



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

اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية

SINCE 1979

BRIEFING FOR

HON PRIYANCA RADHAKRISHNAN

MINISTER OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

MAY, 2021

WWW.FIANZ.COM

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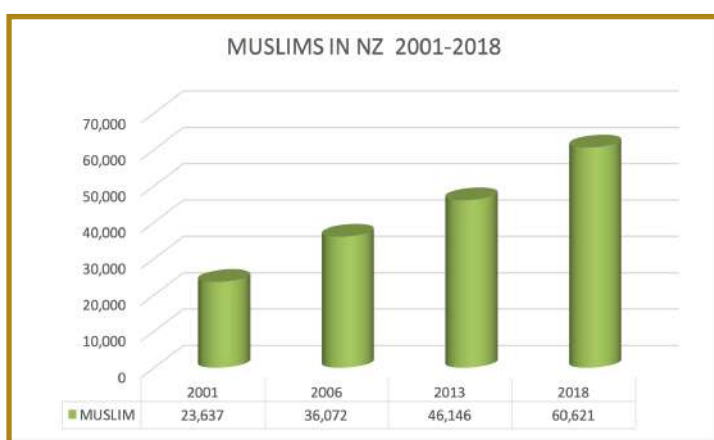






SINCE 1979

A CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



Based on the NZ Census, Muslims are one of the most rapidly growing religious groups in New Zealand with the population increasing six-fold between 1991 and 2006. Another 80% growth from 2006 to present date. However, their national demographic footprint is very small. Muslims now constitute about 1% of the population.

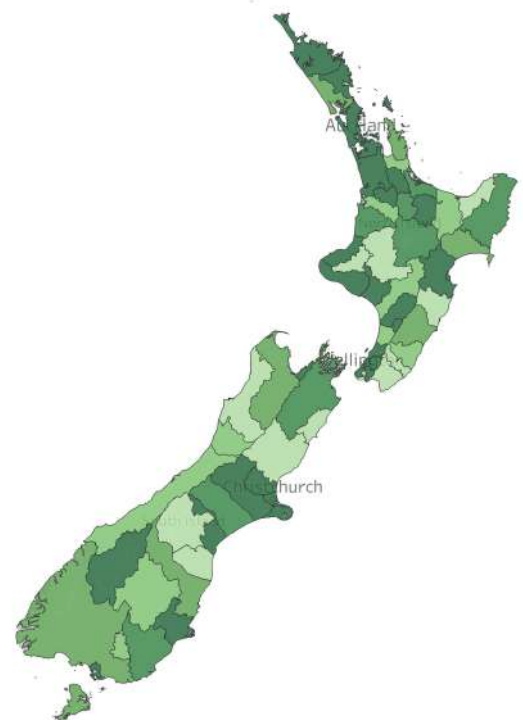
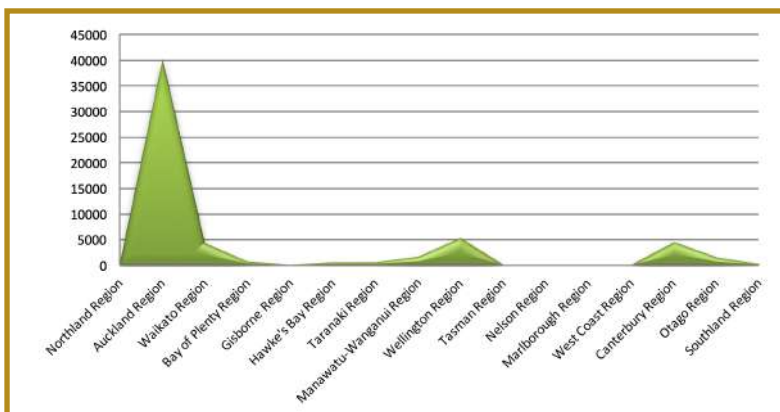


23% of the Muslim population are born in NZ. Immigration has resulted in significant numbers from Asia. This has been a demographic shift away from the Pacific (Fiji) as the main country of birth.

