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## Statement of Support

National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

Early today, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, delivered the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse at Parliament House in Canberra.

This public apology was one of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and represents a watershed day in the life of our nation.

As a community of faith, as religious leaders of both the Progressive and Conservative Jewish Movements, we pray that this apology will help the victims and survivors of child sexual abuse continue on their journey toward healing.

In offering this prayer, we recognise that which was stolen from the victims and that which was shattered and can never be truly repaired. As such we join with the Prime Minister in mourning the broken trust, the lost childhoods and destroyed families as a result of the child sexual abuse that has occurred within schools and religious institutions and other organisations.

As a community of action, we are mandated to speak out like some of our the biblical prophets, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel. We must commit to continuing our support of those still fighting for justice. We must do everything we can to ensure that their abusers, as well as those who protected the abusers, are held accountable before a court of law.

We also join with victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in calling on our State and Federal Governments to implement the remaining recommendations of the Royal Commission. Only then can we claim with honesty and integrity to have appropriately heard and responded to their pain.

We reiterate our commitment to ensuring that community is a safe place for all.

We encourage victims and survivors who may know of any past or current abuse to contact the local police knowing that they have our full support as both a community of faith and a community of action.

*Signed:*

Rabbi Kim Ettlinger – Chair of Moetzet HaRabbanim – Council of Progressive Rabbis of Australasia

Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins – Council of Masorti Rabbis of Australia

Rabbi Fred Morgan – Movement Rabbi for Union for Progressive Judaism

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