

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND (NCLANZ)

Joint Statement by National Church Leaders

The National Church Leaders gathered in Wellington today (Tuesday 19th March 2019) to express their profound horror at the terrible violence towards Muslim people in Christchurch mosques last Friday. We are deeply saddened by these tragic events and we strongly condemn these acts of racial hatred and murder. We feel very deeply for our fellow New Zealand faith community, which was so cruelly attacked as worshippers peacefully gathered for prayer.

We extend our prayerful and heartfelt sympathy to the Muslim community here in New Zealand, and around the world. The whole Christian church community in New Zealand is praying for the Muslim community: praying for the healing of the wounded, comfort for the bereaved, and for God's peace upon all who have been traumatised.

At this time of deep shock, grief, and anxiety, we ask and pray for all New Zealanders to stand united, to have great love and compassion, and to show unflinching respect and kindness for all people who live in this society of Aotearoa New Zealand, regardless of ethnicity or religious affiliation. We believe there is absolutely no room for racial hatred in our land, and we are determined that we must stand together as one people, united as human beings created by God, and as fellow New Zealanders. May goodness overcome evil, and peace and goodwill prevail.

- Rev Dr **Bruce Alder**, District Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene
- Pastor **Steve Burgess**, Regional Overseer, C3 Churches
- Cardinal **John Dew**, Catholic Church of New Zealand
- Pastor **Iliafi Esera**, General Superintendent, Assemblies of God New Zealand
- Rev **Tale Hakeagaiki**, Chairman, Congregational Union of New Zealand
- Pastor Dr **Brian Hughes**, Regional Leader, Calvary Chapel Association
- Rt Rev **Fakaofu Kaio**, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
- Rev Dr **Stuart Lange**, Interim National Director, New Zealand Christian Network
- Pastor **Brent Liebezeit**, President, Christian Churches New Zealand
- Rev **Andrew Marshall**, National Director, Alliance Churches of New Zealand
- Pastor **Peter Mortlock**, Senior Pastor, City Impact Church

- Pastor **Lloyd Rankin**, National Director, Vineyard Churches
- Pastor **Boyd Ratnaraja**, National Leader, Elim Churches
- Archbishop **Philip Richardson**, Archbishop & Primate, Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia
- Pastor **Eddie Tupai**, President, New Zealand Pacific Union of the Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Rev **Craig Vernall**, National Leader, Baptist Churches in New Zealand
- Rev **Setaita Taumoepeau K. Veikune**, President, Methodist Church of New Zealand
- Rev Dr **Richard Waugh**, National Superintendent, Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand
- Commissioner **Andrew Westrupp**, Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army
- Pastor **Adam White**, National Leader, New Life Churches International
- Bishop **Mark Whitfield**, Lutheran Church of New Zealand
- **Lesley Young**, Yearly Meeting Clerk, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

For Media Contact:

- Cardinal **John Dew**, Catholic Church of New Zealand
- Archbishop **Philip Richardson**, Archbishop & Primate, Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia
- Rev Dr **Richard Waugh**, National Superintendent, Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand

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