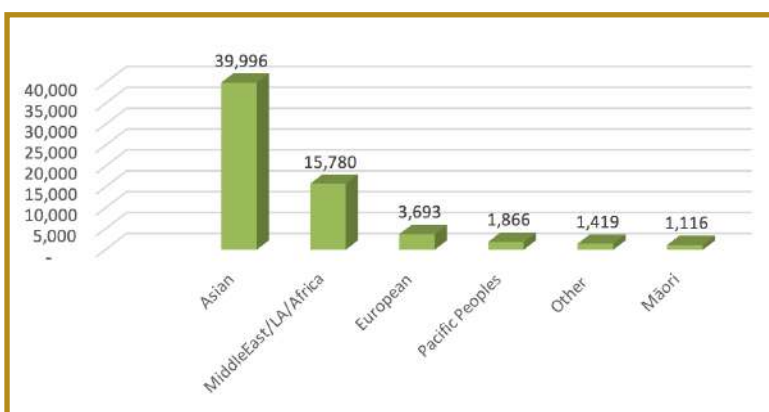


OUR ETHNICITY AND WHERE WE LIVE

Whilst the largest concentration of Muslims are in Auckland, the community is now all over the country (Source: 2018 NZ Census.)



OUR ETHNICITY





A CHANGING NATIONAL PROFILE

THEN (1970's,1980's)

- 7 local associations
- 11 Masjid/Islamic Centres
- Muslim Population: 2680 (1986)
- Born in NZ : 7.3%
- 8 Main countries of origin
- 14 Main languages

COMMUNITY

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

ESTABLISH BASIC SERVICES

BUILD MASJID

HAVE SINGLE PLATFORM

LOCAL SCOPE

NOW

- 72 associations, trusts & organizations
- 57 Masjid/Islamic Centres
- Muslim Population: 60,621 (2018)
- Born in NZ: 23.1%
- 52 Different countries of origin
- 83 Languages

SOCIETY

DIFFUSED CONNECTIONS

ADVANCED SERVICES

BUILD FUTURE GENERATIONS

HAVE MULTIPLE PLATFORMS

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SCOPE



OUR PARADIGM FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

VOLUNTEERISM (Over 37,800 volunteer hours in 2020)

PROFESSIONALISM (Training, Benchmarked Best Practices, ISO etc)

SOCIAL COHESION (Ethnic/Religious , Interfaith dialogue, etc)

STRUCTURAL SERVICES (Halal, Hilal, Scholarships, Seed Funding etc)

POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH STATE (8 platforms)

CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY (Social and national issues, work with tangata whenua etc)

SUPPORTIVE PLATFORMS FOR WOMEN & YOUTH (Work with IWCNZ, NIYA, etc)

LONGTERM VISION (Strategic Plan Consultation)

RESPECT FOR TANGATA WHENUA (Acknowledge Tiriti and cherish Manakitanga)

TRANSPARENCY (All financial audit; national programmes etc)

SUSTAINABILITY (Self reliance, build own financial base)



A BRIEF INSIGHT ON SOME OF OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES

Abrahamic Nexus



FIANZ was invited to the commemoration for the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. It was a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of an esteemed Jewish scholar and a dedicated advocate of peace and harmony. We were welcomed at the Auckland Hebrew Congregation.

Social Cohesion Programme - UMAH DAY



FIANZ organised a social cohesion programme with poster presentation display and speeches by various dignitaries. It was an occasion to remember the tragedy of the 15 March terror attack and focus on the striving for peace and harmony.

Trusts and Islamic Societies Play a Vital Role in Fostering Islam in Aotearoa



With the objective to make FIANZ more inclusive, we have embarked on a strategy to engage with and develop close cooperation with the many Trusts and Societies who are playing a vital role in fostering Islam and serving the welfare of Muslims in NZ. Inshallah, FIANZ, in the near future, will broaden its constitution so that all Muslim organization, regardless of size and location can have a role in shaping our future.

Manatū Ahu Matua MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



As part of a meeting with the MPI, FIANZ also raised the key issue of domestic halal needs of Kiwi Muslims.



