



Radicalism

**By his eminence Dr. Ibrahim Abu Mohamed,
Grand Mufti of Australia**

It is essential at the outset to differentiate between an ideological notion and its followers, and indeed between ideological systems and those who belong to them.

Fundamentally all the religions are free from any fanaticism that breeds radicalism. Radicalism is one of the diseases of fanaticism, and Islam specifically considers fanaticism against its very nature, against its methodology and teachings, and against its goals. Islam is a religion that at its very basis is a beacon of light from which all truth streams and as such is contrary to all that radicalism, fanaticism or extremism represents.

Radicalism is an old epidemic that renews its fall upon societies every now and then, causing confusion and fear amongst its citizen. It undermines the harmony of societies, serves to mar specific sections of a society and some of the society's interests. It also distorts the facts of Religions when it falsely aligns itself to them. Radicalism is a disease without country, race, or religion; its direct cause is usually a lack of understanding of religious teachings, wrongly nourished through error of interpretation by individuals who lack the religious education and training.

It is therefore a disease that all religions dissociate themselves with, however those most vulnerable to it are those individuals who have deficiency in knowledge and understanding resulting in a lack intellectual and cultural immunity. It must therefore be stopped and treated.

In treating this disease, security mobilisation alone is not sufficient to deal with it, since ideological positions cannot be changed by legislation alone. To prevent the evolution of radicalisation from its manifestation in the individual to that of a phenomenon and from the state phenomenon to an ideology, we must collectively pool our efforts and resources to build a more resilient community that is able to confront and treat this disease.

Leadership in the pursuit of this goal is crucial and at the forefront of community leaders must be the esteemed, intellectual religious scholars of all faiths, and those enlightened literates and people of high opinion.