

MEDIA RELEASE – Thursday 8 September 2011

**STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARTNERSHIP OF
RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS TEN YEARS AFTER 11 SEPTEMBER 2001**

We, the representatives of the major religions affiliated to the Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations (APRO), remember with sorrow the events which took place in the United States ten years ago on September 11 ("9/11"). We mourn the victims, and unite in condemnation of all acts of violence perpetrated in the name of religion.

As members of APRO, we resolve to play our part in the effort to ensure that such actions are relegated to history.

Accordingly, we undertake to continue and intensify our endeavour to combat all forms of religious prejudice, discrimination and the incitement of religious hatred. To this end, the leaders of the religions affiliated to APRO will act vigorously to encourage the pursuit of knowledge and peaceful dialogue among people of all religious beliefs, and to prevent the emergence of any material and practice that denigrates, insults or vilifies the followers of any other religion.

Our organisations acknowledge the Australian achievement of an open and welcoming society in which the members of all religious groups enjoy mutual respect and acceptance. We will be vigilant to preserve this achievement, and to act as partners in the creation of a culture of peace and respect for human rights and dignity.

We call on all our members to develop and improve information, discussion and educational exchange programs which encourage personal contact and respectful understanding between the members of the different religions.

For Comments/Interviews:

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About APRO: The Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations (APRO) is a peak-of-peak body that was established in 2003. It is unique in that it comprises representatives of major faith bodies as well as national-level multicultural community organisations. APRO is a practical example of how successfully faith and ethnic communities can work collaboratively in Australia. APRO is auspiced by the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA).

This statement is endorsed by the following organisations:

Australian Baha'i Community

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

Australian Multicultural Foundation

Australian Sangha Association

Executive Council of Australian Jewry

Federation of African Communities Councils

Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia's Women's Interfaith Network

Hindu Community

National Council of Churches in Australia

Religions for Peace (Australia)

Settlement Council of Australia

Sikh Community

UNESCO Chair, Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University