

News > NSW

Activist pro-Palestinian teachers vow to 'defy' NSW's new hate speech laws

NSW teachers are openly planning to breach new government hate speech laws, with some educators refusing to abandon controversial pro-Palestine classroom content.

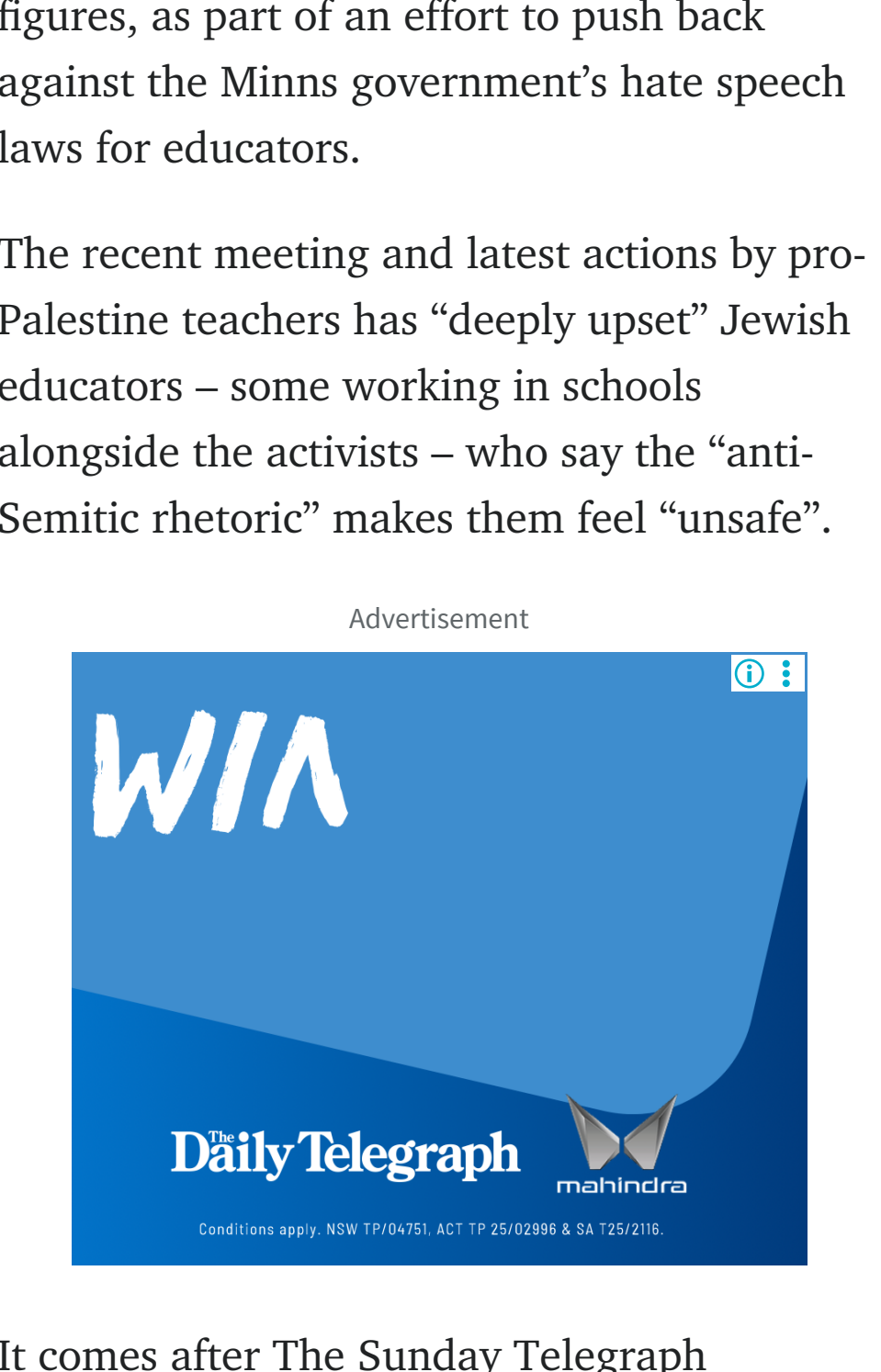


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The Sunday Telegraph



Teachers at a pro-Palestine rally at Paul Keating Park in Bankstown in 2025. Picture: NewsWire / Damian Shaw

