



March 15, 2019

Dear Muslim Brothers and Sisters,

As we watched the news unfold out of New Zealand last night, we felt sick. The terror attack on the mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand where at least 49 Muslims were murdered and so many more were injured during their act of prayer is beyond comprehension. Simply put, we are devastated.

We believe in a world in which every person has the right and the ability to practice their religion without fear of violence or intimidation. We believe in a world in which our faith traditions are not only tolerated, but embraced for their beauty of ritual, richness of history, and love of all people.

We know all too well what it feels like to be attacked in a house of worship during the main prayer service of the week. We also know how we were comforted by the presence of allies, including the Muslim community, who stood with us in grief and solidarity.

We will not allow this violence to become normalized. We vow to continue fighting hate, Islamophobia, and bigotry in all its forms through strengthening our relationships and standing together against terrorism.

In solidarity,

The Leadership of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of St. Louis, St. Louis Rabbinical & Cantorial Association, and the St. Louis Rabbinical Council

John Kalishman
Board Chair
Jewish Community Relations Council

Maharat Rori Picker Neiss
Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council

Rabbi Noah Arnow
President
St. Louis Rabbinical & Cantorial Association

Gerry Greiman
Board Chair
Jewish Federation of St. Louis

Michael Oberlander
Chief Philanthropy Officer
Jewish Federation of St. Louis

Don Hannon
Chief Operating Officer
Jewish Federation of St. Louis

Karen Sher
Senior Director, Community Engagement
Jewish Federation of St. Louis