



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

Media Statement

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AFIC welcomes Religious Discrimination Bill 2022, the Bill must be passed before the upcoming federal election and the government must do more to protect Australian citizens

“The Religious Discrimination Bill 2022 seeks to provide necessary protections to faith communities; as I welcome the Bill, I thank the Australian government for taking our representations into account. I also thank Prime Minister Morrison for taking these steps to fulfil his election promise.” Said AFIC President Dr Rateb Jneid.

“Whilst this Bill goes some way to protect Australian faith institutions, it does not give sufficient protection to Australians as a number of industries remain uncovered and must be made subject to laws that prevent vilification or discrimination on the ground of religion. I implore all sides of Australian politics to get this Bill into law before the upcoming federal election and to immediately start working on a Bill to ensure that all sections of society are accountable for vilification of religious groups.” Said Dr Jneid

“The majority of Australians enjoy solace from a faith tradition or from their own form of spirituality. Though different Australians may have different faiths, they respect the sacred nature of their faith tradition and expect their political representatives to respect the first rule of democracy, that the majority’s peaceful wishes should not be overruled by the demands of one minority group.” Said Dr Jneid.

“I pray to Allah to guide our leaders to look out for the interests of society. Our elected leaders must use their conscience to allow us the freedom to practice our faith without being forced to hide or dilute any of our sacred teachings. I wake up every morning hoping to do good for humanity only to find, on many occasions, that someone out there is vilifying my community on the basis of our faith, and they do this with complete disregard for fact, reason or fairness. Taking the next step of creating a nationally consistent law to protect Australians from religious vilification is crucial for a more prosperous future for all Australians.” Said the most eminent Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari, national Grand Mufti of Australia.

Authorised by:

Dr Rateb Jneid

President, AFIC

The Most Eminent Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari

National Grand Mufti of Australia

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing
State and Territory Islamic Councils and Societies*



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