



## PUBLIC STATEMENT

Denouncing tragic attacks at Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre in  
Christchurch, New Zealand on Friday, March 15, 2019  
23 March 2019

The United States has at its core the concept that religion shall be respected. Yet there are those who see people who practice a religion that is different from their own as antagonistic, detrimental, even in opposition to. Across the globe people are attacked in places of worship, where they come for guidance, succor and to express their devotional beliefs. From people shot and killed in a church in Charleston, to being shot and killed in a synagogue in Pittsburgh, to now massacred in two mosques in Christchurch, NZ, this obsessive war against those who are considered different must end before any more are irrevocably hurt. These souls were exercising their right to worship, doing so peaceably, at times with welcoming arms to the very monsters who would try and eradicate them, for that is the teaching they followed, not one of hate, but of love and respect. Let us remember them and work to stop this bloodshed and bring this hate to justice.

The Asian American Association of New Mexico stands in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters in denouncing the recent tragic attacks propelled by white ethnic nationalism in New Zealand Friday, March 15, 2019, taking the lives of 50 worshipers who were peacefully assembled and exercising their right to worship. We denounce all hate crimes and have signed on to a letter to the Department of Justice, with leadership of Emgage, to make specific asks of the following:

1. Provide the resources needed to state and local law enforcement agencies in order to better recognize and report hate crimes against Muslims.
2. Establish an interagency-community commission to assess the security of Muslim houses of worship and affiliated properties.
3. Present a credible plan to better understand, target, and ultimately shutdown domestic terror and radical groups that adhere to White ethnic-nationalist ideologies.
4. Provide the necessary measures, tools, and resources to bolster the physical security of Muslim houses of worship and affiliated properties.

**Asian American Association of New Mexico's Mission:** *to improve the social well-being of Asians in New Mexico by building community networks, and fostering better understanding of Asian American heritage, issues, and policy. Please direct any questions or comments to the contact information below.*