

Proposed Government Roundtable

We, the undersigned members of the Australian Muslim community, would like to outline the reasons why we will not be attending the proposed Round Table meeting with the Prime Minister this week.

Many in the Muslim community including the undersigned are deeply concerned and disappointed with statements made by senior Government Ministers and the Prime Minister in the recent past which infer that the community is collectively culpable for the criminal actions of individuals and should be doing more to prevent such acts of violence. These statements have achieved nothing to address underlying issues, but rather, have alienated large segments of the Muslim community.

In order to have a meaningful meeting that will result in positive outcomes, attendees must be confident that their views and concerns will be genuinely respected and that such a forum will not be used to emphasise the very sentiments that the Muslim community consider to be invalid and divisive. The stated objective of the meeting does not provide any such confidence.

We request that the Prime Minister re-schedule the proposed Round Table meeting to allow for a concrete agenda and mutually acceptable objectives to be agreed beforehand. This will ultimately be in the interests of all parties including the government.

End
20 November 2018

Signed:

Dr Rateb Jneid, President, AFIC
Professor Mohamed Abdalla, ISSA
Mohamed Mohideen OAM, President ICV
Ghaith Krayem, CEO, AFIC
Ali Kadri, Vice-President, ICQ

Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed, Grand Mufti
Sh. Shady Al Suleiman, President ANIC
Sh. Isse Musa, President BOIV
Sh Moustapha Sarakibi, BOIV