



**Muslim Association
of Canada**

Statement Condemning the Terrorist Attack on Mosques in New Zealand

Mississauga – March 15, 2019 – The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) emphasizes the holistic message of Islam within the context of Canada’s diverse society. Today, MAC issued the following statement regarding the deadly shootings at Mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand:

“MAC wishes to offer its most sincere condolences to all those affected by this horrific terrorist attack. Our thoughts and heart-felt prayers are with our brothers and sisters in New Zealand during this incredibly difficult time.

MAC stands with all Canadians in expressing our shock and sadness at this heinous terrorist attack in a place of worship on a holy day for Muslims. In the face of such acts of terror, we must continue to unite around our shared values of inclusion and diversity. As New Zealand PM Jacinda Arden stated, the people who were attacked in their places of worship are New Zealanders, “they are us. The person who has perpetuated this violence against us is not. They have no place in New Zealand.”

As our own community experienced in the aftermath of the Quebec City shooting, we know that New Zealanders will rally around the survivors. We also call on all mosques, schools and Islamic centres to be vigilant in the coming days and months. At the same time, we encourage our community members not to give in to fear, and to live their lives and pursue their ambitions with the same zeal and courage. We also call on law enforcement to heighten security at places of worship and in particular at mosques and Islamic centres.

We must reject violence and send a clear message to those groups that seek to divide us. The attack was carefully planned and designed to inspire Islamophobia across the world. We call on our governments and political leaders to confront the ideology that gives rise to these acts of terror and to recognize that Islamophobia has devastating consequences.

Today, MAC facilities across the country will hold a special prayer in support of all those affected. We call on all of our members to do the same.”

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For further information on MAC, please contact: +1 (905) 822-2626