

## **Flint Islamic Center**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **STATEMENT ON THE HORRIFIC MASSACRE IN NEW ZEALAND MOSQUES**

The attacks on Muslim worshipers yesterday in New Zealand mosques is an outrage and awful act of extremism. Yesterday, two attacks took place at two different mosques in the same city, where at least 49 people have been reportedly killed. Law enforcement officials have said there were multiple explosive devices found in the attackers' vehicles that officers subsequently defused.

Our prayers are with the families, the victims, and with law enforcement who rushed to the scene. Whether it is the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Philadelphia, or the AlNoor Mosque in New Zealand, these attacks on places of worship must stop. This was not an isolated incident, but a reflection of the rise of Islamophobia, white nationalism, anti-Semitism, and hate in all its forms, in this current political environment. We must all stand together and call for an end to this political discourse, here in this country and around the world, which is directly breeding violence.

"What happened yesterday was a despicable act of cowardice and hate that cannot be justified under any circumstance," said Dr. Mohammed Saleem, president of the Management Committee at FIC. "The targeting of places of worship is the highest form of hate. The attackers clearly were hoping that this would put fear in Muslims around the world, but in fact the opposite has happened. We are more determined, and will not be victims of fear-mongering."

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The Flint Islamic Center (FIC) is an institution established for the purpose of providing religious, educational and humanitarian services to its members, to the Muslim community in the Flint area and to advance the cause of Muslims in accordance to the teaching of the Holy Quran and the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). The FIC works to promote peace, justice, harmony and understanding among our community and the communities around us.