Submitted To:** Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

At the outset broadly and generally speaking, the Bill introduces powers for State-authorized hacking (also known as: lawful hacking, government hacking, computer network operations, network exploitative techniques). It is our position that Australia does not have an adequate federal human rights framework. Therefore, should the Bill come into force, Australians do not have sufficient safeguards of their fundamental rights to protect them from abuse of power by authorities.

# Press Releases

## [Voltaire Human Rights Award 2022 awarded to Brenda Appleton](#)

**16 September 2022**

Liberty Victoria is pleased to announce that the 2022 Voltaire Human Rights Award winner is Brenda Appleton OAM.

The Voltaire Human Rights Award honours a person or group of people who have made an outstanding contribution to free speech, human rights and/or civil liberties, with particular emphasis on progressing freedom, respect, equality, dignity and action.

Brenda Appleton has been a fearless advocate for trans and gender-diverse people in Victoria and more broadly in Australia. Her life story has been one of incredible resilience and personal empowerment. She has been an outstanding visible role model for the community.

## [A legislative solution is the only way to prevent secret ministerial appointments](#)

**Joint Statement 1 September 2022**

The New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties, Liberty Victoria, South Australian Council for Civil Liberties strongly condemn the former Prime Minister Morrison's practice of secret ministerial appointments and welcome the seriousness with which Prime Minister Albanese is treating this issue. We join together to call for urgent legislative reform in order to ensure that such a practice never occurs again.

## [Sitarah Mohammadi and Sajjad Askary win Young Voltaire Human Rights Award](#)

**25 August 2022**

Liberty Victoria is pleased to announce that Sitarah Mohammadi and Sajjad Askary are the 2022 Liberty Victoria Young Voltaire Human Rights Award recipients.

Sitarah and Sajjad arrived in Australia as Hazara refugees from Afghanistan. They have received the award due to their incredible advocacy for the human rights of Hazaras, and other highly vulnerable and marginalised people in Afghanistan.

## [Liberty Victoria Policy on Climate Change](#)

**9 August 2022**

It is imperative that Australian governments adopt a human rights-based approach to climate change policy. Liberty Victoria believes this requires our governments, in their respective areas of power and responsibility, to:

- Immediately and drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel exports;
- Meaningfully invest in climate change adaptation measures;
- Invest in recovery for extreme climate events, such as bushfires and floods; and
- Listen to the voices of those most affected by climate change, particularly First Nations peoples and children and young persons — who will bear the brunt of its effects.

## [Liberty Victoria awards the 2022 Voltaire Empty Chair Award to Mehdi Ali](#)

**17 May 2022**

Liberty Victoria is awarding the 2022 Voltaire Empty Chair Award to Mehdi Ali, a refugee from Ahvaz, Iran who had been held in detention by Australia since 2013 including at the Park Hotel in Melbourne. He was held in detention by Australia for almost a decade, from the age 15 until he was 24. He has now been afforded protection in the United States.

Mehdi has been a powerful and tireless advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum in detention, including onshore detention.

## [The Proposed Ban of the Swastika in Victoria](#)

**17 May 2022**

Liberty Victoria is deeply worried by the emergence of far-right extremism, but opposes the ban of the 'hakenkreuz' for the reasons set out in our joint submission to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJICIS).[1]

We understand that the display of Nazi symbols is highly confronting and offensive, particularly to the Jewish community and other minority groups that have been targeted by Nazi ideology. We also recognise that the introduction of this new criminal offence is intended to

convey the Victorian community's strong condemnation of racism, and to express solidarity and support for communities that have been targeted by racial vilification. These are laudable aims.

Our concern, however, is that the expansion of the criminal law is not an appropriate or effective way to achieve these objectives. There is a risk that the law will have unintended consequences which undermine its objectives.

#### [Liberty Victoria Statement on the Federal Election](#)

**19 April 2022**

Liberty Victoria does not, and will not, endorse any particular political party or candidate. We do, however, make submissions and engage with the community on particular issues. We have, throughout our history, had committee members from across the political spectrum. We receive no Government funding, and depend on volunteers who care deeply about civil liberties and human rights.

Your vote has a vital role in protecting and advancing human rights and freedoms. When you are making the deeply personal decision about how to cast your vote, and when you are making enquiries of the parties or independents about their policy positions, we would invite you to consider the following issues at the Federal level that Liberty Victoria has been campaigning on over the past few years.

