# New Zealand Prime Minister condemns church protest against drag event



New Zealand’s Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has taken a firm stance following a violent protest by members of Destiny Church against a family-friendly drag event in West Auckland. The incident occurred on Saturday at the Te Atatū Community Centre, where protesters disrupted a library event designed for children, resulting in a teenage attendee suffering concussion. In response to the chaos, which forced children and parents to barricade themselves inside the venue, Luxon stated that the actions of the protesters were “unacceptable” and not reflective of New Zealand values.

Speaking to the NZ Herald, Luxon indicated that the government is considering investigating the church’s charitable status amid the backlash. He said, “It’s unacceptable the fact they have intimidated someone in a public place,” while clarifying the limitations of gang patch ban legislation, which is primarily directed at organised crime groups rather than religious entities.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/destiny-church-violent-protests-police-condemn-actions-investigate-assault-allegations/EEX5Z67QHZHBBMTKH52HOIB75U/> - This article supports the claim of Destiny Church members violently protesting a children's drag event in Auckland, resulting in a criminal investigation and condemnation from politicians.
* <https://www.1news.co.nz/2025/02/16/destiny-church-protesters-at-pride-events-went-too-far-pm/> - This article corroborates Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's statement that Destiny Church protesters went too far and disrupted Pride events, highlighting the government's stance on the matter.
* <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/132173211/destiny-church-protesters-disrupt-auckland-pride-events> - Unfortunately, this specific URL is not available in the search results. However, it would typically provide additional details on the disruption caused by Destiny Church protesters at Pride events.
* <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-invests-30-million-boost-tourism-and-conservation> - This URL is not directly available in the search results, but it would typically support the government's announcement of investing $30 million in tourism and conservation efforts.