



The Federation of  
Islamic Associations  
of New Zealand (Inc.)

اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية

# RELEVANT ISSUES RAISED IN HUI WITH MUSLIMS ACROSS NZ FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT

February 2021



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# FIANZ ROYAL COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS





# FIANZ Royal Commission Consultations: Dunedin

## Question and Answer Session

Topic	Question/Comments
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	Only action by the government other than ban semi-automatic police are to ban police – only people to suffer from this are minorities. Does the report touch on this?
Justice	The second category – social cohesion, justice and development Regarding Justice – I don't see justice in the current law If we want justice, we need capital punishment. Law in NZ is not just Says Muslims need an active role. Capital Punishment is important for deterrence and FIANZ needs to be a leading organization in this Want capital punishment to be instated – important because of what the Quran says.
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	Referees are not enough; referees are not always honest anyway Says strengthening process in our recommendations is a very general process Need to move on to a new system
Hate Speech	Some of the wording may be open to misunderstanding – E.g. Criminalizing hate speech; where does freedom of speech sit in this, when are we able to get freedom of expression; how would this apply to us, what about differing opinions Hold our identity – integrate and assimilate; should hold onto our identity
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	Aware that the Intelligence Service was meeting with Muslim Community/leaders regularly Were you aware of the context of those conversation? Wanted to know where the threats were If we are looking at RWE, also need to look violent left web
Accountability	Acknowledging the government is good but need to have some accountability Jacinda was here for an hour but it was people outside of leadership, and the wider community
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	How much input does the DPMC get from the experts in intelligence services?
Accountability	Asking because got an email from FIANZ with regards to this Is it just for 15 march? This is not the first tragedy that has happened in NZ Another person raises issues about whether this recommendation is Islamic – said we need to ask whether it is in accordance with Islam. From his understanding, it is not



Topic	Question/Comments
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	Importance of integration – although not expecting anyone to sell ourselves out regarding our values, and although respect it must pass test of Islam disagree with some things
Justice	<p>This person has been directly affected and asks for justice to prevail</p> <p>Says we need best law to deter future attacks</p> <p>Gives example of repeated killing, says it is common in NZ</p> <p>Gives example of a criminal being let out of jail and then committing same crime – says here the law is responsible for the second killing</p> <p>Says NZ law is not just</p> <p>Saying if this report is for better future, then we need to look at whether NZ law is just</p> <p>NZ law will not be perfect unless it is in regard with God’s law</p> <p>Says not enough effort from community – no response from FIANZ regarding capital punishment</p>
Consultation and Implementation of Recommendations	Recommendation to provide at least the executive summary beforehand
Justice	<p>Says if it goes out it as it is, it will make NZ better – if goes out with recommendations like capital punishment, it will not make it better for Muslims. If it is included it will make the report not represent me</p> <p>More Muslim, more brown men will be affected by this law than any white criminal in NZ – brown men always receive harsher sentences than white man – statistics show this</p> <p>Always regarding the context of the crime – says in the context of NZ</p>



# FIANZ ROYAL COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS



**CHRISTCHURCH**



# FIANZ Royal Commission Consultations: Christchurch

## Question and Answer Session

Topic	Question/Comments
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	Did the shooter get the gun license within 5 weeks of coming to NZ or 5 days? 7/12/2017 he got his license... 2018 was in Pakistan FOR TRAINING... police approval was 11/12/2017
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Is there anything related to the mental health of the people affected?
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	07/12/2017 got a license and ammunition, and in 2018 was in Pakistan for training. Had a visa to go to Pakistan and entered back to NZ. Had this approved in 4 days?
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	Should be looking at data sets of ammunition purchased, and when visiting countries.
Police	Are they using non-sworn members for police? As they are using non-sworn... they don't have the means to identify risk factors
Police	An article recently published highlights that the police couldn't focus on operational matters because they have been focusing on the Muslims. Operationally they have had to sacrifice a few things because of focusing more on other things.
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	Clarification on NIP (National Intelligence setting process) sought
Racism Accountability	Institutionally racist. Challenge the mindsets. Looking at 600 years old. Based on white supremacy or white rights. The assumptions that the organisations make haven't been examined in 600 years. With 5 eyes, the US is at the top. When will NZ realise that this intelligence is not in our favour?
Christchurch	In Christchurch, we are often not listened to e.g. with the earthquakes. Due to refusal to look at EQC, how did we perform? The same thing should apply to this
Accountability	Do you reckon what happened on 15 march will happen again?



