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Expressing concern about Hindu-phobic research funded by ARC

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To: ceo@arc.gov.au

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Good morning Judie,

I have come across a research grant being offered by your prestigious university, which promotes Hindu Phobic biased research which will not only exacerbate the hate and violence against Hindu Australians but will also negatively impact the relationship between Australia and India.

<https://www.deakin.edu.au/study/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/find-a-scholarship/hdr-scholarship-transnational-hindutva-populism>

It is disheartening to say the least that Deakin University and the ARC is happy for Hindus and Indians to pay the fees and contribute to the economy, while with their back hand they promote hate and violence against Hindus.

Victoria, which claims to be an epitome of multiculturalism and is indeed an example, has been the centre of attacks on three Hindu temples in less than one month and the world also saw physical violence against Indian Hindus spilling on the streets in the heart of Melbourne.

Instead of doing something constructive and trying to protect the Hindus and Indian Australians, Deakin University and the Australian government through the ARC is sponsoring a smear campaign against us.

The language and aim of this so-called research is prima-facie objectionable and is pre-loaded with bias and geared to push the negative narrative targeting the Hindu community of Australia.

The "research" topic seems to have already reached a conclusion and the process being conducted is just to fudge a narrative to regurgitate their anti-Hindu bias as a publication and then use the same as reference to further the Hindu-hate.

One cannot imagine how and why the Chair of a religious faculty in Deakin University may be allowed by Deakin University to smear another community of Australia in the garb of academic "research", except when the ARC and University already have a negative predisposition towards Hindus and Indians in Australia.

Does the University believe that running a smear campaign against Hindu Australians will not discourage Hindus and Indians from choosing their University.

Will this funded Hindu-phobic research not put Victoria in the spotlight as a centre for excellence in Hindu hate, especially with the backdrop of attacks on Hindu temples and physical criminal violence against Hindus.

The Hindu Australians and Indian Australians demand an answer to why our tax dollars, (minding the fact that Hindu Australians are one of the most educated and highest tax paying residents in Australia), is being spent to fund research against their religious philosophy.

1. Why would you need the 'Research Chair in Islamic Studies' to lead the study on Hindu philosophy and ideology?
2. Why does the topic pre-supposes the 'Hindu philosophy' - popularly known as 'Hindutva' (translated as 'Essence of Hindu religion'), is something negative?
3. Would the ARC or University have the courage to commission a research on 'Transnational XXX Populism in Australia'. I invite you to replace XXX by any other religion or faith group and see how that makes you feel.

This research topic is clearly aimed at denigrating peace-loving Hindus and reeks of outright Hinduphobia.

I have included a few community stakeholders in my email as this so-called research is likely to offend Hindus in Australia and over one billion peace-loving Hindus worldwide.

As you would imagine, this is one cause that we will not allow to pass and we will raise this at all possible forums and media channels, which will unfortunately end up hurting Australia's image and our international education industry, which we all so desperately need to sustain.

We will publish this email on public domain to inform the Australian community about the sadistic hate agenda being run by the government and Deakin University against Hindu Australians.

This biased "study" will also be used to fabricate allegations against the current Indian democratically elected government by the research team, all under the patronage of the revered Deakin University.

It is my earnest request to you to please withdraw this research and seek an explanation from the research team for choosing this highly objectionable and ill-motivated topic by using our scarce and valuable public money.

With kind regards

Rajendra Pandey JP

President, Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. (SA)

Director, Hindu Economic Forum of Australia Ltd.

Convenor, Hindu Organisations Temples and Associations (HOTA) Forum

Member, South Australian Multicultural Commission

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