Activist educators are vowing to “defy” the NSW Department of Education’s new hate speech code of conduct, insisting on their right to continue pro-Palestine action in classrooms, including using the hateful slogan “globalise the intifada”.

Teachers4Palestine NSW held a meeting in Parramatta last Wednesday featuring academics, human rights speakers and union figures, as part of an effort to push back against the Minns government’s hate speech laws for educators.

The recent meeting and latest actions by pro-Palestine teachers has “deeply upset” Jewish educators – some working in schools alongside the activists – who say the “anti-Semitic rhetoric” makes them feel “unsafe”.

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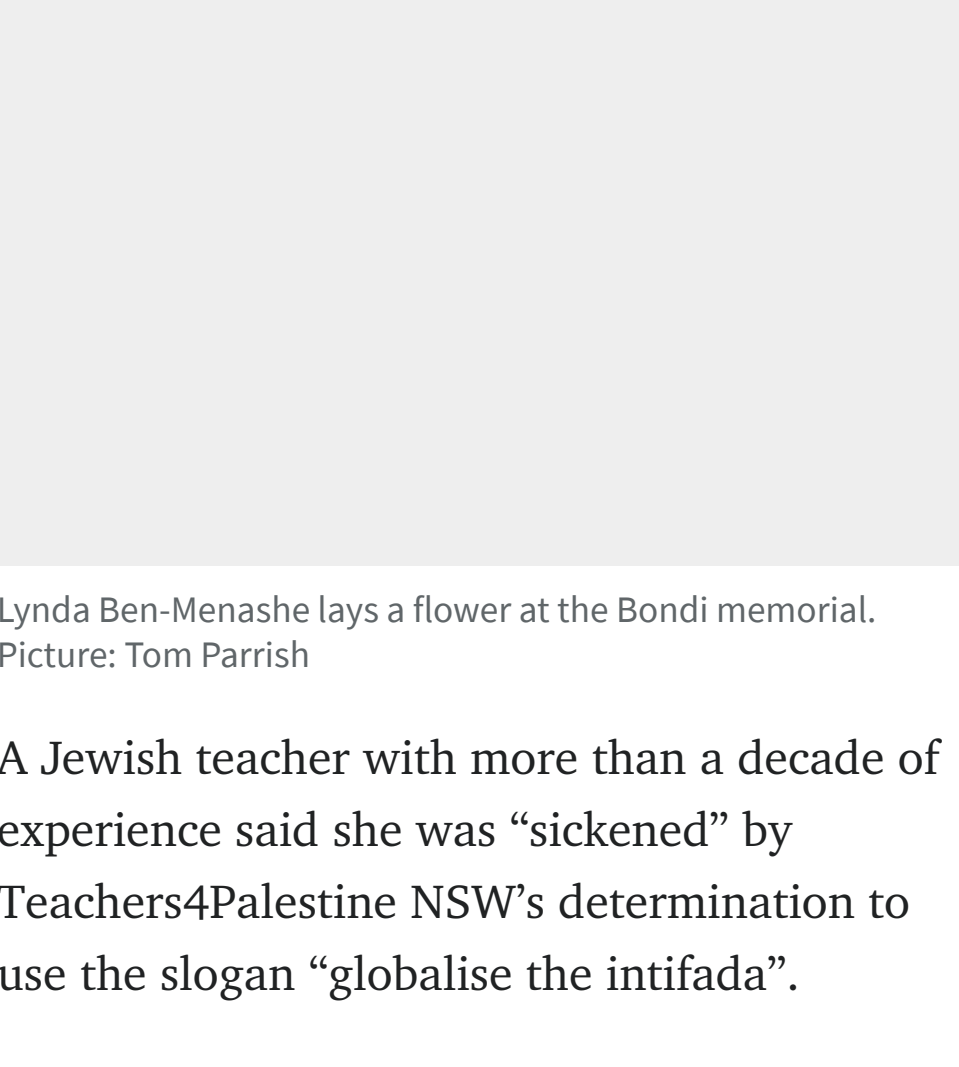
The Daily Telegraph

