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PUBLIC STATEMENT

Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM) 5th National Summit 2022

The Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM) held its 5th National Summit at the Orion Centre in Sydney and online, on Sunday, 30th of October 2022.

Australian Muslim organisations and community leaders from all around Australia attended the 5th National Summit to discuss important matters of concern and the future of the Muslim community in Australia.

The delegates at the National Summit focused on the key areas of promoting and preserving the Australian Muslim identity, enhancing media and political engagement, strengthening public relations, advocating for the protection of the civil rights of minority groups and religious freedom, and matters of interest to Australian Muslim women. This includes the serious concern in relation to the rise of Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim sentiment.

The AAM is currently comprised of over 210 mainstream Australian Muslim organisations from all Australian States and Territories. It is open to all mainstream and representative Muslim organisations that are active in the Australian Muslim community.

The AAM aims to serve as a collaborative platform to coordinate and enhance efforts of common interest and benefit for the Australian Muslim community and its contribution to the wider Australian society.



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The 5th AAM National Summit focused on:

1. **Preservation of Islamic Identity** discussed national programs and curriculums that will preserve the Islamic identity and beliefs for future Muslim generations and new Muslims, including the launch of a national survey to gain a better understanding of the sentiment of the Muslim community in Australia and to better cater to the Muslim community's needs with particular attention to that of the Australian Muslim youth.
2. **Media Representation** reinforced the importance of religious freedom, the rise of Islamophobia (Anti-Muslim sentiment) and the real threat of right-wing extremism, and the importance of a positive and professional representation in the media space.
3. **Defence of Muslim Rights** addressed Civil rights Awareness campaigns and dealing with the threat of Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim sentiment and focused on the importance of reporting any Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim sentiment incidents and collecting data.
4. **Public Relations** aimed to hold a National Mosque Open Day and National Community Ramadan Iftar among other activities to expand community engagement with the wider Australian community.
5. **Lobby and Political Advocacy** discussed the upcoming Victorian and New South Wales state Elections with regards to raising awareness on the importance of political activism and involvement. Also provided an update on activities since the Federal Election and the significant role the Muslim community played in that election including the launch of AAM electorate reports based on the recent ABS census.
6. **Australian Muslim Women** highlighted the important and significant role in shaping the community and future generations and being engaged in the coordination of national efforts in countering Domestic and Family Violence.

The 5th AAM Summit and participants have unanimously agreed and supported the following motions:

1. AAM members stress on the unity of the Muslim community is the utmost priority and objective and need to continue collaborating.
2. AAM congratulates the recent federal elected two Muslim MPs and Ministers, the Hon. Ed Husic and the Hon. Dr. Anne Aly and two Muslim Senators, Senator Mehreen Faruqi and Senator Fatima Payman.



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3. AAM supports implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart and enshrining an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Australian Constitution.
4. AAM supports the recognition of Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people. AAM and the Australian Muslim community welcome the recent announcement of the Australian Government that it will no longer recognise West Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.
 - AAM thanks the Prime Minister – Hon. Anthony Albanese, The Foreign Affairs Minister – Hon. Penny Wong, the Leader of the House – Hon. Tony Burke and the Government for this positive step and calls upon the Albanese Government to fulfil the election promise by recognising the State of Palestine.
5. AAM asks for the removal of the legal and administrative category of ‘religious cause’ and ‘religiously motivated’ terrorism so that all terrorism is instead treated as ideological or political, thereby reducing the conflation of our religion as a cause for terrorism in the media, in politics, and online.
6. AAM supports the need for religious freedom protections for faith communities to preach and advocate their faith and belief freely and openly. The right of parents and religious communities to send their children to schools that conform to their moral convictions be recognised as a human right. The ability of religious schools to adhere to their religious ethos should form part of the legislation’s human rights considerations
7. AAM notes the disproportionate impact of terrorism laws on the Muslim community in terms of their legal, civil, and human rights. AAM requests the Australian Government review counter-terrorism laws to ensure compatibility with human rights, including the human rights of minors, and the human right to rehabilitation.
8. AAM welcomes the Albanese Government’s plan to introduce a religious discrimination bill, including protections against discrimination and vilification.
9. AAM believes it is vital that the Australian Government is transparent and consistent with its application of human rights norms toward foreign countries. Australia is a culturally diverse country. By defending international rules consistently, we uphold the dignity and humanity of the entire Australian community and thus reinforce social cohesion.
10. AAM asks that the Australian Government uses levers of trade and diplomacy to advance human rights, including with countries it considers to be a partner. It should consider Magnitsky Act sanctions, trade conditions and condemnation for:
 - I. Israel, which is engaged in illegal occupation of and expanding settlements on Palestinian territories, racial apartheid, the bombing of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and numerous human rights violations.
 - II. China and introduce protections against imports made using forced labour, to defend Uyghurs.

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- III. Myanmar in relation to their genocide and treatment of Rohingya people.
- IV. India, which has allowed nationalist political rhetoric, widespread hate and laws that endanger minorities, including Muslims, and which continues the oppressive occupation of people in Kashmir.
11. Commitment to developing and implementing a coordinated Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) 5-year action plan to improve the community's responses for support, awareness and education, in line with National frameworks aligned with our Islamic traditions.
12. AAM supports the action in combating climate change by stopping all new coal and gas projects and ending public subsidies to the fossil fuel sector.

The 5th National Summit welcomes the newly elected AAM Board members for the new term of 3 years and thanks the outgoing members of the AAM Board for their outstanding contribution towards the establishment of the AAM.

The Board consists of representatives from all states and territories, including the coordinators of each of the 6 committees.

The Alliance of Australian Muslims aims to meet in Sydney for the 6th AAM National Summit on the **29th of October 2023**.

On behalf of the Alliance of Australian Muslims 5th National Summit, we thank all participants, attendees and organisations for their attendance, contribution, and support.

All Muslim organisations and community leaders are invited to join, attend and support the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM).

All nominations and expressions of interest to join AAM can directly apply online:

australianmuslims.org.au/join