



B'NAI B'RITH AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of B'nai B'rith Australia and New Zealand, we write to express our horror at the terror attacks at two mosques in Christchurch. We send our deepest condolences to the families affected by this horrific attack and to all the people of New Zealand.

Quoting Greg Sheridan from The Australian...

“Every civilised human being weeps with those worshippers, gathered in community, innocently at prayer, observing the reassuring rituals, hearing the reassuring words, gunned down in their sacred spaces. And weeps too with their families and friends. This is an act of pure evil.

There is only one human feeling here — solidarity with the victims and their families.

Today all these Muslims — the victims and their families — are our brothers and our sisters. They were innocent New Zealand citizens and residents — closer to Australia than any other nation — and hatred against them is as irrational and foul as any hatred.”

The hatred that inspired this contemptible act is an increasingly growing problem in far too many parts of the world. It has only been a few short months since the American Jewish community suffered a similar tragedy at Pittsburgh. Our community is still shaken to the core by that attack. To see nationalist extremism strike again—this time against Muslim congregants in New Zealand —is distressing for us and for all people of conscience.

The only way to defeat hateful ideologies is to confront them head on. B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand stands with the people of Christchurch and New Zealand at this terrible time of unimaginable loss. We pledge to stand with you against extremist hate and fanaticism in the future.

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