

Feminists should tear down the Hateriarchy

Lynda Ben-Menashe



A suburban childcare centre daubed with the words “F —k the Jews” and set ablaze – the sixth firebombing of property in exactly two months. Three of the six arson attacks were on synagogues, the other three were on the cars, businesses and homes of Australians whose neighbours are Jewish.

We are all the victims of hate crimes, even if we’re not the designated targets. And at this time of year, when we are supposed to examine our “Australian values”, it’s worth thinking about that.

A childcare centre. What kind of depravity motivates someone to desecrate and firebomb a place where infants learn and play and sleep? I’ve been waiting for the outpouring of condemnation from Australian parenting and family NGOs. The furious posts from mommy bloggers and children’s rights activists. The outrage on X from feminists. Crickets.

Feminists are the people whose heroes tore down the patriarchy. I’m a feminist and we’re still trying to tear it down. Misogyny and patriarchy are still proper targets for our anger, our energy and our action.

In 2025, patriarchy’s kind of a safe target, though. Being (or saying you

are) a feminist is de rigueur in government and business and academia, as it should be.

But as the leader of Australia’s 101-year old peak representative body for Jewish women, I’m perturbed that almost none of our feminist sisters are talking about the other system that needs to be torn down: the Hateriarchy.

I think they’re not talking about it, or that childcare centre blaze specifically, because a number of them have drunk the KoolAid of the Hateriarchy.

Since October 7, 2023 the trend to what I call ‘exclusionary feminism’ – because their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion excludes Jewish women – has become an absolute explosion (pun intended). The juxtaposition of words and silence from these people is instructive.

Exclusionary feminists who correctly lament the plight of Palestinian women killed or displaced by this war started by Hamas say not a word about Israeli women raped, massacred, abducted or displaced by them.

Instead, they reject even the UN’s report about the sexual violence, saying “this is not a #MeToo or ‘Believe all women’ moment”.

Not a word about the tableau we saw a week ago when three young Israeli women were pawed by uniformed, balaclava-ed, submachine-gun toting Hamas terrorists as they were being “released” from 15 months of bondage in the middle of a sea of men baying for their blood.

Or this week, when another four were paraded like meat on a stage, flanked by the same monsters.

Contrast with those silences the exclusionary feminists’ screeching about Jewish/Zionist women – by which they mean me and over 90 per cent of Jewish Australian women.

A survey of Jewish Australians conducted by Monash University in the weeks after October 7 found that 91 per cent of respondents had an emotional attachment to Israel.

I am one of that 91 per cent, who understand Zionism as the right for Jewish people to have sovereignty in our ancestral homeland, Israel, where my own father was born.

That doesn’t mean I don’t believe in the rights of Palestinian people to their own sovereignty too. As a Zionist feminist I care about the rights of all the women who live in Israel – Jewish, Arab, Christian, Muslim, Druze, Baha’i and more. I care about the rights of Palestinian women too, one of whom has been the tour guide I’ve

worked with for over ten years, taking study tours to Israel and the West Bank. But nuance isn’t much part of the public conversation today.

The stated duty of exclusionary feminists is to “make every space culturally unsafe for (us) Zionists”. They express acidic contempt for our “Jewish feelings”. At university “human rights” conferences they present Der Sturmer-worthy caricatures of “Dutton Jews” which they claim as comedy.

They share names, addresses and/or photos of the Jewish people they dub “Jewish Zionist creatives” – including an 11-year-old girl.

No wonder the hate-filled exclusionary feminists haven’t said a word about the burning down of that childcare centre. They say they want to burn Australia down, after all.

“The only day that will be celebrated in this colony is the day it burns,” was how one activist put it.

We should all take note that recipients of these despicable words have received more than a million taxpayer dollars in funding for their academic and artistic “work”. And there are many more recipients of government funding who align with them.

It’s time to wake up and realise that the enemy of Jewish Australians is the enemy of all Australians.

The next childcare centre they daub with “F —k the Jews” and burn down, might have your toddler sleeping inside at nap time. It’s well beyond time to tear down the Hateriarchy.

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