



Dated : 16/03/19

To whosoever it may concern,

Subject : Statement on the recent attack in New Zealand

The attacks on the two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Friday 15 March 2019 left at least 49 dead and over 20 injured in its wake. The unprecedented attacks engulfed not only New Zealand but the whole world in utter horror and devastation.

We, at Medical Students Association of India, stand against any acts of hate and discrimination and extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of those affected.

Hate crimes, compared to other violent crimes, have a broader impact on victims and communities because they target people for core aspects of identity and have severe long lasting negative effects on both the victim and the community to which the victim belongs to. The recent attacks were a result of a disturbing anti-Islamic mindset; they were not only an attack on Islam but were an attack on humanity and the integrity of our society as a whole. We strongly condemn any form of extremism and believe that it is crucial for each one of us to understand the radical difference between religion and extremism.

We believe that the extremist attack is also an attempt to create a divide in the society and as an organisation of medical students standing for human rights and peace, we call:

The global community to:

1. Strongly condemn all forms of discrimination and hate crimes including, but not limited to: violence, vandalism, theft, and harassment.
2. Draw attention to the Article Three of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."
3. Support all actions taken in order to protect victims of discrimination from all forms of crime.

Governments and law enforcement to-

1. Increase precautions to protect minority groups, and to avoid all forms of discrimination towards them.
2. Promote education aimed at tolerance and mutual understanding, ensuring racial and gender equality as a strategic dimension and element of public planning.
3. Have an active role in preventing theories or racist ideas.

Medical professionals to:

1. Provide the highest quality of care to every patient regardless of race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.
2. Remain politically neutral when practicing.
3. Provide medical services to underserved populations avoiding racial, religious, and ethnic discrimination.
4. Understand the social and health factors that can make certain groups more vulnerable in our current society
5. Offer healthcare according to the ethical rules our profession stands on, not judging the patients nor exposing our moral beliefs.

We as medical students and proponents of equality and non-discrimination, advocate for reduction of racial inequality to be a global commitment and support active actions to prevent all forms of racial discrimination on all levels.

On behalf of the Executive Board and Team of Officials

*Nipun Nagpal*



President, MSAI (2018-19)

