



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

## Media Statement

### We can only help Afghanistan through negotiation

17 August 2021

“Afghanistan has taught us several important lessons least of which is that interventionism can never produce real change, real change must come through negotiations and education.” Said AFIC president Dr Rateb Jneid.

“The Taliban retake of Afghanistan comes as no surprise – as the threat of China rises – the Taliban trained in live warfare through the allied invasion and occupation of Afghanistan will be relied on especially by Western powers to form a barricade against potential Chinese threat.” Said AFIC CEO Keysar Trad.

“The Taliban, like the Mujahideen have been trained by foreign powers and indoctrinated through foreign funding. Afghanistan transformed first through Russian intervention, then US intervention and now we see the game the major powers are playing with China, India and the West looking to Afghanistan as their ever-reliable battleground. All this will unfortunately be at the expense of Afghan people who have been devastated through decades of internecine strife and foreign interventions and occupations.” Said Mr Trad

“Many Afghans who cooperated with the occupation or who choose to live a more Westernised life will be looking to flee Afghanistan. Even before COVID, Western nations have never been able to accommodate the demand for humanitarian visas, under COVID, their abilities will be further restricted.” Said Dr Jneid.

“The people of Afghanistan can only be genuinely helped through negotiation with all factions, especially the Taliban. Afghanistan must be funded out of its present misery and the funding must be conditioned on improved facilities, especially educational facilities and access to education for all the men and women of Afghanistan.” Said Dr Jneid.

**Authorised by: Dr Rateb Jneid**

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*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing  
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