



**Hon. Alan Tudge MP**

Acting Minister of Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs

12 November 2020

Dear Minister Tudge,

This letter is to request your Government take immediate steps towards addressing Senator Eric Abetz's conduct during the Senate Hearing held on Wednesday, 14 October 2020 on *Issues facing Diaspora Communities*, where he explicitly asked the only three Chinese Australian witnesses - Osmond Chiu (Research Fellow, Per Capita Think Tank), Yun Jiang (Editor, The China Story) and Wesa Chau (Deputy Lord Mayor Candidate, City of Melbourne) to "*unequivocally condemn*" the Chinese Communist Party. No other witnesses were questioned in this manner.

The three witnesses made separate submissions to the inquiry on different topics. To single out and question, three Chinese Australian witnesses on the basis of their Chinese heritage is essentially "*loyalty testing*" their allegiances.

When confronted to apologise via a series of opinion pieces, news reports and social media advocacy, the Senator has repeatedly refused to admit his wrongs and apologise. Instead, he continues to claim that what he did during the hearing "*is not racism*".

As the acting Minister for the Multicultural Affairs portfolio, you would understand how damaging Senator Abetz's behaviour is to Australia's social cohesion and encourages suspicion towards the wider Chinese Australian community which makes up almost 6% of the entire Australian population.

It is in Australia's broader national interest and to the benefit of our global standing to show that our elected leaders do not believe Senator Abetz's behaviour is acceptable.

The strength and resilience of our multicultural liberal democracy will be shown by the Government's actions. Silence sends a strong message of tolerance for his behaviour.

We would like to ask you in your capacity as the acting Minister for the Multicultural affairs portfolio to:

1. Request Senator Eric Abetz apologise to the three witnesses at the hearing (Osmond Chiu, Yun Jiang and Wesa Chau) for questioning their loyalties and allegiances on the basis of their cultural backgrounds;
2. Issue a statement with Prime Minister Scott Morrison addressing this situation clearly and directly, reassuring the Chinese Australian community that this line of "loyalty testing" was unacceptable behaviour and will not happen again in any capacity.

Signed,

**Tanya Plibersek MP**, Federal Member for Sydney, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Andrew Giles MP**, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Stephen Jones MP**, Federal member for Whitlam, Shadow Assistant Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Financial Services, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Pat Conroy MP**, Federal Member for Shortland, Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Shadow Minister Assisting for Climate Change, Shadow Minister Assisting for Defence, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Tim Watts MP**, Federal Member for Gellibrand, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Ged Kearney MP**, Federal Member for Cooper, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Graham Perrett MP**, Federal Member for Moreton, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Dr Anne Aly MP**, Federal Member for Cowan, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Josh Burns MP**, Federal Member for McNamara, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Kate Thwaites MP**, Federal Member for Jagajaga, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Milton Dick MP**, Federal Member for Oxley, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Anne Stanley MP**, Federal Member for Werriwa, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Julian Hill MP**, Federal Member for Bruce, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Senator Tim Ayres**, Senator for NSW, ***Australian Labor Party (ALP)***

**Adam Bandt MP**, Australian Greens Parliamentary Leader and Federal Member for Melbourne, ***Australian Greens***

**Senator Mehreen Faruqi**, Anti-racism spokesperson and Senator from NSW, ***Australian Greens***

**Senator Janet Rice**, Foreign Affairs and Multiculturalism spokesperson and Senator from VIC, ***Australian Greens***

**Senator Rachel Siewert**, Australian Greens Senator for WA, ***Australian Greens***

**Senator Jordan Steele-John**, Australian Greens Senator for WA, ***Australian Greens***

**Mick Gentleman MLA**, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Member for Brindabella, ***ACT Labor***

**Michael Pettersson MLA**, Member for Yerrabi, ***ACT Labor***

**The Hon Pierre Yang MLC**, Western Australian Legislative Council, ***WA Labor***

**The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC**, Shadow Finance and Small Business Minister, and Shadow Minister for the Gig Economy, ***NSW Labor***

**The Hon John Graham MLC**, Shadow Minister for Roads, Shadow Minister for Music and the Night Time Economy, ***NSW Labor***

