

# The Representation of Diverse Jewish Communities within the Australian Jewish Community

## Lecture by Angelica Jacob

- Monday, 10 February 2025, 03:30 PM,
- A. K. Basak Auditorium, Presidency University, 86/1 College Street, Kolkata – 700073.

### Bio:

Angelica Jacob is an Indian Jewish (Bene Israel) memoirist, writer, former journalist, editor, successful entrepreneur and non-profit director from Sydney, Australia. She is a former staff reporter of *The Australian*, Australia's national broadsheet newspaper, where she reported extensively on the vibrant information technology market and wrote features on women's issues and higher education. As Associate Editor at IDG, the US based tech media publisher, she uncovered many exclusive news stories, interviewed and profiled industry icons, wrote features and edited a regular bi-annual section.

Her numerous publications include her autobiographical work *Finding Home: Memoir of a Jewish Girl* (2019), which she will be discussing along with her thesis titled "The Representation of Diverse Jewish Communities within the Australian Jewish Community", which earned her the degree of MPhil from the University of New South Wales, Sydney in 2024.

### Abstract

It examined the representation of Jews from minority and marginalised backgrounds in Australian Jewish community leadership groups and forums. The study explored how stakeholders feel and think about these matters, identified potential strategies and made a range of recommendations for strengthening their participation and inclusion. In doing so, it addresses a knowledge gap.

The research study found that Australia's minority and marginalised Jewish constituencies are under-represented on boards of the established Australian Jewish community's political and cultural organisations. However, the landscape is gradually changing with concerted efforts by established Jewish organisations to showcase fair and equitable representations of their constituencies' diversity and an assertion by community groups for greater representation in Jewish political and cultural forums, the study found.

Among the study's other findings were: there is a paucity of precise Jewish Census data that represents its minority and marginalised constituencies; a greater appetite by diverse Jewish communities, particularly young respondents, to re-claim, design and shape their narrative via forums and focus groups; a need for leaders of diverse Jewish community groups to be more politically active in tabling their members' concerns to established Jewish organisations; and a need for greater accountability, professionalisation and more favourable outcomes across the board.

The research study identifies how the key principles of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) can be applied to the Australian Jewish community and makes a range of practical recommendations to achieve fair and equitable representations of minority and marginalised Australian Jewish constituencies.