

**From:** [Giridharan Sivaraman](#)  
**To:** [Leanne Smith](#); [Rosalind Croucher](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Discussion on approach to responding to political attacks [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 March 2024 1:50:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Super. [REDACTED] is preparing a list of Jewish groups I should speak to. I'll pass on your info.

Re the issue of engagement more broadly – perhaps I'll get [REDACTED] to tee up a time.

Finally – hope you are both holding up ok after the tumultuous 24 hours just gone, and well done to Ros for lining up a meeting with Julian Leeser.

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**From:** Leanne Smith [REDACTED] s47F  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:42 PM  
**To:** Giridharan Sivaraman [REDACTED] s47F Rosalind Croucher  
[REDACTED] s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Discussion on approach to responding to political attacks [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Giri,

Hope you are well! Very glad to discuss both ideas/topics.

I've been having some excellent conversations recent with/about 2 emerging community groups that I think will be excellent partners for your engagement. It seems they share similar goals and values that also align with human rights based approaches.

One is the Jewish Council of Australia <https://t.co/TtE7usvDfL> who your team may already be reaching out to.

The other is a progressive Muslim group about to launch soon (I understand from external contacts we have staff who may also be involved). Glad to share more information as it comes.

Best,

Leanne

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**From:** Giridharan Sivaraman [REDACTED] s47F  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:58 PM  
**To:** Rosalind Croucher [REDACTED] s47F Leanne Smith  
[REDACTED] s47F  
**Subject:** Discussion on approach to responding to political attacks [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Ros and Leanne,

As a result of the attacks on the AHRC yesterday, on Darren's suggestion, I'm expediting

and increasing my proposed engagement with Jewish communities. I was going to have these meetings but take a bit more time. Now at least, when the inevitable question comes up in Estimates, I'll be able to say I met with Jewish communities as a priority to hear their concerns on antisemitism.

However, more broadly, I'd like to talk with you both about what we do when we get attacked like just occurred. I don't like the idea of our critics dictating to how we act. Human rights is always going to be a contested area with heat (none more so than my portfolio) and I want to be (as best as possible) strategic and planned in how I and we as a Commission proceed and respond.

I've been in the job 8 days, no doubt you are both far more experienced on this issue. Hence I thought at some point we could get together and talk about it?

Thanks

Giri

**Giridharan Sivaraman** (he/him)  
Race Discrimination Commissioner

**Australian Human Rights Commission**

GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001

[W humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au)

**Human rights: everyone, everywhere, everyday**

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land,  
the Gadigal peoples of the Eora Nation, and pay  
our respects to their Elders, past, present and future.*



**From:** [Rosalind Croucher](#)  
**To:** [Giridharan Sivaraman](#); [Leanne Smith](#)  
**Cc:** [Darren Dick](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Discussion on approach to responding to political attacks [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 March 2024 2:18:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Absolutely!

Saw Darren at the airport in Melbourne briefly and I was going 'yes, yes, yes' to both of you.

We seize this as an opportunity-- I can take a bit of the flak if necessary and give you the clear air to run strongly with this and with the shine Affairs funding as good reason

It looks like a meeting with Leeser has been set up. I'll grab this and use it to clear the air on a number of points. And get set up for a bigger meeting with you and maybe Lorraine who is also interested. The religious discrimination bill may also be public by then.

The basic rule is go high, reach out, listen, apologise if warranted then focus forward

Ros

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**To:** Rosalind Croucher s47F [Leanne Smith](#)  
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