**The Hon Peter Primrose MLC**, Member of Legislative Council, ***NSW Labor***

**The Hon Rose Jackson MLC**, NSW Legislative Council, ***NSW Labor***

**Jo Haylen MP**, State Member for Summer Hill, ***NSW Labor***

**Jenny Leong MP**, NSW State Member for Newtown, **NSW Greens**

**Jamie Parker MP**, NSW State Member for Balmain, **NSW Greens**

**Tamara Smith MP**, NSW State Member for Ballina, **NSW Greens**

**Abigail Boyd MLC**, NSW Member of Legislative Council, **NSW Greens**

**David Shoebridge MLC**, NSW Member of Legislative Council, **NSW Greens**

**Cate Faehrman MLC**, NSW Member of Legislative Council, **NSW Greens**

**Clr Jerome Laxale**, Mayor, **City of Ryde, NSW**

**Clr Darcy Byrne**, Mayor, **Inner West Council, NSW**

**Clr Linda Scott**, Local Councillor, **City of Sydney, NSW**

**Clr Penny Pedersen**, Local Councillor, **City of Ryde Council NSW**

**Clr Kun Huang**, Local Councillor, **Cumberland City Council, NSW**

**Clr Warren Tegg**, Local Councillor, **Georges River Council, NSW**

**Clr Kathryn Landsberry**, Local Councillor, **Georges River Council, NSW**

**Clr Charishma Kaliyanda**, Local Councillor, **Liverpool City Council NSW**

**Clr Nathan Hagarty**, Local Councillor, **Liverpool City Council, NSW**

**Michele O'Neil**, President, **Australian Council of Trade Unions**

**Melissa Donnelly**, National Secretary, **Community and Public Sector Union (PSU Group)**

**Andrew Dettmer**, National President, **Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU)**

**Tim Kennedy**, National Secretary, **United Workers Union**

**Sylvia Hale**, Co-Convenor, *The Greens NSW*

**Erin Wen Ai Chew**, Founder and National Convener, *Asian Australian Alliance (AAA)*

**Molina Asthana**, Victorian Head Convener, *Asian Australian Alliance (AAA)*

**Thomson Ch'ng**, NSW Convener, *Asian Australian Alliance (AAA)*

**Adri Lozano**, NSW Convener, *Asian Australian Alliance (AAA)*

**Stephanie Jack**, Tasmanian Convener, *Asian Australian Alliance (AAA)*

**Emma Dawson**, Executive Director, *Per Capita*

**Dr John Falzon**, Senior Fellow, *Per Capita*

**Tim Lyons**, Former Ass. Sec. ACTU and *Research Fellow Per Capita*

**Shirley Jackson**, Economist, *Per Capita*

**Eddie Micallef**, Chair, *Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria*

**Dr Trina Supit**, member of the Indonesian community and former Teachers Federation member, *Ethnic Communities Council*

**Anita Tang**, Community Organising Director, *Centre for Australian Progress*; Chair, *Democracy in Colour*

**Luke Hilakari**, **Secretary**, Victorian Trades Hall Council

**Kirsty Albion**, Executive Director, *Australian Progress*

**Phong Trinh**, on behalf of *Australian Progress*

**Tim Lo Surdo**, Founder & National Director, *Democracy in Colour*

**Neha Madhok**, on behalf of *Democracy in Colour*

**Jessica Kendall**, Co-Director, *Economic Media Centre*

**Lena Nahlous**, Executive Director, *Diversity Arts Australia*

**Priscilla Brice**, Managing Director, *All Together Now*

**Jason Yat-sen Li**, President, *Chinese Australian Forum*

**Thuy Linh Nguyen**, Organiser, *Sydney Alliance*

**Mary Waterford AM**, Member, *Sydney Alliance*

**Dr Anthony Pun**, OAM, *Multicultural Communities Council of NSW* and Foundation President, *Chinese Community Council of Australia* & Coordinator, *Chinese Australian Leaders Group*.

**Dr. Yeow-Tong Chia**, President, *Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia*

**Dr. Russell Jeung**, Founder, *Stop AAPI Hate, USA*

**Alison Pennington**, Senior Economist, *Centre for Future Work*

**Luke Whittington**, on behalf of the *SEARCH Foundation*

**Medical Association for Prevention of War, Australia**

**Sam La Rocca**, Co-Executive Director, *The Sunrise Project*

**Kristy Walters**, on behalf of *Community Power Agency*

**Edie Shepherd**, co-founder and board member of the *Progressive Tech Network*

**Christine McKenzie**, President, *PEN Melbourne*

**Mark Isaacs**, President, *PEN Sydney*

**Matt Kunkel**, Director, *Migrant Workers Centre*

**Kelly Albion**, Campaign Director, *350.org Australia*

**Claire Pisani**, Founder, *Culture Confidence*

**Adam Ni**, Editor, ***China Story***

**Rosanna Barbero**, CEO, ***Addi Road***

**Kelly Albion**, on behalf of ***350.org Australia***

**David McKnight**, Honorary Associate Professor, ***University of NSW***

**Frank Stilwell**, Emeritus Professor, ***University of Sydney***

**Dr Josephine Scicluna**, Casual Academic, ***Deakin University***

**Chuck Chan**, Secondary School Teacher, ***Nazareth College, VIC, Australia***

**Eva Cox AO**, Individual

**John Menadue AO**, Individual

**Helen Hewett AM**, Individual

**Osman Faruqi**, Individual

**Daphne Lowe-Kelley**, Individual

**David Peetz**, individual

**Mike Yan**, Individual

**Teik-Kim Pok**, Individual

**Erin Quill**, Individual

**Tyrone Liu**, Individual

**Dr Ben Harris-Roxas**, Individual

**Kumiko Kawashima**, Individual

**David Yu**, Individual

**Tom Walsh**, Individual

**Joeline Baker-Lang**, Individual

**Karen Shamberger**, Individual

**Tock-Chin Cynthia Loh**, Individual

**Michael Been Choon Loh**, Individual

**Daniel Lim**, Individual

**Limei He**, Individual

**Susan Elfert**, Individual

**Finian Augustin**, Individual

**Ciann Chow**, Individual

**Catherine Crittenden**, Individual

**Marcus Rubenstein**, Individual

**Jane Liang**, Individual

**Jez Hunghanfoo**, Individual

**Anna Song**, Individual

**Siaw-Teng Liaw**, Individual

**Emily Sims**, Individual

**Brian Aarons**, Individual

**Jacqueline Widin**, Individual

**Peter Murphy**, Individual



**Matt Byrne**, Individual

**Tim Dunlop**, Individual

**Dr Justine Lloyd**, Individual

**Jessie Lu**, Individual

**Gerald Roche**, Individual

**Siau Fong Leow**, Individual

**Sissi Chen**, Individual

**Guylord Dela Fuente**, Individual.