

The Daily Telegraph

Extremists' views only cause division

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Every year tens of thousands of immigrants arrive in Australia, eager to build new lives in our free and fair nation. Some come from countries where any deviation from authoritarian rule may result in imprisonment or death.

Some are fleeing war zones or religious and political persecution. Some wish to spare their children from the cruel restrictions and lack of opportunity in their homelands.

All are united, however, in their choice of Australia as the ideal place to live. This is universal, from Sudanese seeking liberty to British citizens seeking sunshine.

Yet if one were to accept the views of extremist Greens who populate the Left Renewal agitation group, Australia is a hateful place founded on division and riddled with injustice.

Left Renewal is planning a number of protests against Australia Day, calling for the flag to be burned, celebrations to be disrupted and protest graffiti to be sprayed on walls and roads.

It's all part of their attempt at "decolonisation".

Labor's Anthony Albanese, in an elegant understatement, yesterday declared: "These people are out of touch with mainstream Australia.

"Every Australia Day commemoration I have been to acknowledges our indigenous history and the injustices suffered, but also promotes positive discussion about our future.

"Thousands of people will pledge their allegiance to Australia as our newest citizens in front of family, friends and community and that deserves to be respected not disrupted." Well said. Incidentally, if Left Renewal wishes to decolonise Australia, they're going about it all the wrong way. Non-indigenous members of Left Renewal need only leave Australia to do their bit for decolonisation. Sell your property and belongings and hit the airport.

You might have a little difficulty finding anywhere else on earth that wasn't previously colonised, but at least you'll be rid of evil Australia.

Premier Mike Baird points out that our national day stands for all: "Australia Day is a day for all Australians, and our flag unites us all in our diversity. Anybody setting out to disrupt those celebrations, or promote disrespect for our flag, will be unsuccessful." Again, well said. Australians happily embrace all who arrive here and become productive and creative Australians. The members of Left Renewal, on the

other hand, imagine they speak for the marginalised and oppressed while only parading ridiculous moral vanity. They will not heal divisions. They will only cause them.