

These signs of anger, vandalism and passion were thought to be a thing of the past and yet we saw evidence of vandalism, racial taunts, intimidation and unwarranted printed and fabric material being displayed in prominent areas around Melbourne. Is the work of a community that is trying to be recognised as a civilised nation in the eyes of the world or is the signs of a nation who have been programmed to act in this manner.

These types of anti-social behaviour belongs in the Dark ages and not in today's enlightened society. Both sides have much to learn from each other and both sides have much to gain, but to come to that point negotiations must be on a level playing field and a positive result being the outcome.

Aussie Greek community leaders have consistently sent the same message of positive reinforcement and not to retaliate in anyway or form and/or act in a manner that will attract negative publicity and destroy the goodwill the Aussie Greek community is held by the rest of Australian society. If one community can do this then certainly such acts of patience should be reciprocated by the other. After all not only do they share the same faith, but there are many intermarriages between the two and have much in common with each other.

There is no blame here, only recriminations and unwarranted acts of intimidation and violence which if not checked or nipped in the bud has the potential to cause further damage to both community's reputation and standing in society. Vile comments, fibs, lies, innuendoes, threats and intimidation are rife at the moment on social media outlets, which have culminated in one group accusing the other of falsehoods and reporting each other to the various social media communication platforms and blocking each other needlessly. When will it stop is my question?

Both communities need to be aware that Australian society has now put them both under the microscope and such are being judged accordingly. No amount of propaganda and falsehoods will change public opinion nor will they influence the law makers of each nation when they sit down at the negotiation table. If matters do not simmer down and allowed to escalate both communities will suffer in the long term and will never reconcile under any circumstance. It may also drive them into camps not of their own choosing as a means of attracting allies to consolidate their own weak position.

My message to both warring groups is to chill out, take a break, reflect and consider the ramifications if this matter gets out of hand. Stop the propaganda, the vandalism, the burning of flags, intimidation, threats, racist comments and the never ending war of war on social media outlets. Aussie Greek peak organisational leaders and community elders have already demonstrated by their positive messages that Aussie Greeks are not to retaliate and to allow events in Europe to take a course of their own. As for those of the Slavic FYROMITE community, they could well take a leaf out of the Aussie Greek brethren and follow suit. If they can do that, then it is a clear sign that both can live with each other harmoniously in a country we all call home, Australia.



Peter Adamis is a Journalist/Social Media Commentator and writer. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), and Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Website: abalinx.com Contact via Email: abalinx@gmail.com or via Mobile: 0481 342 791