



PRESS RELEASE



International Day of Non-Violence: MJC (SA)

Wednesday, 02 October 2019

As we collectively commemorate International Day of Non-Violence, we need to reflect on the challenges we face both locally and abroad and commit to playing a role to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence.

This day encourages us all to renew our collective commitments to #ENDviolence both in a domestic context in relation to gender-based violence and other violent crimes, and internationally, in relation to wars and conflicts.

Allah Almighty says in the Glorious Quran (5:32)

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿كَتَبْنَا عَلَى بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنَّهُ مَن قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا﴾ سورة المائدة، آية ٣٢

“We decreed upon the children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unjustly it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves a single life, it is as if he has saved mankind entirely.”

It also requires us to reflect on the state of our communities, and to unpack the root causes of the continued perpetuation, particularly of gendered violence, in our communities.

South Africa is in a crisis. The epidemic of violence has infiltrated every aspect of our lives. No space has been left untouched by this scourge. Our homes, our schools, our roads, even our places of work have become fertile ground for the senseless display of violence in response to conflict situations.

Furthermore, the recent spate of xenophobic attacks is indicative of a culture of violence which has permeated our communities and exposes the erosion of moral values in our society.

This culture of violence has been normalized. Both children and adults are fed a daily diet of violence through television, movies and the internet. This normalization also reinforces patriarchy, and feeds into toxic masculinity, and the utilization of violence as a means to validate self-worth and identity.

The Muslim Judicial Council (SA) therefore reaffirms our commitment to programmes of moral regeneration, seeking to rebuild the moral fabric of our society, so we can once again be a compassionate society, where individuals care about each other.

This point is further elucidated in the following authentic ḥadīth.

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ وَابْنِ عُمَرَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ - عَنِ النَّبِيِّ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) قَالَ:
(مَا زَالَ جِبْرِيلُ يُوصِينِي بِالْجَارِ حَتَّى ظَنَنْتُ أَنَّهُ سَيُورِثُهُ) ((متفق عليه))

‘Āishah and Ibn Ūmar (May Allāh be pleased with them) narrated from the Prophet (May the Peace and Blessings of Allāh be upon Him) that he said: “Jibrīl (AS) continuously advised about the neighbour until I thought that he (the neighbour will inherit from me.”

Agreed Upon (Transmitted by Al-Bukhāriy and Muslim)

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