



18 September 2023

**As Australian Parliamentarians, in support of our colleagues' delegation to the United States in September 2023, we are resolutely of the view that the prosecution and incarceration of the Australian citizen Julian Assange must end.**

Together with a large and growing number of Australians we believe it is wrong in principle for Mr Assange to be pursued under the Espionage Act (1917), and that it was a political decision to bring the prosecution in the first place. In any case, this matter has dragged on for over a decade and it is wrong for Mr Assange to be further persecuted and denied his liberty when one considers the duration and circumstances of the detention he has already suffered. It serves no purpose, it is unjust, and we say clearly – as friends should always be honest with friends – that the prolonged pursuit of Mr Assange wears away at the substantial foundation of regard and respect that Australians have for the justice system of the United States of America.

We agree entirely with the position expressed by the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese who said in the House of Representatives on 22 May 2023 that “enough is enough when it comes to the ongoing incarceration of Julian Assange and that nothing is served from the ongoing incarceration of Julian Assange.” We welcome the recently expressed agreement on this point from the Leader of the Opposition, and we make clear that the bipartisan leadership support for this position is matched by the wide cross-party and independent support within the Australian Parliament itself, which in turn reflects the strongly held views of the Australian community.

Let there be no doubt that if Julian Assange is removed from the United Kingdom to the United States there will a sharp and sustained outcry in Australia.

We note with gratitude the considerable support in the United States for an end to the legal pursuit of Mr Assange from members of Congress, human rights advocates, academics, and civil society, and from within the US media in defence of free speech and independent journalism. On that basis we ask Congresspeople, members of the press, and other relevant civil society stakeholders in the United States to speak up now in supporting an end to the prosecution and detention of Julian Assange.

We believe the right and best course of action would be for the United States' Department of Justice to cease its pursuit and prosecution of Julian Assange. Alternatively, a decision to simply abandon the extradition proceedings would have the sensible, just, and compassionate effect of allowing Mr Assange to go free from a prolonged and harsh period of high-security detention. It is well and truly time for this matter to end, and for Julian Assange to return home.

Yours sincerely,

The co-convenors of the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group:

Handwritten signature of Andrew Wilkie in blue ink.

**Andrew Wilkie MP**  
Independent Federal  
Member for Clark

Handwritten signature of Josh Wilson in blue ink.

**Josh Wilson MP**  
Labor Federal  
Member of Fremantle

Handwritten signature of Bridget Archer in blue ink.

**Bridget Archer MP**  
Liberal Federal  
Member for Bass

Handwritten signature of David Shoebridge in blue ink.

**David Shoebridge**  
Greens Senator for  
New South Wales

The undersigned members of the Australian Parliament:



Dai Le MP  
Member for Fowler



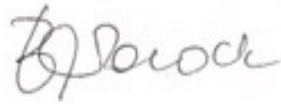
Kylea Tink MP  
Member for North Sydney



Senator Nick McKim  
Senator for Tasmania



Steve Georganas MP  
Member for Adelaide



Senator Barbara Pocock  
Senator for South Australia



Senator Peter Whish-Wilson  
Senator for Tasmania



Dr Mike Freeland MP  
Member for Macarthur



Rebekha Sharkie MP  
Member for Mayo



Senator Jordan Steele-John  
Senator for Western Australia



Julian Hill MP  
Member for Bruce



Colin Boyce MP  
Member for Flynn



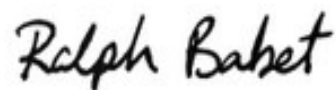
Brian Mitchell MP  
Member for Lyons



Senator Alex Antic  
Senator for South Australia



Senator Gerard Rennick  
Senator for Queensland



Senator Ralph Babet  
Senator for Victoria



Dr Sophie Scamps MP  
Member for Mackellar



Dr Helen Haines MP  
Member for Indi



Senator the Hon Matt Canavan  
Senator for Queensland