

Governments' moral compasses have been lost as hatred gains foothold

COMMENT Zeddy Lawrence

Over the past 21 months, I've often been reminded of a line from Oliver Stone's 1991 blockbuster JFK.

As he explains to his team that Lee Harvey Oswald couldn't have fired the fatal shot that killed the president and that the assassination and its cover-up actually involved everyone from the

mob to Cuban nationalists to members of the US government, Kevin Costner's character Jim Garrison exclaims, "We're through the looking glass here people".

In short, like Alice of Wonderland fame, nothing is as it should be. It defies comprehension.

Since the Hamas atrocities of October 7, 2023, that phrase keeps popping into my mind.

Not so much because of what we, the Jewish community, are experiencing or enduring, but because of the authorities' reaction to it, or rather lack of reaction.

Anti-Semitic slogans are chanted outside the Sydney Opera House and the perpetrators get away with it.

An anti-Semitic protest following the Burgertory blaze, which had nothing to do with Jews, diverted to outside a

synagogue. But rather than the protesters being moved on, it's the synagogue that has to be evacuated.

The Melbourne CBD a no-go-zone for Jews at weekends. Jewish students fearful of going to university where they're harassed by activists allowed to set up encampment. Performances by Jewish artists cancelled because venues are worried about pro-Palestinian

protests. All the time, Jews penalised to accommodate the haters. We're through the looking glass here, people.

And now, one synagogue burnt to the ground in December, another this weekend narrowly escaping the same fate, and a restaurant trashed.

Why? Because for the past 21 months, our governments have sacrificed their moral compasses on the altar of

appeasement and woke populism, allowing anti-Semitism to fester and failing to crack down on anti-Zionism, which we see time and again – and which this latest synagogue attack clearly demonstrates – is simply anti-Semitism through the backdoor.

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