

SOROS GROUP 'GET UP' PUSHING BACK AGAINST FOREIGN DONATION BAN

From: Paul – GetUp! [mailto:info@getup.org.au]

Sent: Saturday, 10 February 2018 2:45 PM

To

Subject: This is not a drill

Imagine if we couldn't fight Adani. Or if Big Pharma was allowed to write health policy. *Or if the Big Four Banks called the shots on our wages and taxes.*

That's what'll happen if the hard-right succeeds in wiping out grassroots activism and robbing everyday people of our democratic rights.^{1,2}

What's their plan? Under the guise of "national security", they've introduced draconian new legislation to crack down on civil society – *and the GetUp movement is squarely in their sights.³*

This is not a drill. If the hard-right's new Bill passes, it'd have a *catastrophic* impact on our movement's ability to fight for what matters most – from Adani and Manus, to our local schools and hospitals.⁴

We need to rise up in opposition. **And that means tens of thousands of people signing on to a unified *Statement of Opposition* that we'll hand-deliver to every single MP and Senator in Canberra.**

[Click here to read and sign on to the Statement of Opposition, and defend our right to fight for a better future.](#)

Criticism of the hard-right's new legislation has come thick and fast. Charities like Vinnies and World Vision⁵, the union movement⁶, legal experts⁷ Senate crossbenchers⁸ and libertarian groups like the IPA⁹ have all spoken out against the Bill. Even ultra-conservative NewsCorp columnist Janet Albrechtsen has accused the government of trying to "muzzle GetUp" rather than put forward genuine reforms.¹⁰

And of course, GetUp members have been front and centre – calling their MPs and chipping in to fund hard-hitting legal research.

Stuart, it's starting to work. Under the barrage of criticism, the Government announced they "may" put up amendments to tweak the Bill. **But amendments won't cut it: the experts agree the worst parts of this Bill can't be fixed by a few simple tweaks. It must be rejected outright.**

[Will you sign on to the Statement of Opposition calling on politicians to block this bill and defend the rights of everyday people?](#)

Make no mistake Stuart, this is the biggest threat our movement has ever faced – **but they wouldn't be throwing everything they had at destroying us unless they were terrified.**

Terrified because they know we're going to succeed in saving the Reef from Adani's monster coal mine. Terrified because they know we're successfully building an economy in which corporations pay their fair share and people aren't forced into poverty.

But most of all they're terrified because they know we're taking power away from those who exploit it – and giving it back to everyday people.

[We can't let them win this fight – everything we fight for is on the line. Join me now in signing the Statement of Opposition.](#)

I've never been prouder to stand next to each and every one of you.

Yours in determination,

Paul, for the GetUp team

PS – The Turnbull Government is trying to pass this bill off as simply preventing offshore campaign contributions corrupting our political system. But just 2% of the bill's text deals with offshore campaign contributions – the remaining 98% attacks civil society and our democratic rights:

[Sign the Statement of Opposition to expose this bill for the dangerous farce it is.](#)

References:

[1] *Tim Costello compares Coalition's foreign donation ban to Putin's crackdown on dissent. The Guardian, 1 February 2018*

[2] *'Absurd': Government's donations crackdown threatens grassroots campaign funding, Sydney Morning Herald, January 29 2018*

[3] *GetUp! targeted in foreign donations ban, Australian Financial Review, 5 December 2017*

[4] *Charities warn Australia's foreign donation laws will strangle advocacy, The Guardian, 11 January 2018*

[5] *Same as 4*

[6] *ACTU Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, published 25 January 2018*

[7] *Foreign donation and charity law changes 'likely' to face high court challenge, the Guardian, 12 January 2018*

[8] *Mathias Cormann concedes Coalition may have to change foreign donations ban, the Guardian, 7 February 2018*

[9] *IPA joins forces with GetUp! to condemn 'unprecedented and dangerous' donations law, Sydney Morning Herald, January 29 2018*

[10] *Liberals must not sacrifice free speech to curb GetUp!, The Australian, 7 February 2018*