A BRIEF INSIGHT ON SOME OF OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES

Formal Submission of FIANZ Response to the Engagement Process



FIANZ submitted a formal report on the engagement process and the expectations on the follow-up to the Royal Commission Report. The report was presented to the the Hon. Andrew Little, Lead Coordination Minister.

Training on ISO 17065 and GSO standards



FIANZ decided to implement ISO standards across the organisation

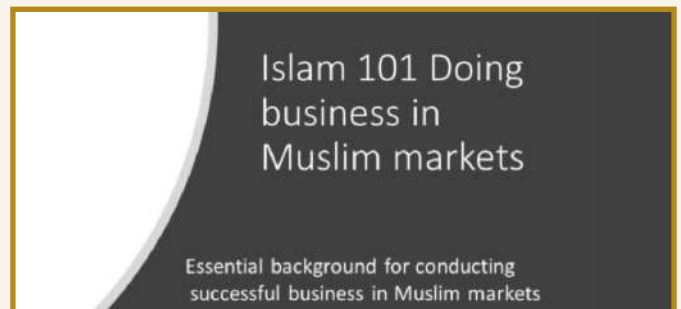


Halal Certification Workshop



FIANZ BMC and Operations Colleagues upon completion of list of baseline information needs for SDP.

Training on Halal Business for NZ Exporters



FIANZ conducted training for NZ Exporters of Halal Business opportunities. This was a highly successful event with more being planned at the request of NZ businesses.



A BRIEF INSIGHT ON SOME OF OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques



One of many research and analysis sessions at FIANZ Head Office by the young students

By way of background, this FIANZ Submission was researched, investigated, analysed and reviewed by a team of approximately twenty young students from a wide range of disciplines and from all over New Zealand. These young people are our future leaders and their commitment and professionalism can be noted from the reports.

NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

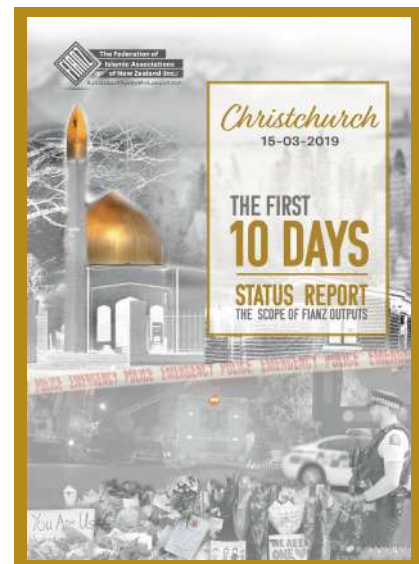


The largest training programme for local and national level Muslim organisations, trusts and Islamic centres.

OUR ROLE SO FAR - AFTER 15 MARCH TERROR TRAGEDY

FIANZ as the national umbrella organisation for the Muslims of NZ was:

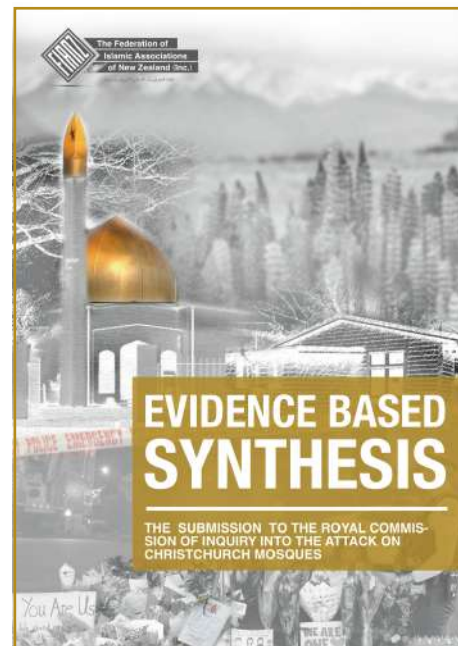
- **Requested by the NZ government**, within 3 hours of the terror attack, to assist the NZ Police and other government agencies to coordinate in the aftermath of the 15 March tragedy. Within 6 hours of the terror attack, the FIANZ National Emergency Response Team were in the ground at the behest of the NZ Police to liaise, supervise and coordinate the immediate supportive services. For more information, please see the “First 10 Days”.¹
- **Requested by the NZ government** to provide inputs into the Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission. All the suggestions, FIANZ had requested were subsequently included as the official Terms of Reference of The Royal Commission announced by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of NZ, on 8 April 2019.
- **Requested by the NZ government** to participate in the formative national consultation meetings related to the Christchurch Call, initiated by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of NZ, to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.
- **Requested by the Royal Commission of Inquiry** into the terrorist attack on Christchurch Masjidain on 15 March 2019 to make a submission to the Inquiry. This was followed up monthly meetings between the Royal Commissioners and FIANZ on matters related to the Inquiry.
- **Recognised by the Royal Commission** for making a “seminal” contribution with its formal submission of two Reports.² It is important to note that all the recommendations submitted by FIANZ have been incorporated in the 44 Recommendations of the Royal Commission.