#### [Liberty Victoria's Rights Advocacy Project Calls for a Policy of Equality: Menstrual Leave and Flexible Working Arrangements for All](#)

**24 February 2022**

On Thursday 10 March 2022, Liberty Victoria's Rights Advocacy Project (RAP) will launch its report, A Policy for Equality: Painful Periods as a Workplace Issue. The Report shines a spotlight on the discriminatory and non-inclusive treatment of people who menstruate at work, and the social and economic advantages of changing the current approach.

The Report proposes reforms to the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) and provides policy templates to be implemented by individual organisations and public authorities.

#### [Liberty Victoria urges Parliament to reject a flawed and unjustified Migration Bill](#)

**16 February 2022**

The Morrison Government is seeking to re-introduce the Migration Amendment (Strengthening Character Test) Bill 2021 (Cth) (the Bill) — which has already been rejected by Parliament twice because it is unnecessary and will result in unfair outcomes for vulnerable people.

#### [Liberty Victoria Statement on Religious Discrimination Bill](#)

**8 February 2022**

Liberty Victoria calls on all members of Parliament to reject the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 (Cth) ("the Bill") in its current form to ensure that LGBTIQ people, and in particular vulnerable LGBTIQ kids, are not subjected to discrimination in education and other vital services.

#### [Liberty Victoria Comment on the Djokovic Case](#)

**17 January 2022**

The decision by the Hon Alex Hawke MP, the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, to cancel Mr Novak Djokovic's visa and to deport him has drawn attention to Australia's dysfunctional visa cancellation and detention regimes and to the troubling use of the Minister's God-like personal powers.

Liberty Victoria has repeatedly warned about the dangers of such powers.

#### [Liberty Victoria response to Pandemic Specific Legislation](#)

**23 November 2021**

Liberty Victoria has published a detailed comment in response to the Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Pandemic Management) Bill 2021, available on its website.

Liberty Victoria welcomes the introduction of pandemic specific legislation with much improved accountability and transparency provisions, which do not exist for the current state of emergency powers.

The state of emergency powers were not framed with ongoing pandemics in mind, and the purpose of those powers was designed for short-term crises. This means that the emergency powers have been a blunt instrument and not fit-for-purpose in respect of more long-term dangers to public health. There is therefore a need for pandemic specific legislation.

#### [Liberty Victoria concerned about privacy implications of the Health Legislation Amendment \(Information Sharing\) Bill 2021](#)

**26 October 2021**

Liberty Victoria is concerned about the privacy implications of the new Health Legislation Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2021 which is before the Victorian Parliament.

When the Australian Government's Health Records scheme was mooted, extensive consultation took place with civil society groups. There should be a public consultation in respect of this Bill, due to the privacy implications of the scheme.

# Liberty In the News

[Joint Statement: National Civil Society Groups condemn the actions of former PM Scott Morrison](#)

**Media Type:** Article

**Date:** September 1, 2022

**Author:** New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties

[New Vic report to shed light on far-right](#)

**Media Type:** Article

**Date:** August 29, 2022

**Author:** Callum Godde AAP

[Can your DNA help decode Australia's 750 unidentified human remains?](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** August 5, 2022

**Author:** Erin Pearson

[Inquiry into children affected by parental incarceration report](#)

**Media Type:** Article - Parliament of Victoria

**Date:** August 5, 2022

**Author:** Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

[Australia, Europe & Asia host a vast array of LGBTQ leaders. Meet some of them now](#)

**Media Type:** Article - LGBTQNation

**Date:** July 25, 2022

**Author:** Sarah Ashton-Cirillo and Sayantan Datta

[Mandatory Minimum Sentencing](#)

**Media Type:** Audio - 3CR

**Date:** July 22, 2022

**Author:** 3CR - The Breakfast Show

[Court of Appeal condemns mandatory minimum sentencing](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** July 14, 2022

**Author:** David Estcourt

[The unconscionable prosecution of Bernard Collaery was an assault on the values Australia holds dear](#)

**Media Type:** Article- The Conversation

**Date:** July 12, 2022

**Author:** Spencer Zifcak

[Jason Roberts: Cleared of killings but cash in doubt - The Australian](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Australian

**Date:** July 12, 2022

**Author:** John Ferguson

[Nazi symbols won't make the far right go away](#)

**Media Type:** Article - Green Left Weekly

**Date:** June 29, 2022

**Author:** Jacob Andrewartha

[Focus on Islamist extremism linked to neo-Nazi rise, as 10-year-old kids radicalised](#)

