



**THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY**  
**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS**

**Press Statement: 15 March 2019**

**The Royal Commonwealth Society expresses its deepest condolences to the people of Christchurch and New Zealand.**

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences for the victims and families having to deal with the aftermath of the tragic and senseless violence in Christchurch overnight.

Chief Executive of The Royal Commonwealth Society, Dr Greg Munro, says in times of such tragedy, the Commonwealth family should come together to offer its collective support and reaffirm its commitment to tolerance, respect and understanding:

‘The Commonwealth believes in the importance of tolerance, respect, understanding, moderation and religious freedom across its 53 member states, and beyond. Appreciation of the richness of the Commonwealth’s diverse cultures, faiths and peoples is a fundamental element of our family of 2.4 billion citizens. The prayers and thoughts of the Society are with the people of Christchurch and New Zealand at this tragic time, especially those who have lost loved ones through this senseless act of terror.’ he said.

#### **Notes to Editors**

The Royal Commonwealth Society is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world.

Founded in 1868, it is non-partisan, is independent of governments, and is supported by public generosity.

The Society engages with youth, civil society, business, and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

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