

How you can honour my husband, one year on



By Hamimah Tuyan

Guest writer

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Last year a National Remembrance Service was held in Hagley Park on March 29 (Photo by STR/AFP via Getty Images)

Dr Hamimah Tuyan, the widow of Zekeriya Tuyan, the 51st victim of the Christchurch mosque attacks, was to speak at the remembrance service in Christchurch today. This is what she was planning to say.

Kia ora. Peace be upon you. Assalamu alaikum.

Last March the world witnessed a phenomenal show of your solidarity. You defied stigma and chose to wear scarves on your heads. You put aside your precious personal time to shower us with your gifts, your letters of encouragement, your beautiful flowers. You stood hand in hand outside our masjid so that we could pray. You graced us with your most heartfelt songs and haka. You planted trees, ran miles, uplifted families out of poverty in honour of our fallen heroes. You drove, you flew here to console us, to pray with us and for us. We have received support from as far away as Gaza, California and Uzbekistan, and we are grateful.

To my brothers and sisters in Islam, our Prophet, peace be upon him, taught us how to handle trials and tribulations. He said, “The example of a believer is that of a fresh tender plant; from whatever direction the wind comes, it bends it, but when the wind becomes quiet, the plant becomes straight again.”

We have been blown around, knocked off our bearings by the storm of hatred, and bigotry. But, as believers, we will resolve to stay grounded in resilience and to stand tall in dignity. Allah is with those who patiently persevere. May Allah Take us out of this plight and bring after it something better. Aamiin.

We have a critical role to play. Many out there will not study Islam to know more about us, but they will study you and I – our manners, our words. So step back, grieve and also find healing in participating proactively in public conversations and activities so that there is better awareness and understanding of who we Muslims are, who we are not, and what *actually* happens in our community. We will continue to feed the homeless, give to charity, support the needy and put into action the message of kindness, justice, peace and love in Islam.



Ko Tātou, Tātou
We are one

NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

ORDER OF SERVICE

15 MARCH 2020

Ōtautahi Christchurch

ORDER OF SERVICE

KARANGA

Ngāi Tūāhuriri (Ngāi Tahu)

Please stand for the arrival of the Official Party

ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

MC – Julian Wilcox
Chief Operating Officer – Te Rōnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Please be seated

MIHI WHAKATAU

Dr Te Maire Tau
Ōpoko, Ngāi Tūāhuriri (Ngāi Tahu)

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Honourable Lianne Dalziel
Mayor of Christchurch

WAIATA – MANA MAKAMUTU

A lament to those who have passed
Performed by Cashmere High School students

DU'A – MUSLIM INVOCATION

ADDRESS

Imam Alabi Lateef
Linwood Islamic Centre

ADDRESS

Dr Hamimah Tuyan

**A PORTRAIT IN REMEMBRANCE
AND READING OF THE NAMES**

Honouring the 51 people who lost their lives following the events of
15 March 2019

Name readers from the Muslim community supported on stage by
Christchurch faith leaders and first responders

Minute's silence

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GABRIEL'S OBOE

Performed by Burnside High School students

ADDRESS

Imam Gamal Fouda
Al Noor Mosque

SHORT FILM

By Dr Sherif Tawfeek - showing the local Muslim community before
and after 15 March 2019

DU'A – MUSLIM INVOCATION

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Whakaaria Mai How Great Thou Art performed by Henare Kaa

ADDRESS

Her Excellency the Right Honourable
Dame Patsy Reddy
Governor-General of New Zealand

BURSTING THROUGH (SONG BY BIC RUNGA)

Performed by Kate Taylor and Henare Kaa

ADDRESS

The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister of New Zealand

Please stand for the National Anthem

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Performed by Muhammed Abdul-Jabbar, Kate Taylor and Henare Kaa
Supported by Cashmere and Burnside High School students

E ihouā Atua,
O ngā iwi mātou iā
Āta whakarangona;
Me aroha noa
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau iā atawhai;
Manoakitia mai
Aotearoa

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The order of service for the event, which was cancelled yesterday owing to concerns about the Covid-19 coronavirus

To my young brothers and sisters, wear your hijab and your beard with pride. We are not compelled to cover in the name of faith and we should not be compelled to take it off in the name of assimilation. Lift your heads and be honored ambassadors of Islam, and show that that fear will not extinguish faith, and that your identity does not make you less of a Kiwi.

To my non-Muslim brothers and sisters in humanity, many of you have enquired about how we are doing. My question for you today is how are *you* doing? What have you learnt from the important lessons of March 15? How has it changed your perception of “they” in relation to “us”? In this age of technology we have no excuse to be ignorant about each other. Hatred is the oxygen that extremists need to build fire from the sparks of fear and ignorance. We need to douse these sparks with knowledge. So please allow me to share some important truths.

Muslims have been here in Aotearoa New Zealand for decades and we have always made up about 1% of the population. We are not trying to take over this country or replace you. We are not “Muslim fanatics”. We are not “dole bludgers”. The fallen heroes and injured of March 15 were hardworking professionals who came here not to take away jobs meant for you, but only what you have to offer. They came here to achieve success for themselves and their children, so that their children will in turn be contributing members of this society.

We can call on governments and media companies to control expressions of hate and racism. But we *must* realize the importance of being proactive in countering the hatred, and misguided appeal of anti-immigration rhetoric. We need to do more than show up. Together, we need to speak up and challenge hate speech – no matter who spouts it, or who it’s directed towards. Until we truly and fervently *believe* that the atrocity of March 15 should be the last one needed to convince us that an extremist is not defined by his or her race, skin colour, facial hair, dress choice, philosophical persuasion and age, we will continue to fall prey to crooks who will take advantage of our fear and ignorance; those who spew hatred cloaked under the guise of freedom of speech and masked behind their faith or spirit of nationalism.

The goal of extremists is to undermine our shared values and social cohesion. I truly hope that we learn to embrace our differences and

hold on to the common thread that binds us, for that would be the best legacy with which could honour my husband, Zekeriya Tuyan, and the rest of our beloveds including those injured.

MORE READING

- [50 years of gay liberation in Aotearoa](#)
- [The Spinoff reviews New Zealand #38: The 66th Annual All Breeds Cat Show](#)
- [When the lessons end](#)

Please allow me to end with a quote from our Prophet, peace be upon him. I am sure you would agree with me that people of all faiths and non-faiths can be united on this principle. He said, “Shall I show you something that if you did, you would love each other? Spread peace between yourselves.”

And with that, kia tau te rangimarie. Peace be upon you. Assalamu alaikum.