

Community Relations Commission

For a multicultural NSW

Your Ref:
Our Ref: sk/bb 6789
File Ref:

- 1 FEB 2012

Mr Joseph Skrzynski AO
Chairman
Special Broadcasting Service
Locked Bag 028
Crows Nest NSW 1585

Dear Mr Skrzynski

I refer to the series, "The Promise", recently televised by the Special Broadcasting Service.

The Community Relations Commission has the legislated responsibility to promote community harmony in our multicultural and multi-faith society.

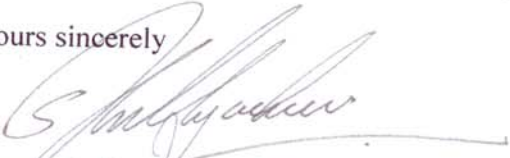
I am acutely aware of the distress that the series caused to the Jewish Community, particularly to the survivors of The Holocaust.

At the core is the concern that the series negatively portrays the WHOLE of the Jewish People. Such a portrayal cannot be justified in ANY context. There is a distinct separation between condemning an action by a government on the one hand and condemning the whole of the people of a nation collectively, through stereotyping, on the other hand. In the context of television, I am of the view that the portrayal of an entire nation in a negative light as part of a dramatic work is not acceptable either. This is reinforced by SBS Code 1.3.

Stereotyping, particularly in the context of race or ethnicity not only creates distrust and hatred but condemns the generations yet to be born.

I urge the Board of the Special Broadcasting Service, as the ultimate editorial authority of its programming content, to re-consider the representations from the Jewish Community with due regard to the potential destructive consequences of racial stereotyping and desist from further publication or distribution of the program.

Yours sincerely


Stepan Kerkyasharian AO
Chairperson

cc: NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

Head Office
Level 8
175 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A2618
Sydney South NSW 1231
Tel: (02) 8255 6767
TTY: (02) 8255 6758
Fax: (02) 8255 6868
Wollongong Office
84 Crown Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
PO Box 363
Wollongong NSW 2520
Tel: (02) 4224 9922
Fax: (02) 4224 9933
Newcastle Office
Government Office Block
117 Bull Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
Tel: (02) 4929 4191
Fax: (02) 4929 7369
Website
www.crc.nsw.gov.au
ABN 79 863 510 875



BACKGROUND

Stepan Kerkyasharian, AO

Head of SBS Radio in its formative years and member of the Executive team which set up SBS Television.

A member of the Independent Complaints Review Panel of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation for ten years.

Has been the President of the Anti-Discrimination Board for the last 8 years and Chair of the Community Relations for the last 22 years.