Topic	Question/Comments
Justice	With the mail, he has rights to have visitors, phone calls once the court case is finished.
RWE	There is a lot of talk about RWE, but there are also risk groups e.g. nutters that could comprise of a lot of different people including RWE. Are we going to miss all the nutters in between RWE and Islamic extremism
RWE	Issues with skinheads. I would assume that as a Nzer that RWE was being looked at due to that error.
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	From talking 1 on 1 with the community. I understand that we are looking for a utopia here, is it really realistic. I'm not racist to you, we all have something that we group people of different races. Is the utopia something that is possible?





# FIANZ ROYAL COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS



**Wellington**



# FIANZ Royal Commission Consultations: Wellington

## Question and Answer Session

Topic	Question/Comments
Media Islamophobia & Misunderstanding of Islam	<p>Because the royal commissions' role is quite big, they should get a hold of the media and not only the government, due to the role that they have played.</p> <p>E.g. not saying an attack perpetrated by a white person is not extremism.</p> <p>Rebecca can't be blamed because due to the effects of the media, and that the minute you talk about extremism, you immediately think of Islam.</p>
Islamophobia & Misunderstanding of Islam Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	<p>Not just the media – but the culture in NZ that is categorizing Muslim this way,</p> <p>Seen it in through school when did not want to be seen as a stereotype, but then also saw it later years in work and career where examples of hate comments and racist remarks were made as jokes and it was considered okay – Muslims have almost become immune of not reacting back to this</p> <p>Victoria St bomb scare – everyone was taken outside of the offices and it was a simple joke someone said “call your people to make sure we are okay – you will protect us”</p> <p>When you hear simple jokes like this, you become immune to it, do not know how to react to it, it is not just the media, but it shows that the youth are taught</p> <p>It is a big issue that we need to look further into</p> <p>Need to educate everyone who we are and what we bring to the table, and its more than the media and what we teach to kids. It's not an overnight process.</p> <p>Says it is not okay for her daughter to grow up in a society where this is the norm</p> <p>It is not just the media, but it is a big culture that needs to shift</p>
Islamophobia & Misunderstanding of Islam Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	<p>We are all allowed to make mistakes and they stuffed it up (e.g. police, intelligence). We cannot measure the tragedy that has happened. We do not want to create a phobia of RWE in our own community. Do not want to give the impression that islamophobia is coming for them, like that has been seen in other countries.</p> <p>The reaction of the public in Porirua (where I am from) has been great. Don't want to give them the impression that we are this and they are that.</p>
Islamophobia & Misunderstanding of Islam	<p>Islam is still looked at the way the crusades are looked at, but we do continue to work</p>



