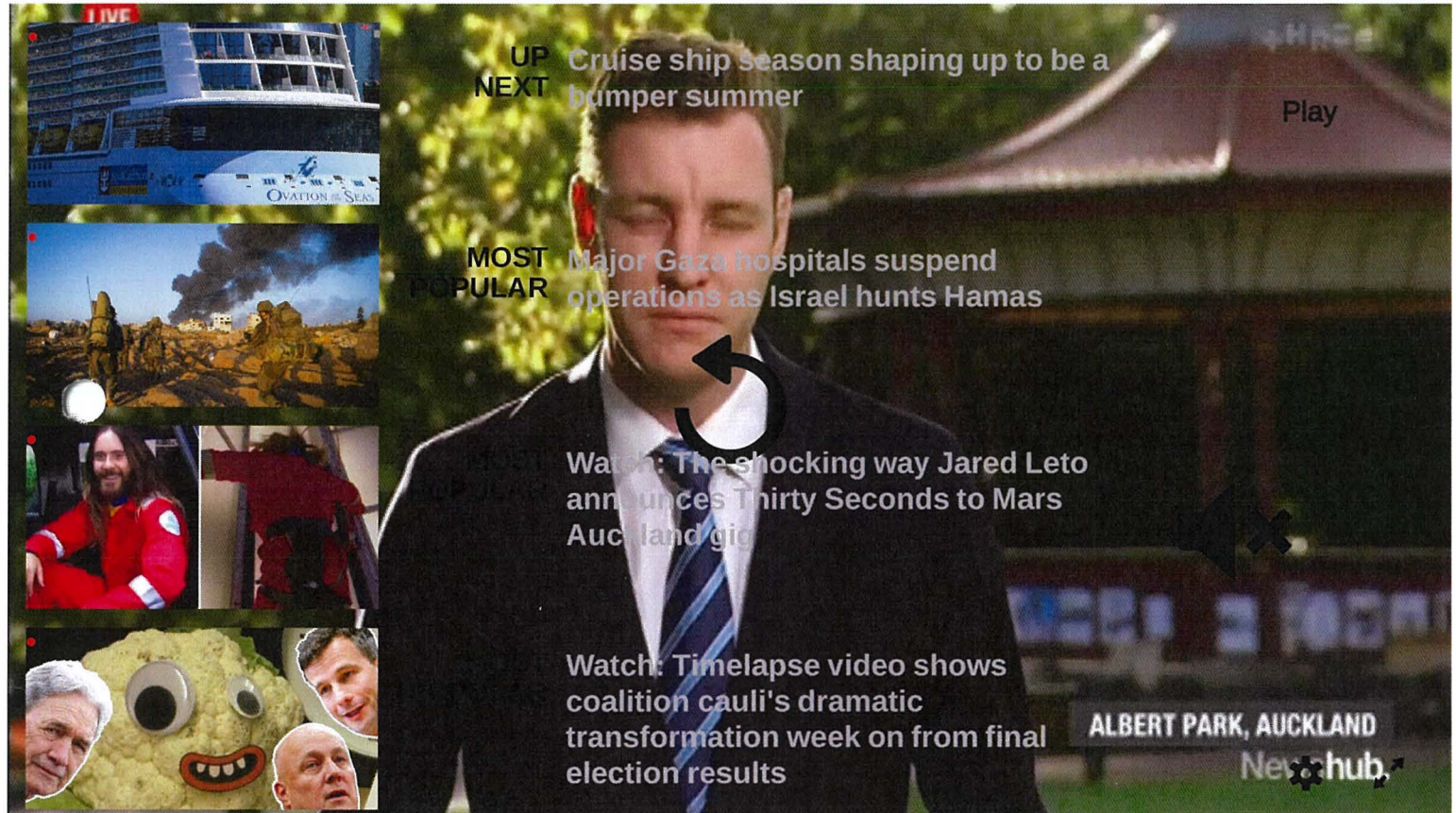


# National, Greens, ACT, Labour Parker's rally, freedom of spe Palmer, S., 2023

25/03/2023

Scott Palmer



Watch: Saturday's report on Posie Parker's rally. Credits: Image - AM + Posie Parker / YouTube; Video - Newshub

**P** New Zealand's **politicians and political parties are reacting** after controversial gender activist Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull - also known as Posie Parker - was forced to flee her rally in Auckland.

