

Joint Statement

We, the members of the Darebin Interfaith Council (DIFC), together with faith leaders, faith-based organisations, communities of conscience and people of sincerity and goodwill within Darebin do jointly express our sympathies and humane support to victims of violence, their relatives and friends. As leaders and members of faiths, beliefs and traditions in Darebin, we are aware that we need to remain united as a community to eliminate violence in all its forms, and the use of violence to divide and weaken the spirit of solidarity that characterises our interfaith work. In this regard, we:

- Affirm that all people - regardless of race, nation or religion - are the family of humanity.
- Are deeply moved and saddened by the many terrible acts of violence and injustice perpetrated both around the world and in our local community.
- Send our deepest condolences and sympathies, thoughts and prayers to all the victims, their families and everyone affected.
- Declare that there can be no justification religious or otherwise for the killing and oppression of the innocent.
- Unequivocally condemn these callous and senseless acts of violence.
- Believe that the use of religion or any other socio-political ideology to "justify" violence and/or injustices is not acceptable.
- Reject terrorism in all its forms including as a means of achieving justice and peace.
- Share the distress of people from faith communities wrongly blamed, assaulted, vilified, or stigmatised by the crimes and terrible acts perpetrated in the name of their religion.
- Partner to ensure that upheavals do not divide and weaken the unity and diversity that characterises our interfaith work.
- Strive to nurture a world where people do not fear the unknown, intolerance and differences.
- Will strive to stop misinformation, bigotry and prejudice directed at the innocent.
- Urge all community members to remember that acts of violence and injustice violate the teachings of all the founding religions.
- Affirm freedom of expression and human rights are a cornerstone of our society and should be based on responsibility and respect.
- Are committed to tolerance, social cohesion, mutual respect and multiculturalism.
- Strive together to help stop the spreading of division, radicalisation and prejudice.

Darebin is a diverse and harmonious place where people from many different cultures, religions and spiritualities have made their home. During this time of global turmoil we call upon all Darebin residents to unite in affirming peace, mutual support and respect.

Therefore, we the Darebin Interfaith Council, invite members of the Darebin community to uphold the principles of this statement.