



مجلس الأمة القطرية الأسترالي AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL

Thursday 21 July 2016

MEDIA STATEMENT

ANIC RESPONDS TO CALLS TO BAN MUSLIM MIGRATION

The recent calls by some politicians and media commentators to ban Muslim migration to Australia in an effort to deal with the problem of terrorism is of grave concern to the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) and the Muslim community.

Australia has two main stories, the first is that of the original indigenous community and the second is that of migration. The Muslim story is however somewhat different. Muslims have been an integral part of the Australian landscape as far back as the eighteenth century if not earlier with the Macassan fisherman, followed by the Afghan cameleers, Malay pearl divers and migration since then.

Australian Muslims have and continue to make positive contributions to many facets of Australian society ranging from education to technology and health.

The current rhetoric against Australians of Islamic faith and the calls for migration bans have an eerie resemblance to devastating pogroms that occurred in the past. The demonisation of an entire community based on the actions of a very few is irresponsible and dangerous.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) wishes to take this opportunity to thank those courageous voices in the society who have spoken out against bigotry and hate. We call upon all fair minded Australians to stand firm in their support for harmonious coexistence of all of Australia's diverse peoples.

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