Parker was allowed into New Zealand after a failed bid to block her entry from rainbow groups, who feared the potential for violence from her supporters at her events.

On Saturday Parker's supporters gathered in Albert Park to hear her speak, where they were heavily outnumbered by trans-rights supporters.

Pushing broke out between attendees of Parker's rally and the larger counter-protest, and a small fight broke out as Parker made her way through the barricade to speak to the crowd.

Red liquid was thrown over Parker, and she was escorted out of the venue by her security guards after being rushed and sprayed with water.

## Related News



'Absolute chaos': Posie Parker dragged away from Auckland rally in 'riotous scenes', Wellington event in doubt

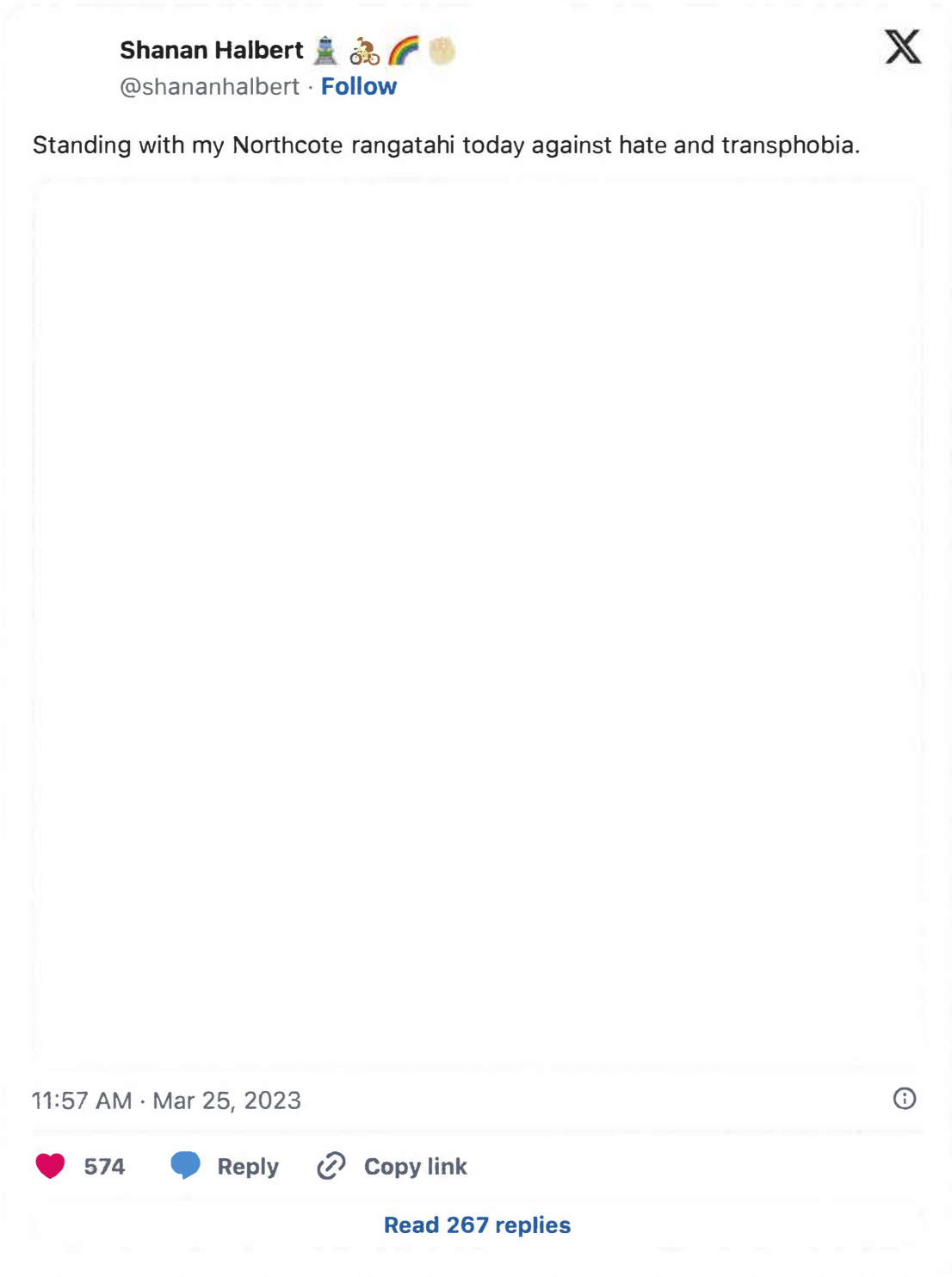


'I genuinely feared for my life today': Posie Parker responds after protest chaos

