

18 SEPTEMBER 2023



**As Australian Parliamentarians, we are resolutely of the view that the prosecution and incarceration of the Australian citizen Julian Assange must end.**

**We note with gratitude the considerable support in the United States for an end to the legal pursuit of Mr Assange ... in defence of free speech and independent journalism.**

As Australian Parliamentarians, in support of our colleagues' delegation to the United States in September 2023, we are resolutely of the view that the prosecution and incarceration of the Australian citizen Julian Assange must end.

Together with a large and growing number of Australians we believe it is wrong in principle for Mr. Assange to be pursued under the Espionage Act (1917), and that it was a political decision to bring the prosecution in the first place. In any case, this matter has dragged on for over a decade and it is wrong for Mr. Assange to be further persecuted and denied his liberty when one considers the duration and circumstances of the detention he has already suffered. It serves no purpose, it is unjust, and we say clearly - as friends should always be honest with friends - that the prolonged pursuit of Mr. Assange wears away at the substantial foundation of regard and respect that Australians have for the justice system of the United States of America.

We agree entirely with the position expressed by the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese who said in the House of Representatives on 22 May 2023 that "enough is enough when it comes to the ongoing incarceration of Julian Assange and that nothing is served from the ongoing incarceration of Julian Assange." We welcome the recently expressed agreement on this point from the Leader of the Opposition, and we make clear that the bipartisan leadership support for this position is matched by the wide cross-party and independent support within the Australian Parliament itself, which in turn reflects the strongly held views of the Australian community.

Let there be no doubt that if Julian Assange is removed from the United Kingdom to the United States there will a sharp and sustained outcry in Australia.

We note with gratitude the considerable support in the United States for an end to the legal pursuit of Mr. Assange from members of Congress, human rights advocates, academics, and civil society, and from within the US media in defence of free speech and independent journalism. On that basis we ask Congresspeople, members of the press, and other relevant civil society stakeholders in the United States to speak up now in supporting an end to the prosecution and detention of Julian Assange.

We believe the right and best course of action would be for the United States' Department of Justice to cease its pursuit and prosecution of Julian Assange. Alternatively, a decision to simply abandon the extradition proceedings would have the sensible, just, and compassionate effect of allowing Mr. Assange to go free from a prolonged and harsh period of high-security detention. It is well and truly time for this matter to end, and for Julian Assange to return home.

Yours sincerely,

The co-convenors of the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group:

- Andrew Wilkie MP  
Independent Federal Member for Clark
- Josh Wilson MP  
Labor Federal Member of Fremantle
- Bridget Archer MP  
Liberal Federal Member for Bass
- David Shoebridge  
Greens Senator for New South Wales

The undersigned members of the Australian Parliament:

- Dai Le MP  
Member for Fowler
- Kylea Tink MP  
Member for North Sydney
- Senator Nick McKim  
Senator for Tasmania
- Steve Georganas MP  
Member for Adelaide
- Senator Barbara Pocock  
Senator for South Australia
- Senator Peter Wish-Wilson  
Senator for Tasmania
- Dr Mike Freeland MP  
Member for Macarthur
- Rebekha Sharkie MP  
Member for Mayo
- Senator Jordan Steele-John  
Senator for Western Australia
- Julian Hill MP  
Member for Bruce
- Colin Boyce MP  
Member for Flynn
- Brian Mitchell MP  
Member for Lyons
- Senator Alex Antic  
Senator for South Australia
- Senator Gerard Rennick  
Senator for Queensland
- Senator Ralph Babet  
Senator for Victoria
- Dr Sophie Scamps MP  
Member for Mackellar
- Dr Helen Haines MP  
Member for Indi
- Senator the Hon Matt Canavan  
Senator for Queensland
- The Hon Melissa Price MP  
Member for Durack
- Zali Steggall OAM MP  
Member for Warringah
- Peter Khalil MP  
Member for Wills
- Susan Templeman MP  
Member for Macquarie
- Allegra Spender MP  
Member for Wentworth
- Zaneta Mascarenhas MP  
Member for Swan
- Stephen Bates MP  
Member for Brisbane
- Zoe Daniel MP  
Member for Goldstein
- Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP  
Member for Ryan
- Dr Monique Ryan MP  
Member for Kooyong
- The Hon Warren Entsch MP  
Member for Leichhardt
- Senator Dorinda Cox  
Senator for Western Australia
- Kate Chaney MP  
Member for Curtin
- Jerome Laxale MP  
Member for Bennelong
- Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP  
Member for Higgins
- Rick Wilson MP  
Member for O'Connor
- Senator Janet Rice  
Senator for Victoria
- Senator Larissa Waters  
Senator for Queensland
- Louise Miller-Frost MP  
Member for Boothby
- Fiona Phillips MP  
Member for Gilmore
- Senator Lidia Thorpe  
Senator for Victoria
- Adam Bandt MP  
Leader of the Australian Greens  
Member for Melbourne
- Senator David Pocock  
Senator for Australian Capital Territory
- Llew O'Brien MP  
Member for Wide Bay
- Maria Vamvakinou MP  
Member for Calwell
- Alicia Payne MP  
Member for Canberra
- Sam Lim MP  
Member for Tangney
- Senator Sarah Hanson-Young  
Senator for South Australia
- The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP  
Member for New England
- Senator Dr Mehreen Faruqi  
Senator for New South Wales
- Senator Jacqui Lambie  
Senator for Tasmania
- Senator Penny Allman-Payne  
Senator for Queensland
- The Hon Scott Buchholz MP  
Member for Wright
- Senator Louise Pratt  
Senator for Western Australia
- The Hon Shayne Newman MP  
Member for Blair
- Libby Coker MP  
Member for Corangamite
- Tony Zappia MP  
Member for Makin
- Max Chandler-Mather MP  
Member for Griffith
- Senator Malcolm Roberts  
Senator for Queensland
- The Hon Luke Howarth MP  
Member for Petrie
- Senator Andrew Bragg  
Senator for New South Wales
- The Hon David Gillespie MP  
Member for Lyne