

The Presiding Magistrate
Burwood Local Court
7-9 Belmore St, Burwood NSW 2134

Your Honour

[REDACTED]

Character Statement Mr Alexander Gollan

I have known Alexander Gollan since [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To the best of my recollection, listed is a summary of activities that Alex has engaged in during the last eleven years that relate to anti-discrimination activism, and also a list of repercussions that he has faced as a direct result of this activism.

Activities:

- *Created 'Australians Against Racism & Discrimination' forum on Facebook. Over 10,000 national members and active participants;
- *In 2010 created 'The Antibogan' Facebook page as a support forum for the blog of the same name.
- *Created www.ozstraya.com support and resource website for marginalised new arrivals;
- *Created and co-authored 'TheAntibogan' blog which on many occasions attracted over 10,000 pageviews per day;
- *Organised and participated in a number of public events and rallies for a range of causes including the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, support for marriage equality, and the support of international students;
- *Spoke on behalf of the Australian Human Rights Commission at an anti-racism conference;
- *Interviewed by Fairfax and NewsCorp publications in response to far right nationalist parties and their links to organised crime;
- *Was a requested informant for the NSW Police's anti terrorism squad and the Australian Defence Force's equity division;
- *Was the focus of a blog piece by the late Sam De Brito for the *Sydney Morning Herald* entitled 'Who is Going to Clean Up the Internet?' <http://blogs.smh.com.au/executive-style/allmenareliars/2011/03/15/theantibogan.html> ;
- *Was one of three main character storylines in the documentary 'Sunshine and Shade' which was launched at the Paramasala Film Festival and which consequently aired on SBS and on national television in India;
- *Was a keynote speaker for the NSW Reconciliation Council on the topic of 'I'm Not Racist... But';
- *Was a published author for *Vice Magazine* and *Vibewire* as a voice for anti-discrimination activism – this link is a mirror of the original *Vibewire* article <https://theantibogan.wordpress.com/2013/06/07/love-it-or-leave-the-irrationality-of-racial-bigotry-in-australia-vibewire/>
- *Appeared on SBS Insight's main panel as a voice against the policies aimed at asylum seekers;
- *Raised money for a variety of activist organisations by creating and distributing T-shirts and stickers.

Repercussions:

Alexander Gollan and his mother have stated to me, and Alex has related to others and reported on many occasions to police, that he:

- *Had to move home three times and become a silent elector in response to death threats made at his place/s of residence and via phone/Internet;
- *Had to change phone number four times;
- *Was the victim of a five year campaign of defamation which included having white nationalists wait at the front of the school he taught at and having his employer (NSW Department of Education) receive an enormous amount of anonymous allegations of paedophilia;

- *Had his friends and family contacted and threatened;
- *Had his mother receive damage to her car, front door locks and letterbox and receive threatening phone calls in the middle of the night;
- *Had fake social media profiles created purporting to be him and contacting minors online as well as posting inflammatory comments in public groups;
- *Had websites created about him with private photos photoshopped and published without his permission;
- *Had photos taken of his home through a side window and posted on far-right Internet forums;
- *Had information about his car registration plate, phone numbers, place of residence and lists of his family and friends' contact information posted on far-right websites;
- *Had defamatory and abusive messages levelled at him both in public groups and through private channels of communication on a daily basis;
- *Had hacking attempts, some of which were successful, attempted on his social media profiles and email addresses on a daily basis.

I attended [REDACTED] Police Station with Alex on two separate occasions and witnessed officers assigned to the matter (junior detectives) tell Alex that nothing could be done.

I also attended the [REDACTED] Alex in relation to a matter under Section 474 of the Commonwealth Crimes resulting from alleged threatening telephone calls. Alex also received no positive result at that time and the outcome of the case was uncertain since it was directed to the wrong court.

I currently have matters before the police relating to a similar level of abuse from white nationalist organisations and individuals for my own involvement in anti-discrimination activism (Event Number [REDACTED]) So far I have heard nothing as to any police action in the matter.

I offer this statement voluntarily and can be contacted for verification by officers of the Court on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]