Labour MP Shanan Halbert attended the protest and told Newshub as chair of Labour's Rainbow caucus, it was important he was there supporting the rainbow community to stand against hate and transphobia.

"I'm so proud of our rainbow community and our allies for coming together in solidarity with our trans whānau," he said.

"I saw an energetic protest. One that stood up for what New Zealand stands for - inclusion and acceptance. I'm pleased that it was largely a safe environment for all."



The image is a screenshot of a tweet from Shanan Halbert. At the top, the name "Shanan Halbert" is displayed with a profile picture and a "Follow" button. Below the name is the handle "@shananhalbert". The tweet text reads: "Standing with my Northcote rangatahi today against hate and transphobia." The tweet is timestamped "11:57 AM · Mar 25, 2023" and has 574 likes. Below the tweet are icons for "Reply" and "Copy link", and a link to "Read 267 replies". The background of the tweet is a light blue gradient.

However ACT deputy leader Brooke van Velden said it showed the alternative to free speech is physical violence.

"In a civilised country, you counter ideas you don't like with more speech and debate, not violence and intimidation," she said in a statement.

"Ironically, the group who complained they were going to be the victims of violence ended up being the violent ones."



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P Van Velden warned we risk a divided society where "cancel culture spirals out of control".

"The only thing that could make this worse if the Government itself had the power to prosecute people for causing offence under so-called hate speech laws," she added.

"Better still, the Government could and should have enforced people's rights to speak and debate freely without resorting to violence."

National's justice spokesperson Paul Goldsmith told Newshub "there is no such thing as free speech if people are allowed to intimidate anyone they don't like".

"National affirms the right to protest but we condemn the use of violence. That's not how we should deal with differences of opinion in this country."

And New Zealand First leader Winston Peters warned shutting down freedom of speech sets New Zealand down a dangerous path.

"Whether you agree with her views or not, the irony of the disgraceful situation that occurred at the Posie Parker event, is that violence, hatred, and intimidation is coming from the very group who claim to be the ones standing up for inclusivity and freedoms," he tweeted.

"Don't think your violence and cancel culture is representing the majority of New Zealanders who want an open and free western democracy that values freedom of speech."

**Winston Peters**   
@winstonpeters · [Follow](#)



Replying to @winstonpeters

Whether you agree with her views or not, the irony of the disgraceful situation that occurred at the Posie Parker event, is that violence, hatred, and intimidation is coming from the very group who claim to be the ones standing up for inclusivity and freedoms.

4:56 PM · Mar 25, 2023



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During the chaos, Green Party co-leader Marama Davidson, attending a public rally in support of trans and non-binary human

is now looking at home with Miranda.

P

"The Green Party stands with our trans and non-binary whānau and supports action to ensure everyone can live their lives without fear of hate or discrimination," a Greens spokesperson told Newshub.



In a statement from Speak Up For Women after the Auckland event, they said Sunday's Let Women Speak gathering in Wellington has been cancelled.

"Keen-Minshull's security team have advised her that they cannot keep her safe from mob violence and the police have declined to do so," a spokesperson said.

"Speak Up for Women thanks Mrs Keen-Minshull for having the courage to come to New Zealand and showing up in Albert Park today, despite receiving multiple death threats and threats of violence in the last week.

"In the coming weeks Speak Up for Women will be gathering witness statements and laying a formal complaint with the Independent Police Conduct Authority about the lack of police action to prevent violence in what was clearly an increasingly volatile situation."

Sunday morning.

"I'm afraid I can't talk about my plans at all. I've been advised not to talk about them at all with anyone."

"If it's on tomorrow then I'll make an announcement tomorrow and if it's off, then I will do the same."

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