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It comes after The Sunday Telegraph revealed last month that [unauthorised lesson plans featuring Bluey were being circulated among the activist teachers](#) at NSW schools.

EXCLUSIVE Students being taught to hate Israel in secret lessons Play lunch then intifada



Protest children's cartoon characters, including Bluey, go viral as NSW teachers circulate lesson plans featuring the character in classrooms.

The Sunday Telegraph has revealed a number of pro-Palestine NSW teachers have been circulating lesson plans featuring cartoon characters such as Bluey and Miffy in classrooms. The plans include instructions for teachers to tell students that these characters are “sickened” by the actions of the Israeli government. The plans also feature a “sickened” cartoon character of the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and a cartoon of the Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, with the text “From the river to the sea Palestine will be free!”

The plans also feature a cartoon of a child with a rabbit head, a reference to the cartoon character “Bluey” who has been widely used in Australian schools for its educational value. The plans also feature a cartoon of a child with a rabbit head, a reference to the cartoon character “Bluey” who has been widely used in Australian schools for its educational value.

Security blanket to envelop Israeli President's visit

The Sunday Telegraph revealed unauthorised lesson guides were being circulated by pro-Palestinian teachers. Picture: The Sunday Telegraph

To promote last week’s meeting, Teachers4Palestine NSW alerted its followers on Instagram that Premier Chris Minns was changing the code of conduct for teachers, to “prohibit hate speech”.

“He has not made clear what that is, or what problem he (Minns) claims to be addressing,” the group said.

“At the same time he is moving to ban the slogan ‘globalise the intifada’, which is a call for liberation, not hate speech, and there is legislation before parliament to include the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism in teacher code of conduct.”

The activist group also said in the post that the new laws were an “attack on teachers and the Palestine movement”.

“Under new codes of conduct teachers could be sacked for comments they make on social media in their own time.

