



**SIMON O'CONNOR**

MP FOR TAMAKI

April 2022

To our Jewish Community

As we look forward to celebrating the festival of Passover, I wanted to write and extend my warmest wishes to the Jewish Community and its friends here in New Zealand. It has been another trying twelve months since the last celebration of Passover and as I write, we continue to struggle with the global pandemic, and in the likes of Israel itself, we see renewed violence against innocent civilians.

While Passover is a moment to celebrate the movement of the Jewish people from Egypt, I also remind myself that this exodus only came after centuries of slavery. It is a reflection to me that celebrations often follow moments of suffering – be these great or small.

And so, with the current struggles we face here and overseas, the time of Passover is a reminder that freedom does triumph over slavery; right will triumph over wrong; and hope will always overcome despair.

As you celebrate over the coming days and sit down to the Seder meal, may we appreciate time spent with family and friends, and the renewed call that 'next year the community may gather in Jerusalem.'

Pesach Sameach

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Simon O'Connor'.

Simon O'Connor

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