¹ <https://fianz.com/christchurch-10days/>

² <https://fianz.com/christchurch-mosques-attach/>

THE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUES



Whilst many have requested OEC to become a Ministry, FIANZ is the only one which specifically requested this, as one of our recommendations

“ **FIANZ** recommends that we disestablish the OEC and establish a Ministry for Super diversity that recognises the intersecting ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identities of people living in Aotearoa New Zealand, including their visa type, refugee status, residency, or citizenship. Source- FIANZ RC Submission ”



FIANZ HUI

FIANZ , as part of Royal Commission submission process, also undertook an extensive grass-roots consultation process with hui in the cities below. There were also people from other places who participated in these sessions.

- Dunedin
- Christchurch
- Wellington
- Palmerston North
- Hamilton
- Auckland





KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING HUI

(Ranking of issues based on number of comments by those attending the hui)

Affected Status	Response
Islamophobia	17.90%
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	11.90%
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	10.70%
Hate Speech	10.70%
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	8.30%
Justice	7.10%
RWE	6.00%
Consultation and Implementation of Recommendations	4.80%
Accountability	3.60%
Police	3.60%
Christchurch Issues Ignored	3.60%
Racism	2.40%
Mental Health and Wellbeing	1.20%
Education	1.20%
Community Matters	1.00%



SOCIAL COHESION : AN INITIAL PERSPECTIVE

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful O humankind! We created you from a single pair of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another.

Quran 49:13

Foundation

Diversity as a demographic reality and a foundational principle is grounded in the history of Aotearoa NZ. If we take Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the basis of our modern nation state, despite what has often been our failure over the decades to uphold its precepts or honour its spirit, then the acceptance of difference is at the very core of our national being.

How we manage such cultural, linguistic, tradition and religious difference is often a reflection of the value we place on diversity. Diversity has the potential to be a faultline running through the strata of land or a vein of gold waiting to be mined. It can break us or enrich us, it is a point of weakness or a mark of strength - and how we approach, manage and lead in this field will set the tone for our generations to come.

The concept of social cohesion is an attempt to reflect this core foundation, to affirm its value and to draw it into a reality we can live by. In the face of rapidly evolving national identities and social values, where unity is no longer based on outmoded ideas of homogeneity, reaffirming our core principles is a means of holding us all together in all of our diversity and coalescing a set of common goals – the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report are a starting point.

Immediately after the tragic events of 15 March 2019, there was an unprecedented response from the general NZ public – with a few notable exceptions this response occurred across all those points of difference that might otherwise have been considered divisive – race, colour, creed, political affiliation, age, ethnicity, urban/rural, education level, income strata, etc

In the face of atrocity we suddenly knew who were as a nation, who we were not and perhaps more importantly, who we wanted to be.



SOCIAL COHESION : AN INITIAL PERSPECTIVE

As a result in the post 15th March context the wider NZ society has become more sensitized to the ways in which social cohesion can be threatened and have indicated a lower social tolerance for such behavior by both individuals and institutions. This serves to provide a well supported, popular and grass roots grounded social impetus to see positive change enacted. The widespread and intricate network of nation-wide community based organisations, also serve as functioning agencies for social cohesion.

