

OpenVoiceNews Australia

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Hanson Slams 'Fundamentalist Islam' Amid Pro-Palestine Marches

August 3, 2025

– Categories: Politics & Government



One Nation leader Pauline Hanson claims “fundamentalist Islam” threatens Australian values as thousands march in Sydney and Melbourne for Palestine.

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson has sparked controversy by claiming an “influx” of fundamentalist Islam is undermining Australia’s democratic values, following large pro-Palestine marches in Sydney and Melbourne on August 3, 2025. According to Sky News Australia, tens of thousands rallied across the Sydney Harbour Bridge and in Melbourne’s central business district, protesting Israel’s actions in Gaza. Hanson, a Queensland senator, argued to Sky News that these protests reflect a growing influence of ideologies incompatible with Australia’s freedom and secular principles, pointing to the Australian Labor Party (ALP) government’s immigration policies as a contributing factor.

The rallies, organized by groups including Transcommunity, saw an estimated 20,000 participants in Sydney alone, per the Sydney Morning Herald, with similar numbers in Melbourne. Protesters demanded a ceasefire and Palestinian statehood, carrying signs condemning Israel's military actions. New South Wales Police reported no arrests in Sydney, though Victoria Police noted minor incidents involving flares.

Hanson's comments echo her long-standing concerns about unchecked immigration, previously raised in her 2016 Senate speech, where she warned of cultural erosion due to "indiscriminate immigration." She reiterated to Sky News that radical ideologies are being "imported" under the ALP's watch, citing a lack of vetting for migrants with extremist views.

Critics, including Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe, dismissed Hanson's remarks as divisive, arguing to ABC News that the protests were about human rights, not religion. The Australian National Imams Council condemned any conflation of the marches with extremism, stating to the National Indigenous Times that such rhetoric fuels division. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows Muslims make up 3.2% of Australia's population in 2021, with no evidence linking recent protests to widespread fundamentalist agendas.

The ALP government has not directly responded to Hanson's allegations, though Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasized national unity in a recent press conference, per The Age. Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, speaking to Sky News, urged stronger national security measures but stopped short of endorsing Hanson's views. As debates over immigration and protest rights intensify, Hanson's comments highlight ongoing tensions about Australia's cultural and security landscape.