POLICE ETHNIC ADVISORY GROUP
Community Contact Command, Queensland Police Service

We, the members of the Police Ethnic Advisory Group (PEAG), are writing to the Queensland community to reaffirm our rejection to all violence, particularly that which is based on physical appearance, racial or religious discrimination.

The Police Ethnic Advisory group has, for over 20 years, brought together representatives of Queensland's diverse community, police, government and non-government agencies to address matters relating to cultural and religious diversity.

Australia has a great diversity of people, some of whom have come to Queensland fleeing persecution and seeking a better life. Australia is recognised as one of the most peaceful and stable countries in the world and it is well understood that multiculturalism has significantly contributed to making Australia the great nation it is today.

In a time when the world is facing a multitude of crises, whether they are man-made or natural, fear is often our first response. As a community we want our legislators and law enforcers to take proportionate and reasonable steps to prevent acts of violence occurring in Australia, including acts of terrorism.

It is extremely important for us to acknowledge that the overwhelming majority of our community are as horrified and appalled at the acts of terror occurring in the world. For example, Muslim community leaders have expressed deep distress that some perpetrators claim to be acting in the name of Islam.

Closer to home, we are all aware of abhorrent actions, by a small minority of the Australian population against ordinary, law abiding members of our community. In some of the incidents, members of the Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and Orthodox and Coptic Christians are being singled out and vilified because of their appearance or religious attire.

Such acts of vilification are not only against the principles of a 'fair go', they are against the law in Queensland.

Our community has much to lose if we allow acts of intimidation, racial and/or religious hatred. Irrespective of a person's faith, race or culture we must all be able to go about our daily lives without fear of being intimidated by physical or verbal assaults. We must all stand against acts by any individual or group that unfairly discriminates against others or breaks our laws. We must not let fear or suspicion divide us. We believe that the majority of Queenslanders stand with us in this.

We encourage and support all Queenslanders to report acts of racial or religious vilification to the police and or the Anti-Discrimination Commission.

Let us retain the principle of treating others in the way we would like to be treated. It is this generosity of spirit we must continue to draw upon in these times, standing united as friends, neighbours and community.

Peter Forday
Chair
PEAG

Sultan Dean
Deputy Chair
PEAG

Ian Stewart
Commissioner
Queensland Police Service

Kevin Cocks
Commissioner
Anti Discrimination Commission Queensland

GPO BOX 1440 BRISBANE Q 4001 TEL: 07 3364 6109