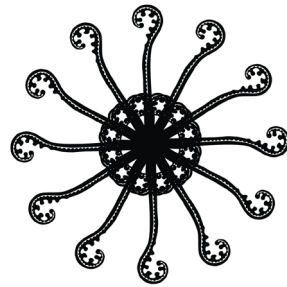


New Zealand Harmony Accord



Introduction

The Muslim and Jewish communities in New Zealand have much in common. We share the same founding forefather, Abraham; we share faith in one God; and we share many of the same prophets, philosophies and practices, such as dietary restrictions and burial rites. We value education and family. We greet each other with "shalom" or "salaam". We have a moral imperative to give charity ("sadaqat" in Arabic, "tzedakah" in Hebrew).

The Jewish and Muslim communities contribute to, and are an integral part of, New Zealand's rich and diverse ethnic and faith tapestry. We are proud of these contributions.

We recognise that overseas conflicts and events can affect communities and social cohesion in New Zealand, by increasing tensions between our communities. Both communities have been profoundly affected by racism and extremism. There should be no place for any form of Islamophobia or Antisemitism in this country.

In difficult times, we stand together to call for zero tolerance of any form of hate or extremism. We continue to support our own and each other's communities in the face of ongoing domestic impacts resulting from overseas conflicts and crises and jointly support other minority religious and ethnic communities.

For the promotion of peace, this Accord institutionalises and broadens Muslim-Jewish cooperation and strengthens our intercommunal commitments.

**Shun evil and do good,
seek Peace and pursue it. (*Psalm 34:15*)**

O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do. (*Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:8*)

Purpose

Through this Accord we acknowledge that living in harmony is a goal our communities should aspire to and that this goal requires action. It also requires a commitment to uphold our shared principles and align with the principles embodied in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

By signing this Accord, we commit to:

- rejecting all forms of hate, extremism and bigotry, including racism, Islamophobia and Antisemitism
- taking opportunities for learning from each other's history, lived experience, faith and aspirations
- making positive connections
- maintaining dialogue in difficult times
- valuing the contributions that both Jewish and Muslim communities have made to New Zealand in its growing diversity and showing it in our actions.

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted. (*Surah Al-Hujurat 49:13*)

**He who strives to do deeds of love and charity
Attains life, success, and honour.** (*Proverbs 21:21*)

Principles

The following principles are critical to our success.

Shared values as a guide

New Zealand's civic values and the basic values of Islam and Judaism provide the foundation for how we act towards one another.

Leadership

We will provide leadership that promotes harmony and discourages divisions within and between our communities.

Trust

We share a responsibility to build trust and respect between our communities and with New Zealand society more broadly, to foster social cohesion and strengthen our country's democracy.

Safety

We commit to a stance of mutual assistance, comfort and safety for all our places of worship, study and gathering.

Pluralism

We recognise there are diverse perspectives within both our communities and people have multiple cultural identities. This means we will not always agree and there will be issues that we have opposing views on. But harmony does not require complete agreement. This Accord provides a framework for dialogue to be held with respect, kindness and compassion.

Promote respect and inclusivity

We recognise and respect each other's beliefs, practices and traditions and will treat them with dignity and understanding.

We will refrain from harmful and insulting language, derogatory stereotypes or religious references, and actions that create or encourage division, while respecting free speech.

Calling out hate and extremism

We will work together to dispel misconceptions and foster understanding and will publicly challenge expressions of hate.

Education

We will develop resources and opportunities to educate and engage with each other and the communities around us. We will cultivate the skills to host dialogue, challenge ourselves and each other to listen and know each other better. We aspire to become leaders for peace.

May the Lord lift his Countenance to you and provide for you peace. (Numbers 6:26)

...And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty. (Surah Al-Ma'idah, 5:2)

Implementation

To translate this Accord into action we will:

- build on existing initiatives for public awareness and advocacy
- bring groups together (including youth) for shared activities
- develop joint education and public information resources
- identify joint actions and projects within the aims of this Accord, including opportunities for joint civic projects
- partner with Tangata Whenua to embed our communities' knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

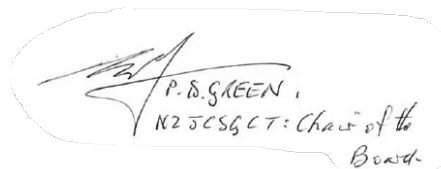
We will establish a **Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council** and decide how it will operate. The Council will be composed of an equal number of representatives from the Muslim and the Jewish communities. Jewish and Muslim signatories to the Accord will nominate and make decisions on their respective representatives. The Council will make decisions in accordance

with the purpose and principles set out in this Accord. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities will support the establishment of the Council and implementation of this Accord, as appropriate.

Signed¹ this twenty-second day of July 2025 by:



Holocaust Centre of New Zealand Incorporated



The New Zealand Jewish Community Security Group Charitable Trust



The New Zealand Jewish Council Incorporated *on behalf of:*

Auckland Hebrew Congregation
Progressive Jewish Congregation of Auckland
Waikato Jewish Association
Wellington Jewish Community
Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation
Nelson Jewish Community
Christchurch Hebrew Congregation
Southern Lakes Jewish Community



The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand Incorporated



Dayenu: New Zealand Jews Against Occupation Incorporated



His Highness the Aga Khan Council for Australia and New Zealand

¹ Signatories listed in the order signatures were received