

HELLO, WE ARE TIMEZONEONE



March 15, 2019

## A letter from our CEO, native New Zealander Daniel Thomas

Yesterday was a traumatic and sad day for our people, the Muslim community, our country and (again) the world.

It will unfortunately be remembered as a dark day in New Zealand — also known as Middle Earth, a home to generations of lovers, innovators and great rugby players, and a nation that, most of all, embraces diversity.

I am thankful to report that our TZO family in the Christchurch office are all safe and accounted for. Our collective thoughts and condolences go out to all affected by this horrific tragedy. As our Prime Minister, Jacinda Adern, rightfully said, “You chose to migrate here, this is your country too, you are us.” I could not agree more.

A few nights ago, I attended a humanitarian dinner and it was an inspiring reminder about life thanks to [President Bill Clinton](#) and over 270 Holocaust survivors in attendance. This is (and was) a reminder that we should all stand up against bigotry and hate towards any human. Unfortunately, this hate exists and is very real. But we *can* change it, human by human.

Christchurch has had to rebuild its resilience in the past because of tragedies cause by Mother Nature. This time, it's a tragedy caused by human nature. I am a proud New Zealander inspired by the fact we have a nation that embraces *all*. And we (New Zealanders) have always believed things like this do not happen here.

Yesterday changed that. No country is immune to the global hatred we unfortunately experience today.

The only recipe for darkness is light. Whether you light a candle, look out the window or hug a colleague, please continue to hold your head a little higher and conquer darkness with light. The world is just better that way.

Kia kaha (be strong),

Regards,

Daniel Thomas