

Dear <<Letter Writer's Name>>

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the situation faced by Mr Julian Assange and the extradition proceedings still underway in the United Kingdom (UK).

On 4 January 2021 a British court held that it would be unjust to extradite Mr Assange to the United States (US) because of his poor mental health and a range of other factors.

This decision has since been overturned and a UK court has now approved Mr Assange's extradition to the United States. However, the UK Home Secretary now has to make a final ruling, and in a similar case in 2012, extradition was refused. Mr Assange also has the right to appeal any decision of the Home Secretary.

It is notable that, almost a decade ago, the Obama administration declined to charge Mr Assange – despite strongly condemning his actions. Prior to leaving office, President Obama also commuted the sentence of Chelsea Manning, the US soldier who was convicted of leaking secret information to Mr Assange.

While Mr Assange's circumstances are unique, he has the same rights – and is entitled to receive the same support – as any other Australian overseas.

Labor expects the Morrison Government to provide appropriate consular support to Mr Assange. This support is particularly important for so long as Mr Assange remains in jail.

Labor also continues to hold concerns about Mr Assange's health and has called on the Morrison Government to do everything in its power to ensure that Mr Assange receives appropriate medical care while his case is ongoing.

Labor believes that these proceedings have dragged on for too long. If elected, an Albanese Labor Government will call on both the UK and US Government to bring this matter to a close.

Thank you for writing with your concerns on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

<< Member's Name>>

<< member or senator's electoral designation >>