

# PRESS RELEASE



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## The LMA Expresses Heartfelt Condolences In Light Of Terror Attack

The Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) extends its heartfelt condolences to all who have been affected by the abhorrent and senseless act of terror that occurred today in New Zealand. We call upon our political leaders to call this attack on innocent civilians an act of terrorism and to condemn the ideology that inspires it.

Such a deplorable act of terror has found its way to the shores of our closest neighbour; bringing out the destructive political views of white nationalism. As Australians we need to take this threat seriously and urge the Australian government to take action in light of the continued rise of racially motivated and Islamophobic attacks.

The manifesto written by the attackers clearly shows the attacks were politically motivated. The attack used violence against civilians to pursue a political agenda and spread fear, hatred and mistrust.

This is a global cancer that needs to be stamped out before more senseless acts of violence and terror are perpetrated against defenceless civilians.

It needs to be highlighted that the attack was committed at a time when the Muslim community gathers for their weekly Friday sermon. A time usually spent in prayer and reflection in a place that is synonymous with peace and worship.

Samier Dandan, LMA President, said "Our condolences are with the Muslim victims who have paid the ultimate price whilst offering their prayers in a place of worship.

This heinous attack reflects the divisive political narrative on a global scale and it needs to be addressed and taken as a serious, violent threat. We do not have responsibility to fix this, this is an issue rooted in white supremacy and must be seen as such. We have had enough of divisive political narratives and actions. This is an act of terror that is targeted towards Muslims at the time of their prayer.

We hope that the wrongful loss of their lives becomes a catalyst for positive change on many fronts. We need to begin to better understand the deep hate and prejudice being perpetrated globally and its consequences and the role that our government and political leaders need to play to bring about a safer community for all."

We will not allow these attacks to intimidate us. We will continue to attend our places of worship and invite all who wish to find comfort after this tragedy to join us for a prayer vigil.

With a death toll that is rising as we speak, our thoughts and prayers remain with those who feel the full weight of this atrocity.

Prayer vigil information:

Time: 7:15pm

Address: Lakemba Mosque, 65-67 Wangee Road, Lakemba

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*Our Community, Our Future*