

Bondi Beach Event – Hanukkah by the Sea

Religions for Peace Australia – and its affiliates – extends deepest sympathies to the victims of the tragic shooting at Bondi Beach on Sunday 14 December 2025. This appalling, senseless attack on the Chabad Jews of New South Wales was during their *Hanukkah by the Sea* event at Bondi Beach, on the evening of Sunday 14 December.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the victims, their families and everyone impacted by this unspeakable act of violence targeting our Australian Jewish community. We extend our sympathies to the Jewish community, who will be deeply impacted by this terrorist incident, at a time of year when they should be coming together to celebrate the start of Hanukkah with family and friends.

Hanukkah (Chanukah) is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods. In many places, this is done as a communal celebration.

The Hebrew word Hanukkah means “dedication,” and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple.

Just over two years since the attacks of October 7, 2023, many Jews feel a deep need to stand together and be confidently Jewish—now more than ever. It reminds everyone that their faith is shining strong.

On this first night of Hanukkah with the Chabad Community event ‘Hanukkah by the Sea’ celebration, 16 people were killed and many others injured and taken to hospital. Many hundreds were forced to flee as the shootings were occurring, to find safe shelter.

We salute the bravery of civilians and Police who responded to this event while it was occurring. We honour all those who opened their homes and provided shelter to those fleeing the beach. We thank all emergency services for their prompt response and protection of the community.

We respect the need for police and community to manage this issue in a considered calm methodical way.

Chabad in New South Wales, particularly through its Yeshiva Centre in Sydney, has a rich history that reflects the broader experience of Jewish immigration and community building in Australia.

The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies has cancelled all community celebrations. Hanukkah (Chanukah) celebrations in other states have been cancelled. The planned Hanukkah celebrations are currently under risk assessment to determine if they will proceed.

No faith community in Australia should be forced to retire from their worship and live in fear. The Jewish Community has a right to feel safe. They have the right to be who they are and the way they believe. An attack on Jewish Australians is an attack on every Australian.

This is not the Australian way. We are a multicultural and multifaith community that make up this home we all call Australia. It is the land of the Dreamtime, it is the land of peaceful tolerance and acceptance of all who come here and make this country their home.

This attack was on a Chabad community event at Bondi Beach ~ *Hanukkah by the Sea*. Chabad in New South Wales remains a central pillar of Jewish life, promoting outreach and education while staying committed to the Chabad philosophy of spreading Jewish awareness and practice.

Religions for Peace Australia joins with all faith communities in Australia in condemning this action, this attack on our peace.

May peace prevail on Earth!

May peace prevail on the Jewish communities that live in Australia.

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For more information, [contact Religions for Peace](#)

