

مجلس الأئمة القادرين الأستراليين

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



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PUBLIC STATEMENT

ANIC is Deeply Disturbed By Recent Derogatory Comments Made in India Against the Prophet Muhammad, (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)

The Australian National Imams Council is deeply disturbed by recent derogatory comments made in India against the Prophet Muhammad, *peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*.

Nupur Sharma, who was the official spokesperson of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made the remark in a televised debate last month, and videos of her statement have gone viral. Naveen Jindal, who was media head of the party's Delhi unit, had also posted a provocative tweet on the issue.

Although the two Indian leaders have issued public apologies and the party has suspended Ms Sharma and expelled Mr Jindal, the fact that such comments can be made in public is indicative of a toxic environment that seeks to denigrate highly esteemed and sacred religious symbols to not only Muslims, but people of any faith.

The Prophet Muhammad, *peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*, is revered by 1.9 billion Muslims worldwide, with more than 200 million Muslims living in India and over 231 million Muslims in Indonesia – one of Australia's closest and most important neighbours.

Islamic theology upholds that all Prophets and Messengers of Allah (God), from Adam up to and including Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad, *peace be upon them all*, must be held in the highest status and referred to with utmost reverence.

The member Imams and Scholars of ANIC say unequivocally and without hesitation:

“The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was sent by Allah (God) as a mercy to all creatures. His personality and character is not to be disrespected. An insult hurled towards his noble self is a grave insult and offence to all Imams and Muslims around the world.”