Open Letter to The Australian National Imams Council

19 September 2014

Professor Ibrahim Abu Mohamed
Grand Mufti of Australia
PO Box 145, Lakemba NSW 2195
Sydney, Australia

Dear Professor Mohamed,

The formation and conquest of ISIS has been of great concern to many around the world. At this time it is essential that Islamic leaders speak out against the atrocities committed by ISIS in the name of Islam.

Your statement distancing "the pure teachings of Islam" from the crimes and atrocities committed by ISIS, and assuring us that "their misguided actions do not represent the overwhelming majority of Muslims" will offer relief to concerned Australians. We welcome your statement that Australians are united in wanting "peace and security for everyone regardless of religion."

We live in a democratic and secular society that protects freedom of religion for all. This means that a person is free to join or leave a religion, based on their personal choice, without coercion or consequence. Upholding these values is fundamental to maintain the secular democracy that we all enjoy here in Australia.

Historically war has been driven by mistrust, deception, fear, retaliation and pre-emptive strike. When considering political and economic polices, domestic and foreign, including decisions pertaining to war and peace, Progressive Atheists call for a reasonable approach that considers human rights, social justice and the safeguarding of our secular democracy. We wish to go beyond divisive racial, religious, tribal, and sectarian constructs, and instead, contribute to a universal humanity.

Secular democracy and insuring universal human rights is fundamental to a free and fair society.

Sincerely,
Alice Carr
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Progressive Atheists strive for a Secular Society!