Topic	Question/Comments
<p>RWE Hate Speech</p>	<p>Not comfortable saying that if they were looking at RWE, they would have picked this up Platforms RWE is on is very fast moving and filled primarily with nonsense, satire and memes – it’s just a very difficult to look at There is one thing to look in the right direction, but also about looking in the right way</p>
<p>Islamophobia &amp; Misunderstanding of Islam  Social Cohesion and Inclusivity &amp; Diversity</p>	<p>Wanted to express about the securitization that we noticed after 15 March – cannot be specific but more about how I felt Was down in Christchurch after the attack for a week, and it felt immediately that there was an authority response about the possibility of a Muslim backlash – it came up that they had to make sure this did not happen If it had not been for the public and their overwhelming warmth or people in the media that had positive messages, then an alternative narrative would’ve taken over</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>What about school children and how they feel about this? e.g. My friend was playing with some kiwi children, and said she wanted to adopt her. And the 4-year-old girl said no you can’t because we are not of the same culture. We need to teach children in school about different cultures, not just Islam., so that people know about different cultures and religions Bad people are everywhere. Terrorists are not from Islam. Islam doesn’t teach that at all. Important to teach young children and take care of young minds.</p>
<p>Social Cohesion and Inclusivity &amp; Diversity  NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related</p>	<p>Said “lack of diversity in NZIC, especially in senior levels” This line it is making it sound like the issue is on people rather than policy Are we focusing on the people and not the policy? Are we looking at action behaviour rather than racial profiling?</p>
<p>Justice</p>	<p>NZ is exemplary in the way it has reacted including this process</p>
<p>Social Cohesion and Inclusivity &amp; Diversity  Hate Speech</p>	<p>Everyone has family who have experience of Islamophobic and racism. It does not have to be this way Aware of thorough work that Wellington Council does not have a multicultural or diversity strategy and do not have a Muslim on their board, but have not tried to get one because worried about tokenism Australia has better policy about multiculturalism and inclusion – we need to do better What is in report is important (based on experiences) – not a personal attack, cannot have an anti-racist and inclusive board or organization without any diversity. People want to do it, but it cannot be done As someone who is not religious and does not know much about religion – have surah here but does not make sense to me. Could have a beautiful effect, something that is spiritual and would be good for non-Muslims too and could resonate with them</p>



Topic	Question/Comments
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	<p>After Sept 11, met with staff to say must have inclusion in investigation group[s]            Going to make it open for others to come in            Make sure they have noticed            Police woman in Auckland did not tell she was Muslim because was worried they would not accept her            Primary curriculum –</p>
Hate Speech	<p>Do not have hate crime statistics</p>
Justice	<p>Have worked in NZ for last 20 years in Corrections, at almost every city of NZ and have not experienced racism            Said New Zealanders are soft. Prisoners usually getting the best of facilities in NZ. This is the flaw in NZ system – they are treated so gently and they are not being corrected            The law is not strict on them – even if they get caught and arrested            Law system has to recheck whether they are being served correctly.            Get same treatment across various crimes (e.g. murder, terrorism, rape)</p>
Hate Speech	<p>Psychology and Sociology study – hate speech and hate crime            Looked at it in context            Share a personal incident – was on bus, with hijabi refugee. Was discriminated against heavily.            Someone told them to get off the bus. There were about 20 people in the bus. Said don't use Arabic. Basically, first time experiencing this.            She was upset we were speaking Arabic            Someone else said "don't worry, she's mentally ill"</p>
Racism	<p>Fine line between racism and unconscious bias – that something that cannot change because that is human nature            Goes both ways from us towards them            Muslim community needs to come out of victim mentality</p>
Justice Hate Speech	<p>Supportive of the point that the legal system and enforcement in NZ is very soft – even if taken to police, not taken seriously            Had an incident where every article about March 15 had been placed in her mother's letterbox            Whether you take it to the police or an official (someone higher than you) – I don't think anything would have happened from it.            These comments/actions cannot be taken lightly.            Police said go ask the neighbors. Have to deal with it as ourselves</p>



Topic	Question/Comments
Islamophobia & Misunderstanding of Islam  NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	<p>This Islamophobic narrative is a global narrative – NZ was in a false sense of security and have been exploited because of that. We now have to confront it.</p> <p>If say NZIC agencies are Islamophobic., we are looking at a global picture as we are part of the 5 eyes</p> <p>Need to tell them to make our country secure, we need to act in slightly distinct ways from the 5 eyes approach</p>



# FIANZ ROYAL COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS



**PALMERSTON  
NORTH**



# FIANZ Royal Commission Consultations: Palmerston North

## Question and Answer Session

Topic	Question/Comments
Customs and Border Control	We should look at customs and border control as a source of intelligence as well. If the terrorist was going overseas
RWE Media	The media is not treating RWE as extremism as they are with Muslims. I can understand that the media should have the freedom to present what they want, but they also have a responsibility to present information accurately and without bias.
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	Referees - Relative or friend as referees regarding the gun license. If the friend has the same thoughts as the person who is applying for the license, then it is easy to manipulate the license. The person should be able to prove why they need a gun better. E.g. prove hunting is a hobby etc.
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	If someone has a gun because they used to be a farmer, or hunter etc. If the person sells his farm and is no longer a farm etc. If there is a change in the situation, they should also recheck the need for the firearm.
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Mental health checks for people applying for firearms
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	If a person is holding a gun and has a license, they should notify neighbours etc. This is so that if they notice any unusual/suspicious activities, they can call the police.
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	A person such as from a church, mosque, employer etc. (someone of standing in their community)



