THE MERSEYSIDE COUNCIL OF FAITHS

**Patron: The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside: Dame Lorna Muirhead, DCVO, DBE**

**Co-Chairs: Dr Shiv Pande MBE, DL & Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson**

**Honorary Secretary: Ultan Russell. Honorary Treasurer: Revd Canon Cynthia Dowdle, OBE**

***The Council represents Merseyside’s major faiths. It is an Un-Registered Charity***

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**STATEMENT BY MERSEYSIDE COUNCIL OF FAITHS**

On behalf of Merseyside Council of Faiths, we wish to express our shock and concern following the atrocities last night at the Manchester Arena.

We remember and offer our condolences to the family and friends of those killed and maimed notably many children and young people. We also rejoice at the generosity and solidarity shown by so many Manchunians and the speedy and effective response of the Emergency Services.

Merseyside and Greater Manchester have a long history of faith communities working together to promote equality, social justice and community harmony. We send our good wishes to all those involved in working for community solidarity in the wake of this atrocity notably to all the faith communities in Manchester notably our sister body the Faith Network for Manchester (FN4M).

We send a strong message to all who want to use religion to divide our communities that *all* the faiths stand together today. There is no place in our society for hatred and violence.

We again encourage all people (including gatherings of faith communities, in schools and of community groups) to use the Universal Prayer of Peace as a sign of our solidarity with all those affected:

*Lead us from death to Life, from falsehood to Truth.*

*Lead us from despair to Hope, from fear to Trust.*

*Lead us from hate to Love, from war to Peace.*

*Let Peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.*

*Peace, Salaam, Shalom*

Dr Shiv Pande MBE DL and the Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson (Co-Chairs)

*Circulated 23/05/2017*