



**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL**



14<sup>th</sup> of March 2020

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

# **One Year Anniversary of the Christchurch Massacre**

15 March 2020 marks the first anniversary of the Christchurch massacre, where 51 innocent lives were taken and an equal number were injured at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

This massacre is one of the worst of our time, motivated by hate, bigotry and a strong sense of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim prejudice.

In NZ, globally and in Australia, people gather to mourn the victims and pay their respects to the families of the victims in commemoration of this tragedy.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) continues to raise and address the issue of heightened levels of Islamophobia and the dangers of white supremacy.

ANIC calls upon the Australian government to acknowledge Islamophobia as being a real threat and danger to our society.

We ask that the issues of Islamophobia and bigotry be addressed on a legislative level so that minority communities can be better protected.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) extends its ongoing prayers and support to the brothers and sisters affected by the Christchurch tragedy and also extends its sincerest gratitude to the people and organisations who continue to commemorate this sad tragedy and show their support.

**You may contact ANIC's Spokesperson, Bilal Rauf in relations to this media statement on 1300 765 940 or [spokesperson@anic.org.au](mailto:spokesperson@anic.org.au).**