**Media Type:** Article- The Age

**Date:** June 16, 2022

**Author:** Sumeyya Ilanbey

['Myopic' focus on extremism hurting monitoring of far-right movement, Victorian inquiry told](#)

**Media Type:** Article - SBS

**Date:** June 16, 2022

**Author:** Stephanie Corsetti

[Efforts to combat far-right extremism must not curtail civil liberties, Victorian inquiry hears](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Guardian

**Date:** June 16, 2022

**Author:** Adeshola Ore

[Andrews government's forestry bill puts logging over liberties](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** June 10, 2022

**Author:** Daniel Cash

**Victorian and Tasmanian governments under fire for laws that target environmental protesters**

**Media Type:** Article - The Guardian

**Date:** May 28, 2022

**Author:** Adam Morton and Adeshola Ore

**Andrews government moves to jail native forest logging protesters**

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** May 27, 2022

**Author:** Bianca Hall

**Painful Periods as a Workplace Issue**

**Media Type:** Audio - 3CR

**Date:** April 21, 2022

**Author:** 3CR - Tuesday Breakfast

**A Constant Erosion of Citizens' Rights: An Interview With Liberty Victoria's Michael Stanton**

**Media Type:** Article - Sydney Criminal Lawyers

**Date:** March 18, 2022

**Author:** Mike Gregoire

**Murphy's law enforcer: Why police are watching people in bottle shop car park**

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** March 17, 2022

**Author:** David Estcourt

**Police Illegally Sworn in and Not Authorised - Michael Stanton talks to the ABC's Ali Moore**

**Media Type:** Audio - ABC Radio

**Date:** March 11, 2022

**Author:** Ali Moore

**Morrison's plan to deport thousands of migrants**

**Media Type:** Audio - 7am

**Date:** March 3, 2022

**Author:** 7am Podcast

**Criminal deportation bill could have 'chilling' effect: Lawyers**

**Media Type:** Article - The New Daily

**Date:** February 16, 2022

**Author:** Stephanie Richards

**Surveillance laws reform a chance to protect human rights**

**Media Type:** Article - InnovationAus

**Date:** February 10, 2022

**Author:** Denham Sadler

**Calls to abolish mandatory QR check-ins**

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** February 4, 2022

**Author:** Cara Waters

**Peng Shuai supporters to hand out shirts at Australian Open final as TA double down**

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** January 24, 2022

**Author:** Sam Phillips and David Estcourt

**Djokovic saga sets dangerous legal precedent in Australia**

**Media Type:** Article - World Socialist Web Site

**Date:** January 21, 2022

**Author:** Mike Head

**Elections watchdog denies targeting former NBA player Andrew Bogut over social media post**

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** January 20, 2022

**Author:** Tammy Mills

**Djokovic saga sets dangerous legal precedent in Australia**

**Media Type:** Article - World Socialist Web Site

**Date:** January 20, 2022

**Author:** Mike Head

**Andrew Bogut warned by VEC after political post**

**Media Type:** Article - Herald Sun

**Date:** January 20, 2022

**Author:** Shannon Deery and Kieran Rooney

**Djokovic case exposes 'dysfunctional and dangerous' Australian visa rules, experts say**

**Media Type:** Article - The Guardian

**Date:** January 17, 2022

**Author:** Ben Doherty

**Novak Djokovic deported: tennis star treated like 'mass murderer', says Serbian president**

**Media Type:** Article - The Telegraph - UK

**Date:** January 16, 2022

**Author:** Nick Squires and Giovanni Torre

**Civil Rights Groups Explain Why Novak Djokovic's Deportation Is Concerning**

**Media Type:** Article - Ladbible

**Date:** January 16, 2022

**Author:** Stewart Perrie

[\*\*Dangerous in a democracy: Civil rights groups' alarm at government's Djokovic case\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age and the Brisbane Times  
**Date:** January 16, 2022  
**Author:** Paul Sakkal

[\*\*Djokovic goes from greatest to anti-vax icon\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age  
**Date:** January 16, 2022  
**Author:** Chip Le Grand

[\*\*Why one man with 'god-like' powers decides if Novak Djokovic can stay or go - The Conversation\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Conversation  
**Date:** January 13, 2022  
**Author:** Mick Tsikas

[\*\*How The Age covered the pandemic bill\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age  
**Date:** December 6, 2021  
**Author:** Gay Alcorn

[\*\*The pandemic has forced 'safe, comfortable' Australians to confront human rights. So what's next?\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Guardian  
**Date:** December 6, 2021  
**Author:** Brigid Delaney

