

6 May 2021

Statement from the Multifaith Advisory Group

Helping India from Australia

Greetings of peace

The Multifaith Advisory Group met on 3 May 2021 and we would like to send a message to the people of India and the Indian diaspora community.

The wonderful Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore writes from his heart about our common humanity:
"I shall ever seek my compatriots all over the world."

In this time of pandemic crisis, we are drawn to be compatriots of folk in India. The links between India and Australia run deep and are getting deeper.

Our Indian Australian sisters and brothers are a major community in our successful multicultural Australia. We feel with them, and for them, as their relatives and the Indian population face the current COVID crisis. Bonded as we are so deeply, we compatriots offer our prayers and meditations from our unifying ethic of compassion.

With links of friendship, we also are offering what practical support we can through trusted and faith-based Indian NGO's, complementing the aid already being offered by our State and Federal Governments. The needs are huge, as the media reports convey. Our friends in India write asking for our prayers as they succumb to the virus and as they hear of more friends dying.

From our diverse traditions, we offer what we can together. Please make a donation to your preferred charity or refer to the attached flyers for further consideration.

There will be an online vigil, hosted by the Faith Communities Council of Victoria and supported by members of the Multifaith Advisory Group on Tuesday 11 May, 5.00pm - 5.45pm via Zoom
<http://tiny.cc/vigilforindia>

Sincerely,
The Multifaith Advisory Group

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- All Nations Presbyterian Church of Australia Mulgrave
 - AMAFHH Federation - Shi'a Organisation
 - Australian Intercultural Society
 - Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights
 - Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
 - Baha'i Community of Victoria
 - Benevolence Australia
 - Board of Imams Victoria
 - Rabbinical Council of 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)
 - Hindu Society of Victoria
 - Islamic Council of Victoria
 - Jewish Community Council of Victoria
 - Lutheran Church of Australia
 - National Council of Churches in 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
 - Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
 - Victorian Council of Churches
 - Victorian Multicultural Commission
 - UNESCO
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