

**From:** Aliya Danzeisen [<mailto:aliyad@yourwowma.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 April 2017 9:26 p.m.  
**To:** Sue Wilson  
**Cc:** Iona Holsted  
**Subject:** Re: Muslim Students in New Zealand Schools

Kia ora Sue and Iona,

Thank you for the follow up.

There are several areas that we believe resources should be developed to address the concerns raised both with Iona and in the SSC/HRC meeting.

Prior to sharing a few of them, I wish to advise that several of the examples attached hereto were specifically made for the British, European or USA situations and that we strongly believe that our situation in New Zealand is unique and special (and significantly better). As a result, these would need to be significantly modified for the Kiwi context and would need participation from our community to ensure resources work for us.

We believe a guide for educators of Muslim students is needed. Here is an example of one that was developed in 2011, by OSCE/ODIHR, Council of Europe, UNESCO (however, due to its age, it does not address thoroughly the matters relating to ISIS, Syria, the refugee crisis etc which have brought on intense responses and heightened Islamophobia) [http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files//osce\\_guidelines\\_for\\_educators.pdf](http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files//osce_guidelines_for_educators.pdf)

We believe school principals and others involved in school leadership (BOTs and Deans as examples) should be sensitised to the potential harassment of their Muslim students and that options for safety plans for students be presented or suggested to schools' SLT.

Also a guideline for schools so that identify the rights of Muslim students would be helpful as there is clearly varied approaches occurring around the nation. At the end of this paragraph, is a pocket sample of knowing your rights produced in the US, which includes a list of student rights (obviously US law is distinct, but this offers a template to work from) Additionally, school counselors with Muslim students will likely need guidelines as well to ensure adequate support is given. [Pocket "Know your Rights" including for student section](#) & [Islamophobia Pocket Guide](#)

We do believe teacher training both for current educators and trainee teachers, especially at secondary, should be offered. In August 2015 I actually presented at the NASDAP National Conference in Auckland on the matter and it was really well received, with those in attendance indicating they needed additional support. In the presentation, I included a short background about Islamic teachings relating to the importance of education, the issues our youth are facing, and also gave a variety of ideas for all main curriculum areas on how some resources could be included that would make a more inclusive classroom for Muslim students. Those who attended the

session indicated that they thought their teachers and schools would benefit from similar sessions.

I understand, that while the SPANZ gather just occurred, the NASDAP event will occur again this year in August. This may offer an opportunity to reach more people.

The need for quality educational resources for teachers to be able to use as well as assistance in identifying how curriculum is actually inclusive of Islam and how can connect resources to support instruction. I've attached a sample of one piece (that related to "Watch over me" a diverse "school soap opera" that was used to do something similar)

I would suggest a website with a list of Quality Resources on various topics that could be used for different topics.

Here are a few Ideas for section areas on the site that include:

- Basic Teachings of Islam
- Muslims Speak Out against Terrorism
- Islam's Role in Science
- Top Female Muslims and Activitists
- Media outlets know for reliable reporting:
- Sunni Shia unity

Clearly there are many many more sections, that could and should be included, the above are only used as examples: These sections would then provide quality links for educators and students a like to then follow. Here is one example of what could be done: [One example of lists where Muslims, organisations etc spoke out against Terrorism](#)

We would also recommend that school libraries (primary through secondary) include books and DVDs that should Muslims in a normal positive light so Muslim students can see positive images of themselves and connect themselves to experiences other students have. There are lots of books and movies out there that do just that. Librarians just need guidance and ideas for purchasing. For example, I have run a movie night once a month for our youth for two years now and continue to find movies to share and to show.

Finally, we think resources of Kiwi Muslims themselves should be created. I used example in the meeting in Wellington of one woman who could and should be featured for our students to know her experiences, but also to know her contributions to NZ. Here is a link to UPF, where they recorded 20,000 different voices in the US telling their stories. [20,000 Dialogues](#) We could do something similar. I have contacts with UPF should you desire to connect with them; however, I think we could do something locally in NZ

I hope you find these links/resources helpful.

Please contact me with any queries or follow up.

Much appreciation to both of you.

Best regards,

Aliya

On Mon, Apr 10, 2017 at 3:54 PM, Sue Wilson [9\(2\)\(a\)](#) wrote:

Tēnā koe Aliya

I understand post your recent telephone conversation with Iona Holsted that you were going to forward some information for follow-up?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi

**Sue Wilson** | Executive Manager | Chief Executive's Office  
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**We get the job done** *Ka oti i a mātou ngā mahi*  
**We are respectful, we listen, we learn** *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou*  
**We back ourselves and others to win** *Ka manawanui ki a mātou, me ētahi ake kia wīkitoria*  
**We work together for maximum impact** *Ka mahi ngātahi mō te tūkinga nui tonu*

**Great results are our bottom line** *Ko ngā huanga tino pai ā mātou whāinga mutunga*



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