



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2 April 2019

Combatting terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief

Explanation of Vote by H.E. Gillian Bird, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

Check against delivery

Australia is pleased to support the resolution. Australians share their deepest sympathies for those affected by the devastating terrorist attack in Christchurch and share the grief of Muslim communities all over the world. As our Prime Minister has said, Australia condemns in absolute terms the abhorrent attack of 15 March 2019.

We stand together with New Zealand and all countries that condemn the hatred and intolerance behind this extremist attack. Australia condemns acts of terrorism, as well as the racism, xenophobia and intolerance that fuels them, in the strongest terms.

We condemn all forms of violent extremism and its manifestations. This includes far right violent extremism. We will always defend and protect the right of all Australians to practice their religion peacefully and without fear.

Australia is a successful immigrant nation, based on a harmonious multicultural society. Almost half of our current population was either born overseas or has at least one parent born overseas, from every nation, culture and faith.

While peaceful protest is a fundamental right, the Australian Government does not and will not tolerate anyone who incites violence and hatred within our community.

Australia supports the call for strengthened international efforts to promote a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights, freedom of religious worship, and for the diversity of religions and beliefs.

Australia welcomes the call for all States to work together to protect individuals against acts of violence, discrimination and hate crimes based on religion, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. We must continue to build cohesive societies that are resilient to messages of extremism.

Terrorism remains a global challenge, which requires a sustained and strengthened global response from all members of the international community in partnership.

Australia stands strengthened in our resolve to work together to promote tolerance and openness following the terrorist attack in Christchurch.