



## **SCIC STATEMENT ON THE ATTACKS ON MOSQUES IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND**

The South Coast Interfaith Council stands with our Muslim brothers and sisters in New Zealand as they recover from these despicable acts of hatred and violence against local mosques. We affirm that if all the world's societies are to be free of hatred that citizens and governments must provide sweeping protections for believers, adopt and enforce sensible gun control, and block the spread of hate speech in all forms of media.

We admonish all believers, humanists, atheists, and those of no declared or affiliated belief system to acknowledge the need for love for our fellow man. We state that no society can progress or succeed when any members are considered inferior, or unworthy of care or protection. We call on all governments to look beyond the influence of special interests, examine the lives of all people living within their borders, and realize that no society can truly prosper when so many are permitted to suffer at the hands their fellow human beings.

We affirm that only through the acceptance of our universal kinship can we create and sustain a society of peace and prosperity. We ask all citizens of the world to demand action and protections from their governments for those of all faiths, races, sexual orientations, classes or castes, the homeless and historically repressed peoples. We ask all citizens of the world to stop the spread of hate and violence and seek to bring peace and acceptance to the world's inhabitants.