



TERRIBUTLERMP

Member for Griffith

Our ref: SW 238973G/150928

28 September 2015

Hon Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I refer to a report published by Mr Bernard Keane today that anti-choice extremist Troy Newman will tour Australia next month, holding a series of public events to campaign against Australian women's reproductive rights and proposed laws to create a "buffer zone" around medical clinics.

Mr Newman is the co-author of *Their Blood Cries Out*, which argues that medical professionals participating in terminations should be executed:

"In addition to our personal guilt in abortion, the United States government has abrogated its responsibility to properly deal with the blood-guilty. This responsibility rightly involves executing convicted murderers, including abortionists, for their crimes in order to expunge bloodguilt from the land and people. Instead, the act of abortion has been elevated to a 'God-given right' and the abortionists canonized as saints. Consequently, the entire nation has the blood-red stain of the lives of the innocent upon its head."

Mr Newman also compares women who seek terminations to murderers:

"Why, then, do we consider any differently the women who seek to hire killers to murder their pre-born children? Why the hesitancy to say that not only the mothers, but also the fathers who wilfully abort their babies, are guilty of murder?"

In another chapter of this book, Mr Newman argues that "abortion is a sacrifice to demons" and that terrorist attacks, school shootings and HIV/AIDS are God's punishment for abortion.

I am concerned that Mr Newman's presence in Australia will cause significant harm to our community. In a media release published today his hosts, Right to Life Australia, promise that Mr Newman will "stir up" debate throughout the country. There is a risk that this will involve the harassment and intimidation of women accessing reproductive services and professionals offering those services at medical clinics, and result in their vilification within the community; especially vulnerable women. Mr Newman's conduct may incite discord within the community and disrupt the ability of women to access lawful reproductive medicine.



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Furthermore, I am most concerned that Mr Newman's call for "abortionists" to be "executed" could lead to threats or the commission of acts of violence against women and medical professionals. The risk of this type of violence is not theoretical. On 16 July 2001 Peter Knight stormed a medical facility in Melbourne with a shotgun, murdering a security guard, Steven Rogers. Many others may have been injured if it were not for the bravery of a young man at the scene who wrested the weapon from Mr Knight and overcame him.

I ask you to refer this matter to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to determine whether Mr Newman's visa ought to be cancelled for failing the character test under section 501 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns,

Yours sincerely,



Terri Butler MP
Federal Member for Griffith