



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Office of the
General Secretary

lutheranworld.org

Bishop Mark Whitfield
Lutheran church of New Zealand

Bishop John Henderson
Lutheran Church of Australia

Geneva, 18 March 2019

Dear Bishop Whitfield, dear Bishop Henderson,

With shock, we have learned of the mass shootings in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Friday 15 March.

On behalf of the Lutheran World Federation, I want to share my solidarity and sympathy with you, your churches and communities. We include the families of those who were killed, those who were wounded, and the people of New Zealand in our prayers, and seek solace and guidance from God in these difficult times.

Places of worship and prayer should be safe spaces, where people can feel hope not fear. As the Lutheran World Federation, we call on all people of good will and followers of different religions to come together to work for peace, justice and respect of human life.

As you live through troubled times, we pray and trust that you and your churches may find strength in your faith, to build bridges of peace between the people and religions in New Zealand. May our conviction of faith that every single human being counts in the eyes of God resound powerfully during these days of confusion. May the message of love as we received it in and through Christ overpower all noise of hatred and violence.

Please count on the solidarity and accompaniment of The Lutheran World Federation.

In Psalm 46 we read "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr Martin Junge
General Secretary