

## Media release

17<sup>th</sup>June 2024

## **Comment on Victoria Police Operation Park figures**

Zionism Victoria President Yossi Goldfarb and Executive Director Zeddy Lawrence said, "No one is suggesting that Islamophobia shouldn't be condemned but when – as the figures undisputably show – incidents of Islamophobia pale in comparison with incidents of antisemitism, this compulsion to lump the two together and draw some kind of equivalence is as misleading as it is offensive.

"Cowardly virtue signalling simply to court support from one community that may be upset you're showing sympathy for another community is not only disingenuous, it gives the general public a wholly false impression of who the real victims are.

"This playing both sides is the same fundamental problem we see from politicians who fail to draw a clear distinction between the actions of a terrorist group like Hamas and the justifiable operations of the IDF, and it's why ill-informed or misinformed students feel comfortable wearing keffiyehs, clamouring for the eradication of the Jewish State and sporting badges proclaiming their support for proscribed terror organisations.

"Be outspoken about what 'From The River To The Sea' means, be outspoken in declaring yourself a Zionist, be outspoken in condemning antisemitism, be leaders – that's what we want from our politicians, and that's what will ensure our society has a clear moral compass."