



Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Remembers Christchurch Attacks on 5th Anniversary

Friday 15th March, 2024

On this solemn occasion, the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) joins with communities across Australia and around the world to mark the fifth anniversary of the tragic Christchurch attacks.

Five years ago, on March 15th, 2019, the world was shaken by an act of unspeakable violence at the Al Noor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. This act of terrorism took the lives of 51 innocent worshippers and injured many others, leaving a scar on the hearts of Muslims everywhere.

Today, as we did five years ago, we stand in solidarity with the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand, and with all those affected by this senseless act of hatred. We honour their memory by reaffirming our commitment to promoting peace, understanding, and tolerance in our communities.

“We remember the lives lost and know that their souls are in Allah’s grace” said Dr Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC.

The Christchurch attacks served as a stark reminder of the urgent need to confront Islamophobia, racism, and extremism in all its forms. We note the rise of over 13-fold of attacks on islamophobia in Australia, and the scores of other that go unreported.

In the face of such hatred, it is incumbent upon us all to work together to build bridges of understanding and to foster a culture of inclusivity and respect.

As we reflect on this sombre anniversary, let us recommit ourselves to the values of compassion, empathy, and solidarity. Let us stand together as one community, united in our shared humanity and our determination to create a world free from fear and discrimination.

“AFIC extends its ongoing sympathies and support to the families and loved ones of the victims. Our thoughts and prayers are with you today and always”, Dr Jneid added.

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