

SCARBOROUGH, March 16 2019:

Salaam/Peace be upon you

With deep sadness and heaviness in our hearts, the Afghan Youth Engagement and Development Initiative (AYEDI) writes this statement to share our deepest and sincerest condolences and sympathies to the lives lost and to their loved ones impacted by the white supremacist and terrorist attacks on Muslims during Friday's/Jummah's worship services in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We are shocked, disturbed and utterly devastated to learn about the details of the heinous attacks through various media posts and outlets. It has come to our realization as well that members from the Afghan diaspora in New Zealand were murdered, injured, and impacted from Friday's violent and senseless attacks.

We stand firmly with our brothers and sisters here and across borders globally. We condemn these acts of terror and acts of violent extremism against any people based on their religious beliefs and personal backgrounds.

Those struggling with the impacts and trauma of the attacks may wish to visit these resources:

https://www.riversofhopetoolkit.ca/?fbclid=IwAR2DPdGZdwVKxHsfZ938xGnNA7NJn_qCnXigPeRRNAW7L9I_qYITNNMuKp4 - Rivers of Hope has organized an excellent toolkit to support survivors of Islamophobic violence and practical tools for communities to use and learn from.

https://issuu.com/nccm_publications/docs/single_page_nccm_community_safety_b - The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) has created an amazing and informative Community Safety Kit for Canadian Muslims. It aims to support mosque leaders taking proactive steps to keep their worshippers safe and respond to hateful incidents should they occur.

With love and solidarity,

AYEDI

