



Greater Hartford Rabbinical Association  
Statement on the Attack on Mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand

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*West Hartford, CT (8 Adar II 5779/March 15, 2019)* -- Our sacred Jewish tradition teaches that the presence of God is found in the company of those who suffer, as the text (Psalm 91) teaches with eloquent simplicity, "*Imo Anochi b'tzarah*" ("I am with him/her in distress"). This day, we mourn along with those who lost loved ones in the unforgivable Mosque attacks in New Zealand. The loss of a single life at a time of prayer, and in a house of worship, is an attack on the very foundation of our humanity.

As we seek an affirmation of spiritual affinity with the other Abrahamic faiths at our times of distress, we raise our voices in sorrow and solidarity with the families in New Zealand who today are bewildered with pain and distressed by questions for which there are no good answers. We stand firmly today in solidarity with our local Muslim neighbors and with the entire Islamic community - together seeking to be able to gather and worship in peace.

May our shared God be to them a staff and stay at this time of sorrow and horror and may they know that the people of Israel will always stand against hatred and bigotry and will stand by those who hope for a world of peace, mutual respect, and the never-ending pursuit of Tikun Olam.

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***The Greater Hartford Rabbinical Association (GHRA)*** represents the diverse rabbinic leadership of Judaism's many branches in the Greater Hartford area and serves as a rabbinic voice in and for the Jewish community and the Greater Hartford community. It supports its rabbis in their personal and professional growth, develops and nourishes collegial relationships within the association, and guides the Greater Hartford area in making religious decisions for our community.