[\*\*How long can Vic police hold a suspect?\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - Canberra Times  
**Date:** November 25, 2021  
**Author:** Callum Godde

[\*\*Done by Law - Greg Buchhorn on pandemic legislation\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Audio - 3CR  
**Date:** November 24, 2021  
**Author:** Done by Law

[\*\*'Deeply concerned': Victoria's new no-consent health data sharing scheme\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - InnovationAus  
**Date:** November 19, 2021  
**Author:** Denham Sadler

[\*\*Adem Somyurek returns to parliament to block Andrews government's pandemic Bill\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Herald Sun  
**Date:** November 18, 2021  
**Author:** Shannon Deery

[\*\*Death threats and nooses: How a pandemic bill sparked far-right protests\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Audio - Schwartz Media  
**Date:** November 18, 2021  
**Author:** Ruby Jones - The 7am podcast

[\*\*Case for and against amended pandemic laws\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - Herald Sun  
**Date:** November 17, 2021  
**Author:** Shannon Deery

[\*\*Victoria's controversial pandemic bill: 6 ways for the government to show it is serious about scrutiny\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Conversation  
**Date:** November 16, 2021  
**Author:** Bill Bowtell AO

[\*\*What's in the bill? Your pandemic legislation questions answered\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age  
**Date:** November 13, 2021  
**Author:** Bianca Hall

[\*\*Would Victoria's proposed pandemic laws give Daniel Andrews the power to declare a pandemic without justification?\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - ABC News  
**Date:** November 12, 2021

[\*\*Draconian: Government introduces new pandemic laws into Parliament\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age  
**Date:** October 27, 2021  
**Author:** Sumeyya Ilanbey

[\*\*Most of Victoria's COVID rules will end in November, with one key exception\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age  
**Date:** October 25, 2021  
**Author:** Sumeyya Ilanbey and Aisha Dow

[\*\*Julia Kretzenbacher interview on Triple R\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Audio - Triple R  
**Date:** October 25, 2021  
**Author:** The Party Show

[\*\*Melbourne bids farewell to COVID-19 lockdown and the controversial curfew\*\*](#)

**Media Type:** Article - ABC News  
**Date:** October 22, 2021  
**Author:** Joseph Dunstan

[Young leader Dujuan knows importance of culture, family and community](#)

**Media Type:** Article - Shepparton News

**Date:** October 12, 2021

**Author:** Shepparton News

[Ebony says she was 'on the fence' about vaccination, but Victoria's mandate swayed her](#)

**Media Type:** Article - ABC News

**Date:** October 8, 2021

**Author:** Sian Johnson

[Freedom, interrupted: Will the liberties we lost to COVID be regained?](#)

**Media Type:** Article - Sydney Morning Herald

**Date:** October 4, 2021

**Author:** Chip Le Grand

[Victoria Police officer suspended over video of violent Flinders Street arrest](#)

**Media Type:** Article - ABC News

**Date:** September 30, 2021

**Author:** ABC News

[Mandatory jabs could 'radicalise' anti-vax advocates, experts warn](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** September 23, 2021

**Author:** Farrah Tomazin and Aisha Dow

[Arrest footage and teargas raise concerns about Victoria police's use of force to quell protests](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Guardian

**Date:** September 23, 2021

**Author:** Josh Taylor

[Do mandatory vaccinations actually get people jabbed?](#)

**Media Type:** Article - Triple J

**Date:** September 23, 2021

**Author:** Tamsin Rose

[Riot police set for front line at future COVID protests](#)

**Media Type:** Article - The Age

**Date:** September 20, 2021

**Author:** John Silvester

[Shutdown of the Melbourne CBD](#)

**Media Type:** Audio - 3AW

**Date:** September 17, 2021

**Author:** 3AW Neil Mitchell

# Become a Civil Rights Defender

## If you believe:

- ... that all people should be treated equally, with dignity and fairness
- ... that those in power should be held accountable
- ... that freedom must be defended
- ... that day by day, governments and powerful corporations are chipping away at the freedom, dignity and autonomy of ordinary people.

Then now is the time to become a Civil Rights Defender.

There has never been a more vital time for people like you, who support human rights, civil liberties and our fundamental freedoms; to stand up for human rights and lend Liberty Victoria your support. Join the fight today.

## Yes, I'll become a Civil Rights Defender!

I'll give: ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Each month ☐ Only Once

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City/Suburb:	Pcode:
Phone:	
Email:	

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