Dear Sir/Madam

The bills as currently presented are not good enough, treat religion as a mere exemption to anti-discrimination laws, and do not acknowledge a positive right to religious belief. Australia is a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which upholds “the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”. The Government’s proposals need to do much more to reflect the positive right to take action and speak one's religious beliefs in both the public and private spheres.

The laws do not provide proper protections for non-faith-based beliefs (i.e. preserving freedom of speech, conscience, association, etc.)

The laws need to override problematic state-based anti-discrimination laws;

Protections need to be extended to all: churches, church organisations (even of a so-called “commercial” nature), employees in the workplace, businesses, and other organisations.