



Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc.

World Hindu Council

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Press Release

We are delighted and proud to announce that the NSW Senate has passed a motion on 12 May 2021 asking Greens MP David Shoebridge to withdraw comments made by him against Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc (VHP) and apologise to the Hindu community.

Mr Shoebridge made malicious statements about VHP claiming it as a 'Right Wing Hindu Terrorist Organisation' during a Budgets estimate hearing on 5 March 2021. The allegations made at budget estimates attacking the peak body representing all Hindu Australians had deeply hurt and offended the entire Hindu community.

This motion comes as a huge win for VHP and Hindu community as whole. It was proposed by Mark Latham of One Nation Party and won support across the political divide. Mr Shoebridge was slammed for using the budget estimate hearings as a platform to slur a peace-loving community with false allegations. His inability to provide any facts and evidence before the house invited criticisms from other members of the house.

The house was presented with the facts that VHP is a registered incorporated charity in New South Wales with no paid staff but over 250 volunteers. VHP's special religious education SRE program—teaching Hindu dharma—is fully approved by the NSW Department of Education.

The Department of Education has worked with VHP as an approved partner since October 1998 and confirmed that it considers the group to be a longstanding and upstanding partner, fully recognising the contribution of its volunteers in SRE. Furthermore, the NSW Police Force has confirmed that VHP is not a terrorist organisation and it has no concerns about the group.

The senate passed a motion calling on Mr Shoebridge to retract the statements that he made and apologise to VHP Australia and the Hindu community for the hurt that has been caused, particularly at a time when that community is very worried about the COVID situation in India.

One of the key phrases of Hinduism is "*Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah*" which means "Those who protect the dharma are protected by the dharma." With this motion being passed, we all got the chance to witness the power of this great saying and an assertion that the truth always prevail.

We are grateful to the Liberal Party, One Nation Party and the Labour Party for presenting the facts in house and supporting the truth. We would also like to thank all the volunteers from other Hindu organisations who supported VHP throughout our fight against the attack on Hindu community.

Subramanian Ramamoorthi
National President

17 May 2021

Australia's largest Hindu organisation

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