

The Hon. D Perrottet  
Premier of New South Wales  
Sydney 2000

cc/ The Hon. D. Harwin, MLC  
Special Minister of State

20 October 2021

**RE: Faith Leaders support of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW).**

Dear Premier,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Premier of New South Wales. As leaders of our faith communities, we wish you all the best in your new role and look forward to working with you.

Your predecessor, Gladys Berejiklian, was a co-sponsor of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW) ('the Act') as it passed through the New South Wales Parliament. We appreciate the strong moral stance the government took against the scourge of modern slavery, which we know is present within our state borders and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

As leaders of faith communities, we are extremely concerned that the Act is still awaiting proclamation, nearly 1200 days since passing the NSW Parliament. We wish to impress upon you the importance of maintaining your commitment to the people of New South Wales by urgently proclaiming and commencing the Act.

We understand that minor amendments are required to ensure the Act functions as intended. However, we are concerned that future amendments might include the removal of hard-fought key provisions that ensure the Act is effective in combatting modern slavery. We urge you to **retain the following provisions** in any amendments to the Act:

1. Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
2. \$50 million consolidated revenue threshold
3. Penalties for non-compliance
4. Support for victims.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to approximately two-thirds of the world's slaves, many of them children and women. NSW has the seventh largest economy within this region. And, as NSW Government departments and businesses continue to procure goods, have links in their supply chains, and conduct their operations within the Asia-Pacific region, it is vital that we have well-functioning anti-slavery legislation in NSW.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the urgency of addressing the problem of modern slavery in our region. More than 10 million children around the globe are being exploited and suffering. We can no longer be bystanders to this gross injustice.

As leaders of our faith communities, we implore you to endorse the Act once again, and to immediately introduce appropriate amendments to the Parliament that will finally see the NSW Modern Slavery Act proclaimed and commenced.

Signed,

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION AUSTRALIA**

IJM.org.au PO Box 124 St. Leonards, NSW 1590 1300 045 669



**The Most Rev Kanishka Raffel**

Archbishop

Anglican Diocese of Sydney



**Imam Shadi Alsuleiman**

President

Australian National Imams Council

**NSW Council of Churches**

ADVANCING A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

**Archbishop Kanishka Raffel**

President

NSW Council of Churches



**Ben Peletier**

Chairman, NSW Reformed Church

Northern Beaches Christian Reformed Church



**The Right Reverend Dr Michael Stead**

Bishop of South Sydney

Anglican Diocese of Sydney



**Surinder Jain**

Founding Director and Nat. Vice President

Hindu Council of Australia



**Reverend Stu Cameron**

CEO and Superintendent

Wesley Mission



**Reverend Dr Matthew Wilcoxen**

Rector

St John's Anglican Darlinghurst

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION AUSTRALIA**

IJM.org.au PO Box 124 St. Leonards, NSW 1590 1300 045 669



**Reverend Dr Nobin Shunmugam**

Pastor

Wamberal Christian Reformed Church



**Paul Summers**

Senior Pastor

Caringbah Baptist Church



**Richard Botta**

Pastor

C3 Church Carlingford



**the grainery church**

**Sue Irwin**

Senior Pastor

The Grainery Church

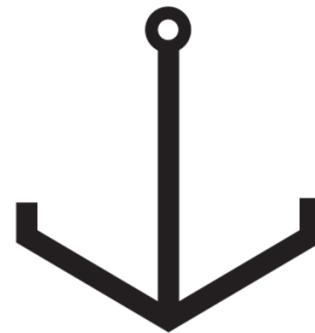


**ST PAUL'S**  
CASTLE HILL

**John Gray**

Senior Minister

St Paul's Castle Hill



**Arnaldo Santiago Jr**

Lead Pastor

Anchor Church South West

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION AUSTRALIA**

IJM.org.au PO Box 124 St. Leonards, NSW 1590 1300 045 669