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and Researchers in Religious Education
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Today the Steering Committee of the Board of the Religious Education Association issued the following statement. We urge you to share it widely.

REA Statement on the Mosque Attack in Christchurch, NA

The Religious Education Association (REA) is shocked and saddened by the recent vicious attack on worshippers at the mosque in Christchurch, NZ.

We pray for the healing of those who were injured at the hands of the gunman and send our heartfelt condolences to those who lost loved ones. We grieve with the Muslim community of Christchurch. In the words of the traditional Muslim prayer

"Verily, unto God do we belong and, verily, unto Him we shall return." (Qur'an,2:157)

The REA condemns this heinous act unequivocally. It stands in solidarity with the Muslim people of New Zealand and around the world at this trying time and with believers and unbelievers everywhere who reject hatred and affirm the value of every human life.

Islam teaches us:

"Peace is one of the most beautiful names of God and to believe that life is sacred. Whoever takes a life it shall be like killing all humanity and whoever saves a life saves the entire humanity."

We call upon leaders and opinion makers the world over to seek an end to all forms of anti-semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and intolerance and to promote diverse, inclusive societies in the spirit of the Abrahamic prophets, where every person dwells peacefully in his or her own vineyard and every community under its particular fig tree, and none makes them afraid (Micah 4:4); where the peacemakers are blessed, because they are the children of God (Mathew 5:9); and where enmity and hatred of others makes no one avoid justice (Quran 5:8).

May God of Peace have mercy upon all and unite us all in love and compassion!