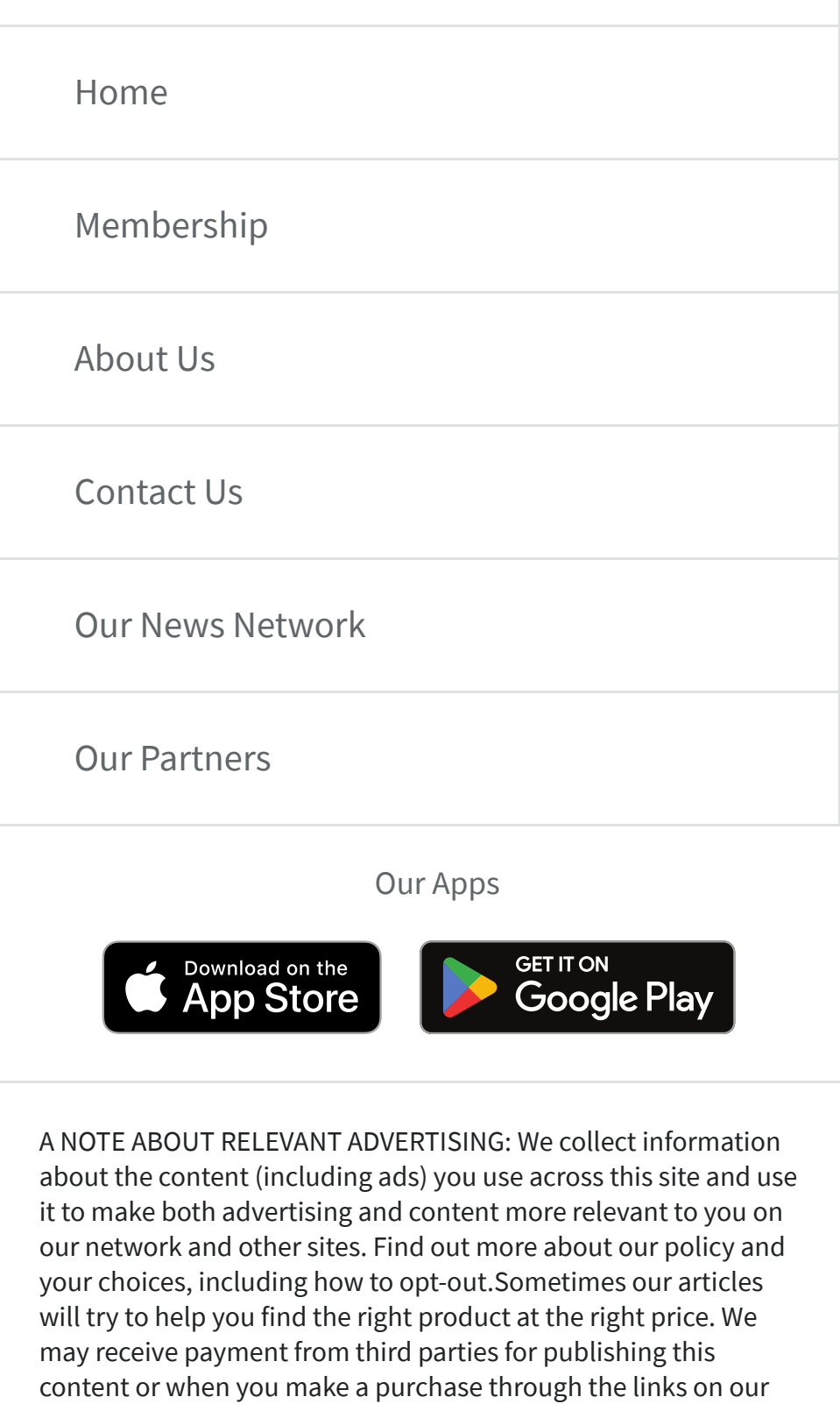
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Lynda Ben-Menashe lays a flower at the Bondi memorial. Picture: Tom Parrish

A Jewish teacher with more than a decade of experience said she was “sickened” by Teachers4Palestine NSW’s determination to use the slogan “globalise the intifada”.

“We are the ones who feel constantly unsafe and under attack after the Bondi terror attacks, which claimed the lives of 15 innocent people,” the teacher said.

“Their continuous anti-Semitic rhetoric have deeply upset me and others.”

National Council of Jewish Women Australia (NCJWA) president Lynda Ben-Menashe, who is aware of ongoing anti-Semitism directed at Jewish teachers within Sydney schools, said it was “extremely worrying” that the group had “not deliberately” educated themselves about the history and meaning of words they use.

“An intifada is a terror spree that blows schoolchildren apart,” Ms Ben-Menashe said,

“The IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition, which these people have clearly not read, explicitly states that ‘criticism of Israel similar to that levelled at any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic’.

“This absolutely wilful ignorance and determination to test the Premier’s hate speech laws should result in serious consequences to the full extent of those laws.”

Another educator said: “The problem is a lot of these teachers are easily identifiable in the videos they post of them participating in rallies on social media, and students can easily recognise them. These are not leaders – they are cowards.”

Education Minister Prue Car said: “Anti-Semitism and hate have no place in our schools or anywhere in our community.

“Since the anti-Semitic terrorist attack at Bondi, our government has moved quickly to do everything we can to stamp out divisive and hateful language.”

A Department of Education spokesperson said: “Our teachers know and understand they should be politically neutral during class, on school grounds, or any time they identify themselves as a public-school teacher.”

Teachers4Palestine NSW has been contacted for comment.

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