

**STATEMENT ON SYNAGOGUE FIRE, MELBOURNE,  
FROM THE VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION  
MULTIFAITH ADVISORY GROUP**

6 December 2024

As multifaith leaders in Victoria, we stand together in our support for the local Jewish community.

We are deeply shocked and appalled by the arson attack on the Adass Israel Synagogue in Ripponlea, Melbourne's southeast, and we condemn unequivocally this act of violence against a place of worship.

The trauma of this incident will resonate deeply within the Jewish community, already grappling with the impact of events in the Middle East. We stand with them in solidarity.

News of the fire, on the eve of Shabbat prayers, is especially heartbreaking for people of faith – for those who regard the synagogue as their spiritual home.

Places of worship hold profound meaning for people of faith. The right to feel safe and free to worship in these sacred spaces is fundamental and must be respected and protected.

We stand together to promote understanding, respect and harmony among all faith communities and people of goodwill. We assure them of our loving prayers and meditation.

**Members of the Multifaith Advisory Group**

- All Nations Presbyterian Church of Australia Mulgrave
- AMAFHH Federation - Shi'a Organisation
- Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
- Australian Intercultural Society
- Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights
- Baha'i Community of Victoria
- Benevolence Australia
- Board of Imams Victoria
- Buddhist Council of Victoria
- Catholic Social Services Victoria
- Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Melbourne
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria
- Faith Communities Council of Victoria
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia
- Hindu Council of Australia (Vic)
- Islamic Council of Victoria
- Jewish Community Council of Victoria
- Lutheran Church of Australia
- Presbyterian Church of Victoria
- Rabbinical Council of Victoria
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
- Russian Orthodox Church
- Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria
- The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne
- The Salvation Army
- Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
- Victorian Council of Churches
- Victorian Multicultural Commission