



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

Media Statement

17 March 2022

AFIC THANKS THE UN FOR DECLARING MARCH 15 AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA

Muslims across the globe welcome the decision made by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to approve a resolution setting March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

“This is a welcome positive step to protect freedom in religion by eliminating intolerance and discrimination towards the beleaguered Muslims of the world. We have long been waiting for the feeling of being seen and heard. We thank Pakistan and PM Imran Khan for bringing this resolution before the UN, we thank the UN for adopting the resolution and the leader of the Opposition, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP for his statement acknowledging, “the commitment to stamp out Islamophobia every single day we are given.”” said AFIC president Dr Rateb Jneid,

In her statement on the atrocious act of terrorism, New Zealand PM the Hon Jacinda Ardern gave this beautiful message:

“We will always remember and acknowledge the 51 shaheed who died as a result of the terrorist attack on March 15. One way their memories are honoured is through the work that is taking place to make our country a better home for all who live here.

“In the aftermath of the attacks, New Zealand and the whole world were inspired by the strength and resolve of our Muslim community, who in the face of unspeakable grief decided to respond from a place of love, and not from a place of anger or fear.

“Three years on, Muslim communities across Aotearoa New Zealand continue to inspire us with their resilience and generosity.

“Our Muslim community has always been open to dialogue and has often led the way as we work together to learn from that horror, so we can build a safer and more inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand.

“We should all learn from their example and play our part to support efforts to combat Islamophobia. There is absolutely no place for it in our community”.

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



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In a statement released on the Anniversary of the Christchurch massacre, Anthony Albanese MP wanted Muslims to know that:

“Likewise we must work to address the troubling rise in Australia of all race and religion-based hatred, including anti-Semitism, anti-Hindu and anti-Sikh sentiment.

“Today, on this most sombre of anniversaries, let our message be clear.

“To every member of the Muslim community: we stand with you.

“To every New Zealander: we stand with you.

“Hate will never divide us. Hate will never win.

We cannot afford to let it.”

“AFIC calls on all leaders to speak out against Islamophobia.” Said Dr Jneid.

Authorised by
Dr Rateb Jneid
President, AFIC

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