

20 August 2009

I would like the JCCV to take heed of the [words](#) of Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, as he visited the gay youth centre in Tel Aviv after the shooting:

*"We are all created in God's image. We all have fundamental rights, the first of which is to be treated with respect by others and give [them] the same respect," he said.*

*"Anyone who has suffered from baseless hatred, as an individual or in a group, knows how painful and unacceptable it is. This is something we must uproot from society as much as possible," he added. "I think Israeli society has made progress toward tolerance, and I hope and feel certain that we can make further progress."*

As you can see, the Prime Minister of Israel gets the message. I hope it doesn't take a similar tragedy in Australia for the leaders of our community to take a stand against the intolerance and hatred I refer to that you are yet to acknowledge.