



# ANIC Condemns Kilmore Mosque Firebombing and Calls for More Action to Protect Muslim Communities

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## Media Statement

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) strongly condemns the firebombing of the church on Powlett Street in Kilmore, Victoria, which was set to become a mosque. This is a deeply disturbing act that targets a place of worship and strikes at the heart of community safety and social harmony.

*“There has been a concerning rise in Islamophobic incidents and anti-Muslim hate. Many mosques across Australia have received threatening letters and messages, some referencing a so-called “Christchurch 2.0” and others containing explicit threats of violence,”* said Imam Shadi Alsuleiman, President of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC).

This incident comes just ten days after March 15, the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, a day that calls on all Australians to stand against hatred, discrimination, and violence directed at Muslim communities.

Just a few nights ago, a Ramadan Iftar gathering in Ballarat, Victoria, was disrupted when an individual reportedly entered the event, threatened children, assaulted attendees, and directed hateful abuse towards those present. There have also been reports of a planned terrorist attack in Western Australia with Muslim places of worship among its intended targets.

*“There is a growing concern within the Muslim community that such matters are not being treated with the same seriousness or urgency, which contributes to a perception that Muslim Australians are not treated fairly or equally,”* said Imam Shadi.

We are deeply concerned about this rising pattern of Islamophobia and attacks on Mosques. ANIC calls on all levels of government and law enforcement agencies to be more active in ensuring the protection of the Australian Muslim community, and to do more to address the growing threat of Islamophobia in Australia.

Despite these challenges, the Australian Muslim community remains committed to contributing positively to Australian society.

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## About ANIC

There are approximately one million Muslim-Australians. ANIC is their largest representative organisation.

ANIC’s primary goal is to strengthen the Australian Muslim community by preserving Islam and fostering a strong Islamic identity. This is achieved by organising events, workshops, and training programs, and by offering a wide range of services.

[anic.org.au](http://anic.org.au)

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Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) represents over 300+ Imams from all states and territories