



**COLUMBAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS**

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Statement on the terrorist attack on my Jewish sisters and brothers on Bondi Beach.

I stand in solidarity with all my Jewish sisters and brothers in Sydney, in Australia, and around the world, who have been devastatingly impacted by Sunday evening's terrorist attack on Jews at Bondi Beach. This was an antisemitic attack. It was even more heinous because it targeted Jews celebrating the first day of Hanukkah.

For all those so callously murdered, may their memory be a blessing. To the bereaved families, my sincere condolences. To the injured, my best wishes for a full and speedy recovery. To all the members of the Jewish community who were on the beach, in Sydney, in Australia, and around the world, who have been deeply traumatised by this tragic event, my tear-filled empathy and support. May you be comforted by your faith in G-d and enfolded in the love of family, friends, and other allies in the wider community. My thanks and esteem to those who ran towards danger to protect and to save lives. My deep gratitude to all the first responders, professionals and bystanders alike, who, on the instant, cared for the injured and the distressed, to the medical staff who treated the wounded, and to those who comforted the bereaved.

Terrorism has no religion. This was a criminal act. It is contrary to the sacred principles of all religions, and an affront to the dignity of the human person and to the sanctity of all human lives. There is no place for racist, ethnic, religious, or communal hatred and violence in Australia or in any society. These evils must be eradicated. Everyone should feel safe and secure at all times, especially in celebrating their faith in places of worship and in public spaces.

I stand with the many religious and community leaders who have expressed sympathy, support, and solidarity with the Jewish community. May our respective faiths in God and/or in humanity inspire us to foster unity in the face of division, love over hatred, and peace over violence.

*For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we each are free to
light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world.*

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Hanukkah is a celebration of light and faith. Christmas celebrates the coming of Christ's light into our world. May the proximity of the joint feasts of Hanukkah and Christmas shine a light into these troubled times and lead to a more united, compassionate, welcoming, accepting, and loving multi-ethnic, multicultural, multi-faith society.

On behalf of the staff of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations,

Patrick J McNerney

Rev Dr Patrick McNerney
Director, Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations