

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express my deep concern at reports that Chelsea Manning's visa application may be refused and that she may not be allowed to enter into Australia.

Ms Manning is travelling to Australia to discuss the importance of strong civic discourse, and to allow Australian citizens to hear firsthand of her experiences both within the US military and as a private citizen. There is clearly strong public interest in her planned talks, with sold out shows in multiple Australian cities.

Australians have a right to hear from peaceful public speakers such as Ms Manning, who has been the recipient of several notable awards, including from the Federation of German Scientists, Electronic Frontiers Foundation and the International Peace Bureau. In 2014, she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

It should also be noted that in 2018, Ms Manning received a commutation of her sentence by President Obama, who at the time noted that she had taken responsibility for her actions and had already received an excessive sentence.

To deny her entry into the country would be an overreach of the powers afforded to the Minister for Immigration – Ms Manning does not pose a threat to the Australian public.

I urge you to grant Ms Manning a visa to enter Australia, and allow her free travel to undertake her planned speaking tour.

Thank you



Tim Singleton Norton
Chair, Digital Rights Watch