ANIC Welcomes INSLM Recommendations On The Definition Of Terrorism

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The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) welcomes the recommendations of the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor, Mr Jake Blight, in his review of the definition of terrorism, including the recommendation to remove the word "religious" from the definition of a terrorist act in the Criminal Code.

ANIC has long called for religion to be removed from the way terrorism and violent extremism are defined and described. In its recent submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, ANIC again called for terms such as "religiously motivated violent extremism" to be replaced with "politically motivated" or "ideologically motivated" violent extremism.

ANIC President Imam Shadi Alsuleiman said, "Terrorism must be defined by violence and intent, and no faith should be named in the law that defines it. Those who commit these crimes do not deserve to have them linked to a religion whose teachings they violate."

As the Monitor found, the current wording stigmatises Australian Muslims. It has placed the Muslim community under unfair suspicion and collective blame, and has fed Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.

ANIC's position is unequivocal: terrorism has no faith or race. It is criminal violence, whatever its motive.

ANIC urges the Federal Government to give the Monitor's recommendations careful and genuine consideration, calls for their adoption, and asks the Government to work with faith communities on this reform.

ABOUT ANIC

ANIC is a national religious and professional membership organisation representing Muslim Imams, Islamic scholars and Shaykhahs across Australia. Its work includes religious guidance, professional development, community advocacy, interfaith engagement and cooperation on matters affecting community wellbeing and safety.

ANIC makes this statement from its experience as a peak and representative religious organisation, while advocating principles that should protect all Australians, regardless of their faith, belief or background.