



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

AFIC Reflects on the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica

Thursday, 11th July, 2024

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) solemnly observes Today, July 11, 2024, as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica. This day, designated by the United Nations General Assembly, honours the memory of the victims and survivors of one of modern history's darkest chapters, the Srebrenica genocide.

In July 1995, the Bosnian Serb army overran the town of Srebrenica, which had been declared a UN-protected safe area. Over several days, more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were systematically murdered, and thousands of women, children, and elderly were forcibly displaced. Recognised by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Srebrenica genocide stands as the largest massacre in Europe since the Holocaust.

"As we reflect today and honour the victims while supporting the survivors, we must recognise that these commemorations are not merely symbolic. If such atrocities do not catalyse action to prevent further atrocities, then we are merely paying lip service, dishonouring history, and being hypocritical in our present actions. What lessons have we learned, and how are we applying them in Gaza?" stated Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC.

Today, AFIC will join representatives of the Bosnian community to remember, and we pray that the lessons learned are not lost. All people of humanity should remember and act. The ongoing conflict in Gaza, where similar acts of aggression and violations of human rights occur, serves as a tragic reminder that the world has yet to fully heed the lessons of Srebrenica. "We must not allow history to repeat itself, and we must hold those responsible accountable to prevent further suffering". Dr Jneid added.

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

Authorised by
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