

15 March 2019

## STATEMENT ON THE CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUE ATTACKS

The National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) is horrified to learn of the attacks on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand today. We denounce in the strongest possible terms these inhumane, barbaric and cowardly acts of terror, which targeted defenceless Muslim men, women and children as they were engaged in acts of worship.

We lift up our earnest prayers for all the victims and their loved ones. We also pray for all those present at the scenes of terror, who may have been badly traumatised by the senseless violence. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the people of Christchurch during this very challenging time. We hope the perpetrators of these acts of terror and their accomplices will be swiftly brought to justice.

This incident serves as a reminder to us of the need for members of different religious and racial communities to interact with and know one another on a personal level, in order to dispel harmful stereotypes which might lead to exclusion, discrimination and, in the worst cases, outright violence. The NCCS will continue to work closely with other religious leaders to promote peace and better understanding amongst the followers of the various faiths.