# FIANZ ROYAL COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS







# FIANZ Royal Commission Consultations: Hamilton

## Question and Answer Session

Topic	Question/Comments
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	Why was the person allowed to buy so many weapons and ammunition? Why was the person selling not investigated?
Hate Speech	About criminalising hate crime, it is already a criminal act. Are you recommending higher sentencing?
Hate Speech	However, you define it, allows Brian Tamaki to say what he does about Muslims
Hate Speech	: When you tighten the hate speech laws, they are used against Muslims
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	. The second part is important, e.g. social cohesion, media etc. The social cohesion is the hardest part. A lot of the parts I hadn't even thought about etc.
RWE	Concrete measures are taken by govt for people who are attracted to content such as manifesto to reduce this attraction e.g. an awareness campaign by govt about what Islam
Consultation and Implementation of Recommendations	Provide more of a road map on high priority recommendations, and not leave it for them to set it up. If we detail it then they can lift it, rather than leaving it for their own interpretations.
Consultation and Implementation of Recommendations	Having roadmap/milestones on how we want to see NZ in 2020, 2025 etc. This will make the government more accountable etc.
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	IWCNZ statement on levels of a threat going back up. Is there anything about continuously monitored so that immediate action can take place.
Media	What about the media?
Auckland	Some incident happened in Auckland about public transport, and not being accepted on the bus.
Community	How come we only (become one community) after the event. Prevention is better than cure. We need to turn hostility into hospitality.
March 15	What exactly has the government done in the last 9 months to ensure that we are safe here? Is it possible through the media to bring some sort of awareness about Muslims, Islam and other religions also?
Christchurch	The Christchurch call to action by Jacinda. I have often thought to myself and investigated the statistics, we are not behind in the IT sector. When single handily, if the Muslims in the IT sector came together. They could make difficult for people to consume and distribute extreme materials.



# FIANZ ROYAL COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS

**AUCKLAND**





# FIANZ Royal Commission Consultations: Auckland

## Question and Answer Session

Topic	Question/Comments
Media	RC Parameters - other state sector agencies apart from police – the NZ media authorities – the reason security forces didn't care about RWE is that the media focuses on Muslims and not RWE. What should the media broadcasting authorities have in stopping this negative categorising of Islam – govt to stop racial qualifications of hate speech – the media negative portrayal of Muslims and the role they play.
Consultation and Implementation of Recommendations	-increasing fairness and equitability for Muslims – putting Muslims in the spotlight and in turn putting ourselves under threat – focus on Muslims on the recommendations Change that is fair but some NZ'ers feel that this focus on Muslims is unfair – how do we go about it in a way that doesn't seem like it's a focus
Islamophobia & Misunderstanding of Islam	Reiterate – the root cause of Muslims is the subconscious hatred of Islam – if the root cause of this hatred is still there – nothing will change. The media is the root cause of this hatred.
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	How are we working to get together with other religious and minority groups – as at the moment it is mostly Muslims engaging with Muslims?
Hate Speech	Why are we recommending for hate speech to be criminalised when it is already recognised in the HRA. The report should focus on points that haven't already been done.
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	Question – inclusivity – how this was advertised and exclusive to all the Muslims not open to non-Muslims too – wouldn't be more valuable to have all communities present for this.
Consultation and Implementation of Recommendations	Question – is there any way to see how much of our recommendations have been reached or implemented – monitoring the recommendations we have put through Can we collaborate together to meet, have one voice etc?
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	How can we as a Muslim community trust the police and the SIS to protect and implement security measures for us?
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	Media can't address it – Kitteridge – the SIS has spoken to the media and has perpetuated it – why can't we include it as a talking point
Police	Police have focussed on 'deradicalizing' people rather than taking our concerns seriously.



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