



Anti-abortion groups and churches must disown extremists or stand condemned: Pro-choice advocates

Today outside the Liberal Party conference in Sydney, several anti-abortion groups protested against a long-overdue law reform currently before NSW Parliament. They specifically targeted the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and have wrongly suggested she can 'stop' the Bill or is somehow responsible for it, despite the Bill not being a Government Bill and all MPs having a conscience vote.

At the rally, which was live-streamed and attended by at least one Liberal MP, several signs read 'Berejiklian Genocide'. Ms Berejiklian is a prominent member of the Armenian-Australian community and her grandparents were orphaned in the Armenian genocide.

Claire Pullen, Chairman of Our Bodies Our Choices said, "It is bad enough that the Premier has been relentlessly targeted as the Premier, even though in this Bill she is simply one MP exercising her conscience vote. It's worse how fixated the anti-abortion groups have become on her as a woman- not the men who introduced and voted and spoke in favour of the Bill, just her."

"But it is utterly beyond the pale to hold up signs referring to genocide. Like many Australians, the Premier's family is connected to survivors and victims of a real, not invented, atrocity. This is grotesque and has no place in our politics. It was also clearly pre-meditated- there were several of these printed signs and the whole event was live-streamed."

"Church leaders and anti-abortion groups and advocates must disown this disgraceful behaviour and the extremists behind it, or stand beside those people who think reproductive rights for pregnant people are the same as genocide. We condemn this sort of extremism in our politics – do they?"



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The OBOC Committee is a diverse group of people including young women, women of colour, and women with disability from all over NSW. Our community is committed to decriminalising abortion. OBOC provides a free resource for journalists and the community who want to use accurate, up to date and realistic abortion care imagery. Find our gallery online at www.oboc.com.au

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