

Dear Executive of JMCA

It is with a heavy heart that I write to resign from the JCMA as a member and past president .

I have been involved in interfaith relations for decades and for many years have sought to build bridges between the Muslim and Jewish community.

I thought JCMA was a space for compassion and respect. I am deeply disillusioned by the inability of Muslim leadership in Victoria and indeed Australia to distinguish between the barbaric anti-semitic ideology of Hamas and the humane teachings of Islam which I had assumed they represent. I can only assume from the deafening silence (and some insipid references to Israeli victims) of the ICV, and the revered imams across the country that at best they tacitly accept that there is a moral justification for the rape, torture , kidnapping and murder of innocent people including babies and the elderly.

It's breathtakingly clear that this is not about anti-Israel or pro Palestinian sentiment: Hamas has called for the international killing of Jews. Jews across the world are facing toxic attacks and anti semitism .We stood in solidarity with Muslims after the Christchurch massacre, we raised money to support victims. We would have expected you to stand by us at our time of need.

I hope that in time Muslims who support Hamas will have the moral clarity to recognise that Allah would not tolerate the egregious violence committed in His name . And that those who don't support Hamas will find the moral courage to say so.

Yours sincerely

Rabbi Ralph Genende