

IRT Statement following Mass Shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand

We, the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County, extend our heartfelt support for our local Muslim friends in light of the tragic murder of dozens of worshipping members of two mosques during Friday prayers. How devastating to the families of the victims to experience such senseless killings, and for what? Because of religion, or skin color or nationality? How destructive and damaging not only to those involved directly, but also to the communities and societies in which we all live.

If it is true that these killings were the result of a “supremacist mentality”, what we practice and say about inclusion, mutual respect and compassion is needed in every community. We are all human. We are all equal. We are sisters and brothers with all who may look, think, worship and live differently. We all bring beautiful and live-giving elements to our respective corners of the globe. We are better when we are welcoming of all and engaged with everyone.

Knowing well our local Muslim community members, we grieve with you. We pray with you. We support you. We will continue to work tirelessly at helping to create a culture of understanding and inclusion here in Washtenaw County.

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