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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 April 2019

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/73/L.79](#) and [A/73/L.79/Add.1](#))]

73/285. Combating terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, including resolution [73/164](#) of 17 December 2018 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, and resolution [73/176](#) of 17 December 2018 on freedom of religion or belief,

Reaffirming that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming also the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Expressing deep concern at the instances of intolerance and discrimination and acts of violence occurring in the world, including cases motivated by discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, in addition to the negative projection of the followers of religions and the enforcement of measures that specifically discriminate against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).



Noting the Secretary General's call upon the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations "to reach out to governments and faith-based organizations, religious leaders and others, and explore actions to prevent attacks against, and guarantee the sanctity of, religious sites",

Reiterating that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Deeply alarmed by all terrorist attacks against places of worship that are motivated by religious hatred, including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia,

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the heinous, cowardly terrorist attack aimed at Muslim worshippers in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 15 March 2019, and expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government and the people of New Zealand;

2. *Strongly condemns* continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief;

3. *Underlines* the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these acts of terrorism accountable and to bring them to justice;

4. *Strongly deplores* all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief and such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres and places of worship, as well as all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines that are in violation of international law;

5. *Urges* all States to work together to protect individuals against acts of violence, discrimination and hate crimes based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Urges* States to protect and promote freedom of religion and belief and to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect by countering incitement to religious hatred and violence and by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through education and awareness-building;

7. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and for the diversity of religions and beliefs, emphasizing that States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in such efforts.

73rd plenary meeting
2 April 2019
