



## UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

The Union of Progressive Judaism and the Rabbinic Council of Australian, New Zealand and Asian Progressive Rabbis was horrified to learn of the bombing of churches and hotels across Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, the holiest day in the Christian year. All people of faith, indeed all humanity, are connected one to another, and this attack is an attack on all of us. Our hearts turn to the families of those who were killed, and our prayers of healing to all who were injured. We stand with people of all faiths (and no faith) in condemnation of such murderous violence.

There has been a disturbing spate of terrorist attacks on people at worship across the globe. These attacks have targeted Jews, Muslims and Christians at times of prayer. People praying for peace and love were met with death and destruction. At times like these prayers are only a first step. People of all faiths must take up the challenge to change the world to make it a better place for our children and grandchildren. We must never stand silent or fail to act in the face of hatred, bigotry and violence. Indeed, we must examine our own traditions and ensure that they can never be utilized as an excuse for violence.

Today's attack is a wakeup call. Attitudes must change. We must learn not to judge people for differing modes of dress, language or tradition but instead value our common humanity and our shared, though diverse, quests to understand the divine.