For many in the Muslim community, the Government's support for the Royal Commission of Inquiry and its commitment to implementing the recommendations outlined in the Commission's final report, indicate a strong political will to effect change. The governing context now means that such political will may more easily find its expression in concrete action.

Muslim Community as Case Study

Just as Te Tiriti may serve as a blueprint for an inclusive and pluralistic NZ society, likewise in the history of Islam there is the presence of the Madinah Constitution serving fundamentally the same purpose. Madinah was the first Islamic City State, established by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in 623CE it comprised a community made up of various peoples and tribes espousing different religious creeds (Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, etc). The Constitution referred to this fledgling society as – one ummah or one community. This has over the centuries formed a foundational principle that informed the development of Islamic civilisations that were both demographically complex as well as geographically expansive.

Today Islam is the second largest religion in the world numbering approximately 1.8 billion adherents and is currently the largest growing faith group among the major world religions. In many ways the Muslim community of Aotearoa NZ is a microcosm of this global snapshot. With a population of 61,455 (approx 1.3% of the total population), the Muslim community has members from over 60 different ethnic groups including Maori, Pasifika and Pakeha.



SOCIAL COHESION : AN INITIAL PERSPECTIVE

The social cohesion required to hold together such a variegated and multi-layered community has had to be solid enough to provide a firm footing on which we can all stand, whilst at the same time allowing sufficient flexibility to incorporate a widely diverse and evolving society.

The preceding 2 years have been a tumultuous time for the Muslim community of Aotearoa NZ and at times the faultlines of difference threatened to break apart the very foundations beneath our feet leaving us bereft of solid ground with no place to stand securely and call home. But just as our world turned upside down, the rest of Aotearoa NZ stood firm.

And so together we are looking forward.

Always in the back of our mind, in the silence of our consciousness, in our deep heart we seek to honour the legacy of our 51 martyrs and we say that out of one act of darkness there is the potential for so much light. We have already seen this with the long-awaited changes to the arms legislation being pushed through, the establishment of the Royal Commission, the upgrading of the Office of Ethnic Communities, the appointment of a Minister to oversee the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report, the opening of the discussion around hate crimes, the review of Police procedures around gun licensing and above all the commitment of stakeholders throughout the public and civic sectors to meaningful and authentic engagement.

We are driven and compelled to undertake this work – to make sure that this never happens to our country again. On the 15th of March it was the Muslim community that was so brutally attacked but we know that it could just as easily have been someone else, some other minority community, some other marginalised group, some other vulnerable segment of our society.

And so together we are looking forward. We recognise that the changes that need to happen and the transformation that needs to take place to create a safe and inclusive country for everyone will require an all of Government approach alongside an all of Society approach. We are looking to Government to be our partners in this work and to take up the mantle of leadership for this vital mahi.

May peace be with us all.



WHAT WE WANT OF THE NEW MINISTRY (SUMMARY)

We would like what is

- ✓ Realistically achievable
- ✓ Measurable in terms of outcomes
- ✓ Consultative (as per IAP2's spectrum)



INTERNAL FOCUS (capability development of Ministry)

- 1• Develop capability and competency of staff
- 2• Performance framework
- 3• Compliance reporting framework
- 4• Budgetary processes

EXTERNAL FOCUS (STRUCTURED ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS)

➔ 1. INPUT INTO A 10-YEAR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

National consensus of various ethnic, faith based and other communities with the tangata whenua

