



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

## **AFIC Welcomes Appointment of Aftab Malik as Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia**

Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) extends congratulations to Mr Aftab Malik on his recent appointment as Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia. This significant appointment by the Albanese government marks a crucial step towards addressing and mitigating Islamophobia in Australia.

Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC, remarked, "We applaud the government's decision to appoint Mr. Malik, whose expertise and dedication will be vital in advocating for and protecting the rights of Muslim Australians. His role is crucial, not only in combating Islamophobia but also in fostering a more inclusive and understanding society."

AFIC also recognises that the appointment comes at a time when global conflicts, notably in Gaza and Lebanon, have exacerbated tensions and contributed to rising Islamophobia. These conflicts have not only led to tragic losses but also led to an increase in Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism in Australia particularly targeting individuals exercising their legitimate right to protest against and oppose the death and destruction currently taking place overseas.

Dr. Jneid added, "While we celebrate this appointment, we also urge Mr. Malik to use his platform to address the wider issues that fuel Islamophobia, including international conflicts affecting Muslim communities. True progress requires genuine engagement with the community and a commitment to addressing all root causes of discrimination and hatred."

AFIC looks forward to supporting Mr. Malik in his endeavours and hopes that his work will lead to substantial and meaningful changes. This role needs to extend beyond mere symbolism or tokenism and must genuinely engage with the community and oppose those voices that continue to demonise Muslims in this country and cause division.

We believe hope that Mr Malik, in his new role, can bring about genuine and lasting transformation in the fight against Islamophobia, fostering peace and understanding both domestically and in relation to global Muslim communities.

Authorised by  
**Dr Rateb Jneid**  
President of AFIC