



AFIC Advocates for Solidarity and Reflection During Ramadan Amid Global Crisis

Wednesday 28th February, 2024

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) has made a considered decision to abstain from participating in any Ramadan Iftar events this year, hosted by the NSW Government.

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, beginning on either the 11th or 12th of March 2024, it is a time traditionally dedicated to fasting, prayer, and familial gathering. Given the present political landscape, we find it impossible to engage in communal meals with leadership that exhibits duplicity, notably the NSW Premier's stance. "NSW Premier must learn that he is a Premier for all NSW, and also represent people that are suffering and in pain about the Genocide in Gaza" said Dr Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC.

Moreover, AFIC has resolved not to hold its own annual iftar dinner. 'This year will donate the funds used for our yearly Iftar and donate it United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)' continued Dr Jneid.

AFIC believes that in these times of collective mourning and distress, it is more appropriate to channel our efforts and funds towards providing relief and support to those in dire need rather than convening for public events. We encourage our community to spend this time in contemplation and prayer for the well-being of individuals across the globe.

Ramadan is a sacred period devoted to spiritual growth, reflection, and the reaffirmation of our commitment to life's sanctity. This month, we call upon everyone to reflect on the importance of preserving life and to advocate for an end to the violence and suffering inflicted upon innocent people. We urge for accountability and action from all parties involved to halt the indiscriminate loss of life and to strive for peace and justice in these challenging times.

AFIC, established in 1964, stands as the Peak Muslim Organisation in Australia, with 170 members including 9 State and Territory Councils. It has a rich history of pioneering numerous community services and actively advocating for the rights and representation of the Muslim community.

Authorised:

Dr Rateb Jneid
President of AFIC