➔ 2. FACILITATOR ROLE

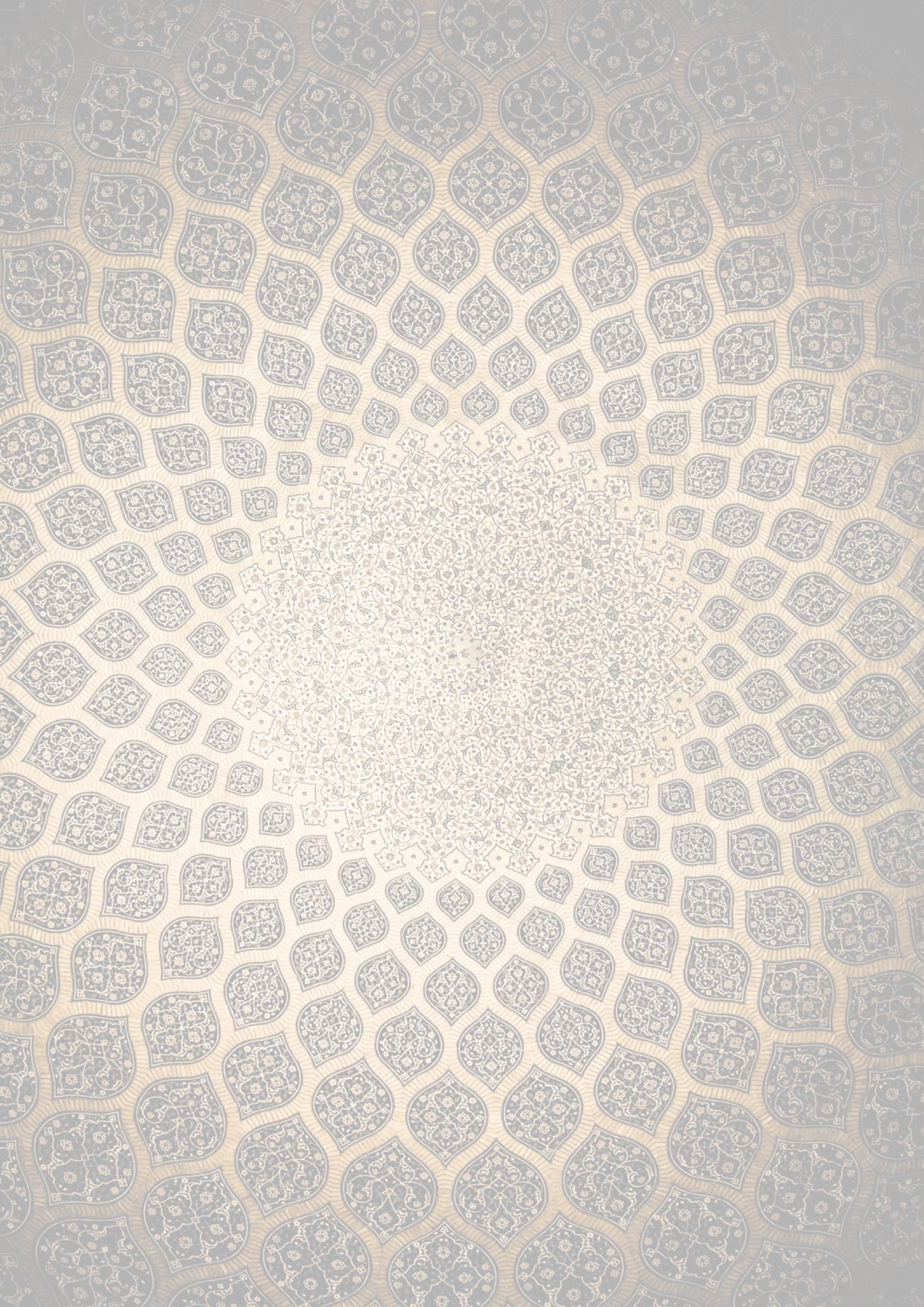
- ✓ To support community organisations to serve their communities (funding)
- ✓ Provide a national platform for AOG³ to interface with AOC⁴ (coordinate)
- ✓ Identify national, regional, local level programmes to support the social cohesion strategy and receive feedback from community stakeholders (follow up on rc)

➔ 3. CONTINUE CURRENT INITIATIVES ON SELECTIVE BASIS

- ✓ Graduate Programme
- ✓ Christchurch Support
- ✓ Other programmes in consultation with ethnic/faith based communities

³ All of Government

⁴ All of Society





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